

**Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**  
**Bible Study Notes**  
**2-28-18**

**Micah Chapter 2**

**Human Plans and God's Plans - Verses 1-5**

<sup>1</sup>Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning's light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it. <sup>2</sup>They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud people of their homes, they rob them of their inheritance. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, the LORD says: "I am planning disaster against this people, from which you cannot save yourselves. You will no longer walk proudly, for it will be a time of calamity. <sup>4</sup>In that day people will ridicule you; they will taunt you with this mournful song: 'We are utterly ruined; my people's possession is divided up. He takes it from me! He assigns our fields to traitors.'" <sup>5</sup>Therefore you will have no one in the assembly of the LORD to divide the land by lot.

**2:1-2** Micah spoke out against those who planned evil deeds at night and rose at dawn to do them. A person's thoughts and plans reflect his or her character. What do you think about as you lie down to sleep? Do your desires involve greed or stepping on others to achieve your goals? Evil thoughts lead to evil deeds.

**2:2** Micah warned against those who use their position to take advantage of others. Less than a century earlier, King Ahab of Israel had pouted because he couldn't get Naboth's vineyard. So his wife, Jezebel, had Naboth killed in order to give the garden to Ahab (1 Kings 21:1-16). This kind of injustice had spread throughout the nation and, like a disease, was destroying the people from the inside out.

**2:5** Those who have been oppressing others will find the tables turned. They will end up not having any share in the decisions to divide the land because they won't have any surviving relatives.

**False Prophets - Verses 6-11**

<sup>6</sup>"Do not prophesy," their prophets say. "Do not prophesy about these things; disgrace will not overtake us." <sup>7</sup>You descendants of Jacob, should it be said, "Does the LORD become impatient? Does he do such things?" "Do not my words do good to the one whose ways are upright?" <sup>8</sup>Lately my people have risen up like an enemy. You strip off the rich robe from those who pass by without a care, like men returning from battle. <sup>9</sup>You drive the women of my people from

their pleasant homes. You take away my blessing from their children forever. <sup>10</sup> Get up, go away! For this is not your resting place, because it is defiled, it is ruined, beyond all remedy. <sup>11</sup> If a liar and deceiver comes and says, 'I will prophesy for you plenty of wine and beer,' that would be just the prophet for this people!

**2:6-7** If these messages seem harsh, remember that God did not want to take revenge on Israel; he wanted to get them back on the right path. The people had rejected what was true and right, and they needed stern discipline. Children may think discipline is harsh, but it helps keep them going in the right direction. If we only want God's comforting messages, we may miss what he has for us. Listen whenever God speaks, even when the message is hard to take.

**2:11** The people liked the false prophets who told them only what they wanted to hear. Micah spoke against prophets who encouraged the people to feel comfortable in their sin. Preachers are popular when they don't ask too much of us and when they tell us our greed or lust might even be good for us. But a true teacher of God speaks the truth, regardless of what the listeners want to hear.

#### **Deliverance Promised – Verses 12-13**

<sup>12</sup> "I will surely gather all of you, Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. <sup>13</sup> The One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their King will pass through before them, the LORD at their head."

**2:12-13** Micah's prophecy telescopes two great events—Judah's return from captivity in Babylon, and the great gathering of all believers when the Messiah returns. God gave his prophets visions of various future events, but not necessarily the ability to discern when these events would happen. For example, they could not see the long period of time between the Babylonian captivity and the coming of the Messiah, but they could clearly see that the Messiah was coming. The purpose of this prophecy was not to predict exactly how this would occur, but that it would. This gave the people hope and helped them turn from sin.