

What Kind of Preaching Do You Want?

International Bible Lesson

Micah 2:1-13

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“If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people” (Micah 2:11—KJV).

“If someone were to go about uttering empty falsehoods, saying, ‘I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,’ such a one would be the preacher for this people!” (Micah 2:11—NRSV).

Micah preached a message that condemned the wicked for using taxation and trickery to steal the homes and farms of the less powerful, of widows and children. These immoral leaders worshiped idols in addition to worshiping the true God, and they believed their prosperity proved that God and their idols favored them above all others. Though they tried to forbid the preaching of the true prophets of God, they enjoyed the type of preaching that Micah described. They preferred to believe the empty falsehoods of the preachers who never called them to repent, who affirmed their special status as God’s chosen people, and who promised that because God was patient and slow to anger they would never be punished by God. They preferred preachers who endorsed their enjoyment of worldly pleasures, and who enjoyed their decadent behavior with them. Micah said they wanted preachers who promoted their drinking of wine and strong drink to excess, and who found delight in the behaviors that too often follow drunkenness. They wanted sermons that did not criticize them for worshiping in the temples of idols and participating in the deviant behaviors that idol worship promoted, but praised them for worshiping God according to their interpretation of God and His laws. Even before the days of Amos and Micah, and ever since their time, people choose the type of preaching they want. Though it may not be thought of as preaching, most worldly preaching today comes through advertising, movies, and news reports that promote the type of behavior that the prophets of God condemned.— © Copyright 2015 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. Describe one way that the wicked reaped what they sowed when God judged them.
2. Why did the wicked want the true prophets of God to stop preaching?
3. Give a reason why the wicked did not fear the prophets’ threat of God’s just judgment.
4. How did the wicked treat their fellow Judeans, especially in and around Jerusalem?
5. What kind of prophet or preacher did Micah say the wicked wanted to hear?