

# PULPIT DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP



*Gray & Gold by Jack Rogers Cox;  
3' by 5'; Oil on canvas; 1942; The Cleveland Museum of Art.*

## **A study of the book of Micah**

### ***The Incomparable God: A Story of Forgiveness & Fidelity***

Purpose of Micah

“To call Judah to repentance and hope during the Assyrian crisis and to prepare Judah for the Babylonian exile by announcing God’s judgements against sin and his promise of restoration.”

*-Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible*

August 22, 2021

# “FINDING HOPE IN THE FACE OF GOD’S JUDGMENT”

## Micah 2:1-11 ESV

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. **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. **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. **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.” **5** Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the Lord. **6** “Do not reach”—thus they preach—“one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us.” **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? **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. **9** The women of my people you drive out from their delightful houses; from their young children you take away my splendor forever. **10** Arise and go, for this is no place to rest, because of uncleanness that destroys with a grievous destruction. **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!

# Historical Context

“The second half of the eighth century witnessed the most affluent period in the kingdoms of Israel and Judah since the break-up of the single nation after the death of Solomon...both capitals – Samaria in the north, Jerusalem in the south – had begun to enjoy immense prosperity. In the face of this wealth and godlessness which walked with it, prophets of boldness and incisiveness spoke ‘the word of the Lord’ to both parts of the divided nation: Amos and Hosea in the north, Isaiah and Micah in the south...Micah deals with the Judean version of the development of a commercial and ‘secular’ culture.” - *David Prior*

## Big Idea

Because Jesus took the covenant curses for His people on the cross, then we may be freed from our sinful beliefs and actions to humbly live for Him by faith.

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# Outline

1. God's Judgment on Sinful Actions

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2. God's Judgment on False Prophets

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3. Glimmer of Hope

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4. Conclusion

**PRAISE TO JESUS**

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**REPENTANCE THROUGH JESUS**

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**CONSECRATION FOR JESUS**

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For study of similar prophecies at the same time as Micah,  
read Amos 2:6-7, 5:7-13, 7:10-17, and 8:4-6.

For further study: 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13, 1 John 1:8 – 2:2, Hebrews  
13:12-14, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Timothy 6:10, 2 Timothy 4:2-4

# DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How do you respond to the glorious truth of Christ becoming sin for us?

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2. What is the progression of the sinful actions listed in Micah 2:1-2? Read Jesus’ teaching about the progression of sin from inner thoughts to actions in Matthew 15:10-20.

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3. What did the false prophets believe about God’s goodness and patience in Micah 2:6-7? How do these incorrect views of God connect with the sinful actions listed in Micah 2:1-5, 8-9? What excuses do we make for our sinful actions? How do these excuses reveal false beliefs we might have about God?

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4. Micah prophesies about a future “assembly of the LORD” during this declaration of God’s judgment. The fulfillment of this comes in Christ’s first Coming to Earth and ultimately in His Second Coming when He will bring in the new heavens and new earth. How does this Christ-centered hope enable us to face God’s judgment and to deal with our sinful beliefs and actions?

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# DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

5. **Praise to Jesus -Reflect:** One of the goals of God sending prophets to preach of His judgment is to cause people to repent. In the Gospel Transformation Study Bible notes for these verses in Micah we read, "To the presumptuous, the gospel pronounces judgment. To the penitent, the gospel pronounces deliverance."

**Each morning:** Let us ask the Holy Spirit to reveal our sinful beliefs and actions and to help us run to Jesus afresh every day. In particular, pray for God to reveal any idolatry or wrong desires in regards to money and wealth since Micah preached against this in our passage this week.

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6. **Repentance through Jesus- Reflect:** How do we see God's true character of holiness and love in the incarnation of Jesus and in His atoning death? How do these reflections cause us to praise Him for His justice and for His mercy?

**Pray:** Let us pray for God to give us eyes to see Him more clearly this week in order to better worship Him.

**At midday:** Prayerfully read Exodus 34:6-7 and praise God for who He is.

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## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

7. **Consecration for Jesus-Reflect:** In Micah 2:1-2 and 2:8-9 we read of the sinful actions of the rich and powerful people of Micah's time coveting and then stealing from others. Think about how they sinfully used their God-given power in selfish ways. Then ponder how Jesus modeled and taught servant leadership.

**In the evening:** Read Mark 10:42-45 and ask God to draw us to Jesus and His atoning death. Then ask God to fill us with His Spirit to strengthen us to serve others with the God-given talents resources that we have.

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**Scripture Memory:** Micah expressed confidence that God would plead his cause and execute judgment for him (Mic. 7:9), he could not have seen how radically and truly God would do this—by sending his own Son to have judgment executed upon him. *Gospel Transformation Study Bible*

**Through memorizing scripture be reminded moment by moment of God's forgiveness and of the hope that He will deliver!**

Micah 7:9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication. (ESV)

# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Families and Young Children

If you want to connect with our family ministries, contact Pastor Ken ([kenc@fpcrome.org](mailto:kenc@fpcrome.org))

1. Ask your children to describe God. What is He like?
  - a. Read Exodus 34:6-7. Ask your children to describe God based on this passage. Ask them if they think that God can be loving while also punishing those that sin.
  
  - b. Talk with them about how we see God's love and holiness on the cross as Jesus took the punishment for our sins.
  
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and make them understand who the "he" and "him" are. Ask them what they think about Jesus taking our punishment. Talk about the differing reactions we could have of repentance, praise, and consecration.
  
3. Ask your children what a good leader is and how a good leader acts towards those he or she is leading.
  - a. Talk with them about how the bad leaders in Micah's day stole land from others and how their teachers taught wrong things about God.
  
  - b. Read Mark 10:42-45 and ask your children how Jesus used His power.
  
  - c. Talk with them about how God gives each of us talents and resources that are to be used to bring glory to God and to serve others.

Scriptures for further study: Exodus 15:11, 1 John 1:8-9, Galatians 3:13,  
1 Peter 2:24, Philippians 2:5-11



# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Students

If you want to connect with our student ministries, contact Student Ministry Director Jimmy (jimmyl@fpcrome.org)

1. Read 1 Peter 2:24. Does the truth that Christ bore our sins mean that He became a sinner or was guilty of sin? How do texts like 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 John 2:1-6 help to explain how Christ took the just penalty that our sin deserves?

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2. Verses 1-2 speak of “those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds...they covet fields and seize them...they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance”. In Micah’s day a person’s field was a means of opportunity and how you made a living. When you think about oppression in today’s culture what does your mind typically gravitate towards?

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3. Micah was not received warmly when he carried his message of condemnation to Jerusalem. Their prophets considered this message to be offensive. What did these false prophets misunderstand about Micah’s message about God?

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4. How is the doom and gloom of Micah 2 paving the way for a glimmer of hope? What does Micah mention specifically in verse 5 in regards to an “assembly” that points to this?

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5. Where is our ultimate hope and fulfillment found? (Isaiah 9:6-7 & Malachi 3:1)

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6. As God’s people, how are we freed to give what we would otherwise seek to grasp and to give up what we once strived to get?

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# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Non Believers or New Believers

If you want to know more about Jesus and Christianity, contact Pastor Jonathan (jonathans@fpcrome.org)

1. The gospel is the good news that God loves us in spite of our sin, and that Christ died for us even when we were yet sinners. God shows us grace by saving all those who fear him and who repent and believe in Christ and his death and resurrection. Have you received this gift of grace?

Read these verses from Romans: 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9, 13

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2. We must be careful not to turn God's amazing grace into what Dietrich Bonhoeffer referred to as "cheap grace." And we must not turn God's sacrificial undeserved love for us (the Greek word for this is agape), into something we take for granted or even abuse. The term for this is "sloppy agape." How might someone misunderstand or misapply God's grace in their lives? How would balancing God's grace and God's holiness/justice help us form a healthier approach?

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# DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH DISCUSSION

## For Non Believers or New Believers continued

3. Notice that before these wicked men took the land from the poor, they first plotted and planned it in their hearts (verses 1-2). The root issue of sin is always the heart. In this case, the heart issue was the sin of coveting, which is prohibited in the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20:17). Ask God to help you examine your heart, particularly any covetousness that might be present. As an antidote, what might it look like for us to practice contentment?

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4. Why does God have such passionate anger about the mistreatment of widows and children and other vulnerable members of society? Are you and I guilty of any of these things too, not just in terms of our sins of commission, but perhaps also our sins of omission? Positively speaking, consider ways God would have us love our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Read and discuss Matthew 25:31-40 and James 1:27.

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5. There were false prophets in Micah's day (2:6-11), and there would later be false prophets in Paul's day (see 2 Timothy 4:2-4). Likewise, there are false prophets today, who fit the spirit of the age. Based on these and other passages (Isaiah 30:10; Jeremiah 5:31), what are some of the characteristics we should be looking for in identifying false prophets today? What kind of true biblical preaching should we be looking for instead? Is this the kind of preaching you are continually seeking and encouraging?

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FPC

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

GOD'S WORD • GOD'S PEOPLE • GOD'S MISSION

## What is Pulpit Driven Discipleship?

Discipleship from the pulpit to communities therein pressed into the head, heart and hands of image bearers of God every day.

**Pulpit Driven Discipleship** is the name of a process of discipleship. Discipleship begins on Sunday with the sermon faithfully preached by our pastors then the message of sermon is digested and pressed into the heart throughout the week through prayer reflection and discussion in the home or in smaller discussion groups. It is in this context that life transformation and growth occur.

The pastoral leadership team and the Adult Discipleship Ministry Team are excited to walk together this Fall through the message of the Book of Micah. Please prayerfully consider incorporating PDD as your primary means of discipleship. We believe that PDD is appropriate for individuals, couples, families, and groups of all kinds. This great resource can be found in the bulletin on Sunday, and will be available on-line and via email each week.

Director of Adult Discipleship Rob Davis welcomes discussion, questions, and comments of all kinds. Rob Davis 706-252-5216, RobD@fpcrome.org

### *About of the artwork*

*The artist painted Gray and Gold shortly after the United States joined the Second World War, and its image of amber waves of grain threatened by ominous storm clouds likely has symbolic overtones. The painting's foreground features an intersection of two dirt lanes, as well as a telephone pole emblazoned with political campaign posters. The artist seems to imply that American democracy is at a crossroads during this time of combat against the spread of fascism in Europe and Asia. Interestingly the work was inspired by the landscape around Cox's hometown of Terre Haute, Indiana, a location nicknamed "The Crossroads of America" due to the junction of major north-south and east-west national highways within its city limits.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup><https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1943.60>