

SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

THEME: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE

UNIT II– APPEALS TO THE UNJUST FOR JUSTICE

“MICAH’S PROPHETIC WARNING...GOD IS WATCHING US”



Sunday School Lesson No. V – July 5, 2015
Rev. Frank A Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Micah 2:1-13 (NLT)

Motto Text: Micah 2:7 (NLT), *“Should you talk that way, O family of Israel? Will the LORD’s Spirit have patience with such behavior? If you would do what is right, you would find my words comforting. O thou that art named the house of Jacob, is the spirit of the LORD straitened? are these his doings? do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly?”*

Required Reading: Micah Chapters 1 and 2

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; Standard Lesson Commentary; The Tim LaHaye Study Bible; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Beloved, let’s begin by meeting Micah. According to the Children’s Ministry Resource Bible, “Micah was a simple country preacher who loved to work with the common people. He had great sympathy for their problems. They were being attacked by enemy armies who stole their crops (1:2-16). Their own rulers oppressed them, refusing to listen to their cries for help (3:1-4). Even many of the preachers took advantage of them and lived in comfort while the people suffered (3:5-8). Micah stood up for these common people. And he reminded them, ‘Even though all these bad things are happening to us, we must still do right ourselves (6:8). God does judge sin. If we wait on Him, He will deliver us (7:7, 8).’ Micah encouraged the people with hope for the future. God would send a Ruler (the Messiah) to save them (5:2). And God has. That Promised One is the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you received Him as your Saviour from sin?”

Beloved, my focus this week is declaring God’s thoughts from Micah to the Israelites and us who live today, **“Micah’s Prophetic Warning...God is Watching Us.”**

Remember when we were children playing “Hide and Seek?” The person who covered their eyes and counted to 10 or 100 would sometimes open their fingers (covering their eyes) and try to see where others were hiding. There would always be some vigilant kid who would watch the counting person and if they saw them peeking, would call them out and say “I’m watching you.” Well, as the kingdom of Israel in the north and Judah in the south went about their daily routines, God declares through Micah...“I’m watching you!” But what did God see as He observed and watched over the nation? He saw their strengths and weaknesses. He saw selfishness and sacrifice. He saw those who were trustworthy and those who were downright wicked. And through the clear-cut preaching of Micah, God wanted them to know, “I’m watching you.”

Because of God's tremendous longsuffering, some thought He had become senile. But Micah simply charged the nation...God is Watching You! Let us note our **Anticipated Power Points** for this lesson in Micah Chapter 2:

- **God was Watching Israel's Lowdown Plans. Micah 2:1-5 (NLT)**
- **God was Watching Israel's Lying Preachers. Micah 2:6-11 (NLT)**
- **God was Watching Israel for Repentance and would Restore Her to a Loving Peace. Micah 2:12-13 (NLT)**

LESSON OUTLINE

God was Watching...

- I. **Israel's Lowdown Plans. Micah 2:1-5 (NLT)**, *"What sorrow awaits you who lie awake at night, thinking up evil plans. You rise at dawn and hurry to carry them out, simply because you have the power to do so. ² When you want a piece of land, you find a way to seize it. When you want someone's house, you take it by fraud and violence. You cheat a man of his property, stealing his family's inheritance. ³ But this is what the LORD says: "I will reward your evil with evil; you won't be able to pull your neck out of the noose. You will no longer walk around proudly, for it will be a terrible time."⁴ In that day your enemies will make fun of you by singing this song of despair about you: "We are finished, completely ruined! God has confiscated our land, taking it from us. He has given our fields to those who betrayed us."⁵ Others will set your boundaries then, and the LORD's people will have no say in how the land is divided.*

God saw the lowdown plans of the wealthy, land-grabbing, unjust officials of Israel and warns them, "I'm watching you!" From the closed doors of their bedrooms to the back-alley deals they made with public officials, God saw their low-down plans to destroy the poor, widows, and needy. God will not hold them guiltless because He's watching them! Remember Galatians 6:7, **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."** Israel truly forgot that their land belonged to God and not the rich or the rulers. The land was to remain as an inheritance to the tribes and families. If persons fell on hard times, their land was to be redeemed or it would return back to the families in the year of Jubilee. (Read Lev. 25:13-17, 25; Prov. 21:13)

God was Watching...

- II. **Israel's Lying Preachers. Micah 2:6-11. Note vs. 6-11 from the NLT**, *"Don't say such things," the people respond, "Don't prophesy like that. Such disasters will never come our way!" Should you talk that way, O family of Israel? Will the LORD's Spirit have patience with such behavior? If you would do what is right, you would find my words comforting. Yet to this very hour my people rise against me like an enemy! You steal the shirts right off the backs of those who trusted you, making them as ragged as men returning from battle. You have evicted women from their pleasant homes and forever stripped their children of all that God would give them. Up! Begone! This is no longer your land and home, for you have filled it with sin and ruined it completely. Suppose a prophet full of lies would say to you, "I'll preach to you the joys of wine and alcohol!" That's just the kind of prophet you would like!"* Wiersbe's Commentary: "Just as the false prophets attacked Jeremiah (5:31 and Amos 7:10-17) for preaching God's truth, so the false prophets attacked Micah for faithfully declaring the message of God. Beloved remember, **God is Watching You!** One of the greatest enemies of the faith is lying preachers! (Read Matthew 7:13-20).

God was Watching...

- III. **Israel for Repentance and would Restore Her to a Loving Peace. Micah 2:12-13 (NLT)**, *"Someday, O Israel, I will gather you; I will gather the remnant who are left. I will bring you together again like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture. Yes, your land will again be filled with noisy crowds! Your leader will break out and lead you out of exile, out through the gates of the enemy cities, back to your own land. Your king will lead you; the LORD himself will guide you."* Micah Chapter 2 ends by declaring there is a future hope that God will redeem a remnant of Israel when they repent. From that remnant He will cause the land to one day overflow with His people. Now though several returned back after the Babylonian captivity, it was but a remnant of what they were. (Read Ezra 2:64-65). We will learn that Micah speaks of a greater day yet to come when God's Messiah will lead His people like a Shepherd! (**Read Micah 5:2**).

CLOSING:

Beloved, Micah's continued hope teaches all of us that "God is Watching Us!" God's remnant must never forget His longsuffering. (Read Micah 2:12; 4:6-7; 5:3, 7, 8; 7:18) Repent and obey God!

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Looking Ahead: July 12, 2015 Micah 3:5-12



Noonday Bible Study will not be held in the month of July. Noonday study will resume on Wednesday, August 5th.