

IV. The Liberation and Restoration of God's people (2:12-13)

- A. The Promise of a Re-gathered Remnant of Israel
 - i. The promise doubly emphasizes the gathering.

 - ii. Jesus picked up this language of a shepherd in John 10.

- B. The Promised King
 - i. He will break open the way and go before the people.

 - ii. He is their King.

 - iii. YHWH will be their head.
 - 1 Samuel 8:7

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an
aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How does God's announced judgment in vv3-5 fit the injustices committed in vv1-2? (See also vv8-10.)
- What are the injustices described in Micah 2? Who was committing them? (Remember the context of chapter 1.) What was at the root of these sins?
- What does it mean to say that the root cause of these sins was idolatry, but the catalyst was injustice?
- Can you identify greed or covetousness in your own life? Explain.
- What do you think of the statement, "*The illusion that we are hearing God's voice when we are not is a form of God's judgment.*"
- Why do you think the Lord said a prophet preaching prosperity and blessing would be just the prophet for these people? (2:11)
- How do we see *the death and resurrection of Israel* predicted in this chapter? How does Jesus fulfill this? How does the church?

Who is Like God – Part 3

Jerry Cisar — June 25, 2017

Text: Micah 2

Introduction: Death and Resurrection

I. The Injustice of Covetousness (2:1-2)

- A. Idolatry always leads to Injustice
 - i. A failure to love God leads to failure to love our neighbor.

 - ii. Plotting evil on their beds! (1a)
 - Psalm 36:1-4

 - iii. The Morning brings more injustice. (1b)
 - Psalm 101:8

- B. What are these wicked plans?
 - i. In modern terminology: *a real estate scam!* (2)
 - a) At the root of their wicked scheming is covetousness.

 - b) The land was God's inheritance to His people.
 - Luke 20:47

 - ii. It was covetousness.

II. The Justice of God's Judgment (2:3-5, 8-10)

- A. As they are planning, God is planning.
 - i. Judgment is greatly misunderstood. Especially God's.

James Dunn: *The biblical understanding of justification/justice/righteousness is all of a piece. In particular, it involves two important aspects: righteousness as essentially involving relationships, arising out of relationships, expressed in relationships; and righteousness, as both horizontal and vertical, as involving responsibility to one's neighbour as part and parcel of one's responsibility towards God.*

- ii. God's judgment is justly designed. (cmp. 1-2 w/ 3-5)

- B. The punishment fits the crime. We see the same thing in vv9-10:

- i. Since they drove the women from their pleasant homes, they will have to get up and go away.
 - ii. We are all capable of the deception that our greed is for God's purposes.
 - iii. God is just and calls His people to repentance. Repentance involves restoration. The church has a radical call to restoration.
 - a) Acts 4:34-35

Dunn: *"When talk turns to questions of justice, then, we do well to ask: Whose justice – God's or ours?"*

- b) *"The church doesn't have a social strategy, the church is a social strategy."*

III. The Illusion that We are Hearing God's Voice (6-7, 11)

- A. The Purpose of the True Prophets' Message (6)

"Do not prophesy," so they prophesy. But if they do not speak out concerning these things, Reproaches will not be turned back. (NASB adj.)

- i. The false prophets spoke out against the true prophets.
 - ii. Micah: *"But if the true prophets do not speak out concerning these things, this coming reproach will not be turned back!"*
 - iii. The purpose of preaching about God's judgment against sin is to turn back that judgment.

Waltke: *A badge of false teachers is their distorted preaching on only God's love and never on his wrath and judgment. Preaching half-truths, they lead the populace to death.*

- B. The Appeal of the False Prophets' Illusion (7)

- i. The false prophets should not speak this way.
 - ii. Maybe the false prophets quoted scripture. (Exo. 34:6-7)

- iii. Micah then explains the purpose of His message: *Do not my words do good to the one whose ways are upright?*

- C. God's Judgment is preached by the true prophets...and the false.

- i. Why would the Lord say that a false teacher, deceiving the people into complacency would be just the prescription?

➤ 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

- ii. The illusion that we are hearing God's voice when we are not, is a form of God's judgment.