

# The Real Wrath of God - Micah 1:2-16

**Introduction** – In courtroom-like fashion, Micah summons all the nations to witness the trial of Samaria and Jerusalem. The accused plead their ignorance and innocence, but this Judge cannot be deceived. The sentence is proclaimed leaving the custodian weeping over the impending executions.

**All Nations Summoned** (vv2-4) – Israel was to be a priest to the nations, proclaiming the glory and holiness of God. Instead, she has ironically become an example to the nations of what happens to all peoples who forsake the living God and serve idols.

**“O earth”** – Like a father disciplining one of His children while the others hear from the other room, God intends to use even Israel’s disobedience for His good purposes. Israel is not being treated specially, but typically. We are required just as sure as Israel, if not more, to explicitly serve the living God (Acts 17:30). Pluralism is not allowed as a nations ‘official position’. It is nothing less than idolatry.

**“the Lord is coming out of His place”** – You can’t keep God in a box, in a temple, or in pre-authorized areas of your life, or your nation’s life. Our temptation is to look for the photo-op, coming out of church with our Bible, looking religious. But the Lord will be examining our lives at the office, in the home, in all of our relationships and responsibilities. He will be peering into our mouths, our minds, our intentions. Already, we should be hearing the sound of Micah 6:8.

**“the high-places...the valleys”** – Every lofty, powerful place, and every stable place, will be split open and laid bare before the eyes of God. This is the activity of the Word of God (Heb 4:12-13).

**The Charges** (v5) – Both kingdoms are charged with transgression (breaking covenant) and sin (breaking stipulations).

**“Who, me?”** – The rhetorical question is asked as though the defendant claims innocence, representative of a people who deny their sin. Samaria has outwardly left the covenant. Judah pleads the innocence of Jerusalem, but even there, ‘high places’ of pagan worship can be found (2 Kings 15:35). It’s not enough to call it ‘Christian’ – this must be defined by the Word.

**The Sentence Upon Samaria** (vv6-7) – Samaria will be left in a heap of ruins. The picture is either of a dung heap, or a mound of useless material when one cleans an area for a vineyard. And the northern kingdom became a wild wasteland not long after.

**Idols** – Idols are tangible symbols of a pagan worldview that brings with it twisted value systems and unethical conduct (Rom 1:18-31). Calvin called the human mind “a perpetual forge of idols”. Micah pronounces the desolation of those idols and that the wealth garnered from such worship will be taken away in the judgment.

**Do We Have Idols?** – Let’s consider our present political races. Who is going to save social security (our welfare)? Who is going to save Medicare (our health and longevity)? Who is going to save our kids from drugs and educate them (our posterity, our worldviews, our religion)? Who is our savior? Vote for...

**Lamenting Much Closer to Home** (vv8-16) – Unlike the characteristic hellfire preacher, Micah preaches with tears. Certainly he is following customs of mourning, but that is not to say that he is insincere. There has been a sentence upon Samaria, but now it moves to the Judean foothills and to the gates of his beloved Jerusalem. We talk about the ‘exile’ as a historical fact. Micah lived through it.

**Various Towns** – These are all towns circling around and then including Moresheth, Micah’s hometown. The names of the towns are used in wordplay to describe the destruction of these cities, their inability to stop the siege of Sennacherib, and eventually, the exile of the children of future generations (v16). The general application of this is that the punishment fits the crime, coming at the very character of the rebellion. Is AIDS and VD (and abortion and no-fault divorce and homosexual ‘marriages’) a judgment from God upon a people who want their freedom from His laws regarding morality and marriage? When we refuse to submit to scriptural boundaries for civil government, what is the result? Bureaucratic nightmares, scandalous extortion of money and power, theft in the name of taxes...

**Divine Wrath** – Should we, Americans, ever expect God’s wrath to be poured out upon us? Do we even believe in divine judgment anymore? There is no justice if God is not pouring out His holy wrath upon sin, and there is no need for a Savior unless we need to be saved from something.

**Relativistic Society** – If there are no absolutes, then there is no absolute judgment – no hell. We live in a society where it is unthinkable to judge someone who is ‘not hurting someone else’. We live in a society where it is unthinkable to believe that when someone dies they *might not* be going to a better place, or have their misery relieved. We live in a society that teaches it is unthinkable to say that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. But the fact that it is incomprehensible does not mean that it is untrue (Luke 16:19-31). Repentance never comes unless it is given by God (Acts 11:18).

**A Trampled Church** - Tempted to draw parallels and look at Washington D.C.? It might be a better use of our time to remember Matt 5:13. Who is supposed to be the salt of D.C.? So, if the meat is putrid, what does that tell us about the salt? The church refuses to speak in antithetical terms anymore. Instead, we stand on less and less truths as absolute. We are the church of relativism. We are worthy of nothing less than to be trampled underfoot. God be merciful to us. For when the time of judgment comes, it will begin in the household of God (1 Pet 4:17). What are we sowing, if not for ourselves, then for our children (Micah 1:16)?

*Dave Hatcher – October 1, 2000*