

Micah 2:1-13

The order of this chapter is:

1. The people who have sinned are identified and the situation is stated.
2. The description of the judgment is given

The first five verses (2:1-5) are set up like this:

1. 2:1-2 – Accusation, Sinners and sin are identified
2. 2:3 – “Therefore”...and, “thus says the Lord”...the punishment is described
3. 2:4 – The result of the Lord’s punishment presented. This includes a taunt and a description of how bitter the sinners will be
4. 2:5 – The final results are the logical consequences of the Lord’s punishment of the sinners.

Micah 2:1 – **“Woe to those who devise wickedness**

and work evil on their beds!

**When the morning dawns, they perform it,
because it is in the power of their hand.**

Micah 2:2 – **They covet fields and seize them,**

and houses, and take them away;

they oppress a man and his house,

a man and his inheritance.

1. This “woe” is not an announcement of a curse, but the cry in response to the devastation. It could be “alas”, or “bad news”, or “how sad”
2. These sinners did not slip into temptation, but deliberately planned the evil they would do
3. From his hometown in the Shephalah Micah would have seen land and field being bought up by the larger, wealthy “cooperations” of his day. (Isaiah was from the city Jerusalem; Micah was from the foothills)
4. “Covet” is the same word from the 10th commandment
5. Classic example of this is Naboth’s vineyard in 1 Kings 21. In this story you can see an inheritance taken by a King after plotting on his bed to use the court system to falsely accuse in order to satisfy his covetous heart.

Micah 2:3 – **Therefore thus says the Lord:**

behold, against this family I am devising disaster,

from which you cannot remove your necks,

and you shall not walk haughtily,

for it will be a time of disaster.

1. The Lord announces that he will act and there will be no way of avoiding the disaster
2. Micah may not know what exactly the Lord is going to do. Micah clearly does not provide the details. But, the Lord promises through Micah judgment will come, it will be equally oppressive and it will be inescapable.

Micah 2:4 – **In that day they shall take up a taunt song against you**

and moan bitterly,

and say, “We are utterly ruined;

he changes the portion of my people;

how he removes it from me!

To an apostate he allots our fields.”

1. “In that day”, the day of this judgment, the sinners oppressed emotions are exclaimed.
2. “taunt-song” indicates this situation will serve as an example for others. This is an object lesson, as indicated in chapter one, for the nations.
3. The sinners will realize they are “utterly ruined” and they realize it is the Lord who brought about this change of events.

Micah 2:5 – Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the Lord.

1. This is God sending evil in response to evil.
 - a. The sinners seized fields and houses from people, now they will have no fields or houses in the assembly of the Lord
 - b. Those who abused their position of power are powerless
2. Sinners are paid back with the evil they spread:
 - a. Luke 6:37-38 – “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”
 - b. Matthew 7:1-3 – “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measure to you.”
 - c. 2 Samuel 12 – David stole Uriah’s wife and killed Uriah with the sword. Nathan the prophet warned David and David’s wives were stolen by Absalom and David was promised “the sword will never depart from your house (12:7-12)
3. The casting of the lot was used to determine the Lord’s will for boundaries, positions, etc. in the Scriptures
 - a. Numbers 34:13 – “Moses commanded the people of Israel, saying, “This is the land that you shall inherit by lot, which the LORD has commanded to give to the nine tribes and to the half-tribe.”
 - b. Joshua 13-21
 - i. 14:2 – “Their inheritance was by lot, as the Lord had commanded Moses”
 - ii. 15:1 – “The lot for the tribe of the people of Judah according to their families reached southwards to the boundary of Edom, to the wilderness of Zin at the farthest south.”
 - iii. Etc.
 - c. Acts 1:26 – “And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”
 - d. Proverbs 16:33 – “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.”

**Micah 2:6 – “Do not preach”—thus they preach—
“one should not preach of such things;
disgrace will not overtake us.”**

**Micah 2:7 – Should this be said, O house of Jacob?
Has the Lord grown impatient?
Are these his deeds?**

**Do not my words do good
to him who walks uprightly?**

1. Rival prophets of Micah speak out against Micah's words.
2. 2:6-7 are the anti-Micah reaction.
3. The institutional religious bumper sticker phrases are unleashed at Micah:
 - a. "One should not preach of such things"
 - b. "Disgrace will not overtake us"
 - c. "Should this be said, O house of Jacob?" – a call for community reaction and disapproval by the masses
 - d. "Has the Lord grown impatient?" – Patience is one of the great attributes of God just like love, forgiveness, kindness and mercy. So, God is trapped by his own character and his divine nature!!!!
 - e. "Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?" – The prophets (and, their people) now reject the opportunity to repent.

**Micah 2:8 – But lately my people have risen up as an enemy;
you strip the rich robe from those who pass by trustingly
with no thought of war.**

**Micah 2:9 – The women of my people you drive out
from their delightful houses;
from their young children you take away
my splendor forever.**

1. In verses 2:8-9 Micah declares the true prophetic word of the Lord for this generation around 735 BC.
2. Notice again the Middle Class is being turned in to the poor. This is the behavior of the fourth generation.
3. More details of the sinful behavior is presented:
 - a. Women (widows?) are losing their delightful houses to those who are coveting them.
 - i. These are the woman of God's people
 - ii. These are woman who have no defense
 - b. "my splendor" could refer to the inheritance of the Lord given to each tribe, clan and family. They are losing their generational inheritance.

**Micah 2:10 – Arise and go,
for this is no place to rest,
because of uncleanness that destroys
with a grievous destruction.**

1. This is the verdict of the sinful behavior stated in 2:8-9.
2. There is no resting place in the Promised Land for sinners who falsely and unjustly confiscate land turning the Middle Class to poverty and making the widow homeless and stealing family inheritance. Thus, these are marching orders to the sinners oppressing God's people:
"Because of the uncleanness you have used to destroy with a grievous destruction there is NO place for you in this land. You must now leave!"

**Micah 2:11 – If a man should go about and utter wind and lies,
saying, "I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,"**

he would be the preacher for this people!

1. Of course, prophets, priest and people reject Micah's warning and opportunity to repent (Hezekiah will respond.)
2. The false prophets will continue to preach to the ignorant, self-absorbed people a false message that will be welcomed:
 - a. Travel about preaching wind and lies
 - b. Preaching promises of wine and strong drink
3. Biblical promises misapplied:
 - a. The land of Israel was to be the land of milk and honey (Ex. 3:8)
 - b. A future kingdom promised by Amos that included new wine dripping from the mountains and wine flowing from the hills (Amos 9:13)

This chapter ends with a promise of restoration (This is the end of the first section of the book):

1. There will be an exile (2:13), but the formation of the exiles is the formation of the remnant that will later return under the Lord's leadership (2:12)
2. Notice the king/shepherd image that is gathering, leading and holding together the people of Israel.
3. "Pen" (NIV) or "fold" (ESV) may be better translated "Bozrah" since it is a geographic reference (according to Zondervan's Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary)
 - a. "Bozrah" means "pen"
 - b. Bozrah is the capital of Edom
 - c. Edom relied on raising sheep for their economy
 - d. Isaiah 63:1 – shows the Lord coming from Bozrah on his return leading Israel...This could be the marked 144,000 from the wilderness (Revelation 7 and 14) meeting on Mt. Zion.

Micah 2:12 – I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob;

I will gather the remnant of Israel;

I will set them together

like sheep in a fold,

like a flock in its pasture,

a noisy multitude of men.

Micah 2:13 – He who opens the breach goes up before them;

they break through and pass the gate,

going out by it.

Their king passes on before them,

the Lord at their head.