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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Our lesson for today is from the book of Micah.

- Micah was like the prophet Amos,

- A man from the country sent to the city to bring the word of the LORD.

- His name means “**Who Is Like Jehovah**”

- **Micah**

was contemporary of:

- **Isaiah**

- **Hosea**

- **Amos**

- The book of Micah consists of **three serious prophetic speeches** each beginning with "**hear**".
- **The first message** starts with the call:
- "***Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is!***"
(**Micah 1:2**)

- **The second message** starts with the words:
 - *"Hear, I pray you,*
 - *O heads of Jacob,*
 - *and you princes of the house of Israel".*
- The **leaders** and **prophets** are blamed.
(Micah 3; Micah 4; Micah 5)

- At the beginning of the third message

we read

***"Hear you now
what the Lord saith."***

(Micah 6;Micah7)

- Micah announces judgment and grace for Israel.

- Micah's message corresponds in many parts with his contemporary Isaiah, Hosea, Amos.
- Micah is preaching during the time frame of 2 Kings.

- **There are three things**

Micah does

in each of his proclamations.

- **(1)** He will declare the **reason** why God is judging the people,
 - **(2)** What God **expects** the people to do,
 - **(3)** And what God is **going to do** for them.

- What does God want from us?
 - What is God doing?
- What does God expect?
 - What does God get angry about?
- These are the questions that are answered throughout Micah's prophecy.

- **The answers to these questions** will teach us much about God and also encourage **the life transformation** that God desires in us.

- Micah is calling for the people to **“Hear”** (Micah 1:2; 3:1; 6:1).

- Micah begins by calling for all the peoples of the earth

to listen to what God has to say and what God is about to do.

- The Lord is coming from his holy temple and he is going to judge (Micah 1:2-3).

- The picture of the Lord coming out of his temple **is terrifying.**
 - He is leaving **His heavenly throne,**
 - He comes down, **and walks on the earth.**

- As he walks:
- The mountains
melt under his feet

- The valleys
split apart.

(Micah 1:1-4)

- What a terrifying image!

- Why is God trampling the earth?
- Why is the earth melting under his feet?
- Micah 1:5 says
because of sins
committed in both
Israel and Judah.

- Micah 1:5 tells us that the capital cities, Samaria and Jerusalem have become the places for false worship and idolatry.
- Samaria's judgment is declared first.
- The capital city will become a heap of ruins and the idols smashed to pieces.
(Micah 1:6)

- **In Micah 1:8**

Micah the prophet says

**that he is going to
wail and howl**

for Samaria's condition.

- The disease of idolatry has spread to **Jerusalem as well.**
- The sin of idolatry **is like a cancer** spreading through both of the countries.

- **In Micah 2**

He continues his **prophetic message** by describing the sins of the people.

- They are sins of **greed** and **oppression**.

- They plan to do evil day and night (Micah 2:1).
- They are never content. (Micah 2:2).
 - They continue to oppress and defraud (Micah 2:2).

- You already have what you need.
- But you spend your time trying to get even more.
 - But the wealth that they so desperately desired will be taken away from them (**Micah 2:3-5**).
 - But the response of the nation is shocking, but not surprising.

- Micah is told
You should
not preach
about our sins
or
coming judgment
(**Micah 1:6**)

- Disgrace and shame is not going to overtake us.

- God would never become impatient with us!

- They continue to live as they want because they believe

God will never do anything.

- **Micah 1:11 declares that**
the only preacher
that these people want
is a lying windbag (NET).
 - Micah message
has been completely
tuned out
by the people.
 - So the people
will be sent to exile.

- Do these problems sound like **the problems of today?**
- People **taking** from others to increase their own wealth.
 - People **hurting** others so they can have more.
- **People not being content** with what they have.
 - People saying that **they do not want to hear that** what they are doing is wrong.

- Solomon wrote:
There is nothing new
under the sun
(**Ecclesiastes 1:9**).
- But what is God
going to do?
- His people must be
sent into exile for their sins.
- **The places of false worship**
must be destroyed,
which included the capital cities
of these two nations.

- What Micah says that the Lord will do about this situation **is truly stunning.**
 - Micah states **what the Lord will do:**
- **Judgment** and **hope** is revealed **at the same time.**

- The Lord is going to gather his people
- And break through the walls that are holding them in,
- Leading them as their king and set them together like sheep in a pasture.
(Micah 2:12-13)
- Though judgment was promised because sin.
 - They could not “out-sin” the grace and goodness of God.
- Listen to what Jesus said about himself.

- **1** “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.
- **2** But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.
- **3** To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

- 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.
- 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”
- 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
(John 10:16-19 ESV)

- Notice how Jesus uses the same picture found in Micah 2 about himself.
- But they do not understand what Jesus is saying.
 - Jesus is saying that **he has come to lead out his people.**
- But Jesus has a problem as he tries to explain what he has come to do

- Jesus says to the leaders of His day:

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”
(John 8:31-32 ESV).

- But again this where **the people don't understand.**

- Listen to their response.

- ***“We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”***
(John 8:33 ESV)

- **They did not know**
that they were enslaved
and needed deliverance.

- **So Jesus explains**
that we are not free at all.

- The answer Jesus gives is:
“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin”.
- Now the good news:
The slave does not remain in the house forever;
- The Son remains forever.
- *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*
(**John 8:34-36** ESV)

- **Micah's first message** is very simple.
 - God has left his heavenly **throne** with the purpose of judgment.
 - He will **judge** you because of your sins.
 - And **deliver** you from your sins.
 - **Romans 8:1**

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit

- We must be careful that we are not like those in Jesus' day who did not understand that they are enslaved.

- 2 Peter 2:14

“Cannot cease from sin”

- They think they can desire more and more wealth,
 - Thinking the Lord to be patient
 - And that He will never do anything to them.
 - That continue living how they want.

- Buy Micah warns that the Lord will come down from His Holy place and brings them into judgment.
(**Micah 1:3**)

- Can not we see that **we are stuck in our sins,**
- **Making disastrous choices in life?**
 - **If we admit our sins** and call out to our Savior.
 - The Lord will **deliver us from those** disastrous choices.
 - And bring us to the **green pastures** and flowing waters.

- The message of Micah **is very relevant for us** as we see that the culture and sins of **Israel** and **Judah** during Micah's day **are the same sins** and same cultural in our day.

- Micah's message was
two-fold:

- # 1 To warn the people of his day,

- # 2 And to point forward to Jesus.

- So as you read the

- book of Micah**

- you will see the promises

- that are available to us
in Jesus.

- One of the problems that Micah is dealing with as he preaches **is the lack of justice in Israel and Judah.**

- **There is evil**
and
lots of injustice.
- **What is God going to do about it?**

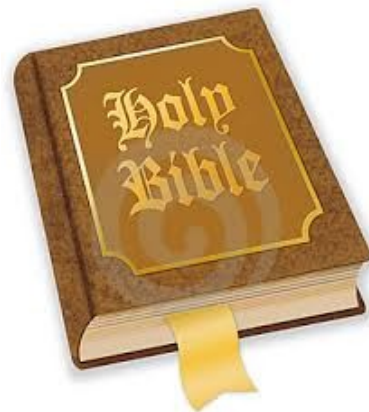
- **That is the same question**
we ask today
as we witness
injustices in our world.
- **What is God going to do**
about injustice?
 - This is what
chapters 3-5
of the book of Micah
will explain.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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