

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Sept 2022	Amos 01-02	Listen to God
2) 11-Sept	Amos 03-04	Turn to God
3) 18 Sept	Amos 05-07	Seek God
4) 25 Sept	Amos 08-09	Hope in God
5) 02 Oct	Jonah 01-02	No Escape
6) 09 Oct	Jonah 03-04	No Compassion
7) 16 Oct	Hosea 01-03	The Unfaithful Bride
8) 23 Oct	Hosea 04-07	The Hollow Promises
9) 30 Oct	Hosea 08-12	The Sin Harvested
10) 06 Nov	Hosea 13-14	The Restoration Promised
11) 13 Nov	Micah 01-03	Leaders Needed
12) 20 Nov	Micah 04-06	Humble Beginnings
13) 27 Nov	Micah 07	Hope Found

INTRODUCTION

- Israel/Judah was getting hit with a 1-2 punch while Isaiah prophesied in Jerusalem & Micah prophesied in the outskirts of town
- Government and religious leaders do not become evil and corrupt leaders over night. Usually, they start with small ethical issues, then they migrate over to whomever pays them the most
- Same here in Micah. The rulers of his day were as corrupt as we see in our day and times
 - ♦ They hate good and love evil
 - ♦ They pray, but God does not answer
 - ♦ They are unjust, unmerciful
 - ♦ They teach and preach just for the money
 - ♦ They think God will do them no harm

Passage	Comments
1:1-4	God will come down from His place to tread on the earth • IOW, it is time for Gloom & Doom – at least for Israel/Judah
1:5-6	• Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom is the cause of Jacob/Israel's downfall. Makes us wonder if Washington, DC is the catalyst of ruin for our nation. Is it?
1:7	• Harlot wages will go to another harlot! How will this be?
1:8-12	• Micah might have walked barefoot and naked like Isaiah (Isaiah 20:2) to powerfully illustrate Israel's pending doom • v9. Her wound is incurable ♦ Reminiscent of 1John 5:16 – Sin unto Death – No Hope
1:13-15	• Lachish – another big city of sin. When you think of cities like New York, Chicago, LA, Tokyo – one thinks of all the headaches of a big city (crime, homelessness, fear)
1:16	"Make yourself BALD" equates to rightful morning
2:1-5	Woe to those who scheme • Directed primarily against wealthy landowners • Injustice against the poor is one of God's pet peeves
2:6-7	God's answer against false prophets • His words do good to those who walk righteously
2:8-9	The rich seem to get richer • ...by robbing from the poor and weak.....cf Psalm 73:12
2:10	• Possible principle when to leave a sinful place, be it a church, a home, or a nation. Flee when persecuted?Mt 10:23
2:11	I will speak to you of wine and beer • IOW, I will speak to you of prosperity! But when? Millennium?
2:12	God will always have His remnant. • Remember, all of Israel were Jews, but not all of Israel are savedRom 9:6
2:13	The "breaker" is presumably Jesus Christ • He breaks the seals in Revelation 5
3:1	Rulers should know how to dispense true justice • ...but they do not. Do we see this in our nation today? ♦ The poor suffer the most ♦ The rich get richer ♦ The rich rulers profit from people's misery
3:2a	The rulers have reversed morality • They call good evil and evil good • Do we see this happening today? E.g., Abortions are good!

Passage	Comments
3:2b-3	The rulers basically devour the weak – God's people. • In other words, they squeeze blood out of a turnip
3:4	• What time period is "THEN" referring to? Probably, the time of Samaria's destruction, recorded in Micah 1:6-8; 2:3 • Who are "THEY" in "They will cry out to God, but He will not answer them"? They are corrupt officials, prophets, & priests
3:5	How bad are the corrupt prophets, & priests of God? ♦ Bad enough to take bribes ♦ They render prophecies of "PEACE" to those who give them something ♦ They declare "Jihad" or "holy war" on those who do not bribe them
NOTE	In our "Times of the Gentiles" we are no longer under a curse if we do not give to God's work. But we stand to lose blessings if we are stingy. He who sows much will reap much.....2Cor 9:6
3:6-7	God will clam up and hide Himself from those corrupt rulers • The result is people are left to fend for themselves as their leadership become powerless and useless – The nation crumbles. If there is no vision, the people perish..... Prov 29:18
3:8-10	Micah is one small voice • How do today's political/religious leaders "abhor justice"? • How do today's political/religious leaders twist what is straight? • How do today's political/religious leaders build our nation with blood and injustice
3:11	• Micah calls the baby ugly by saying the Government and religious systems follow the money trail ♦ Is this true of our times? • Yet, the rulers say no harm will come to the nation since God is still on their side. Is this true?
3:12	NOPE. God has no problems wiping the slate clean again • He wiped the early humans out, except Noah and his clan • He wiped Sodom & Gomorrah off the map • He let the Ark of the Covenant disappear • He allowed His temple to be destroyed 3 times • What will it take to wake His people up? To wake US up?

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

- Listen up when God speaks words of Doom
- Take hope in God's word – it is good to those who are upright
- Run away from sin
- Stay alert to who is corrupt and who is not
- Challenge wrong behavior but leave it in God's hands if we are not able to change things

NEXT WEEK

- Micah 4-6 God brings hope to the hopeless

