

Understanding God's Ownership

Men, before we can adequately interpret the chapters of Micah, I believe we need to review a very key Biblical precept: **God's ownership**.

As I mentioned weeks ago, I have been drawn to the book of Micah. I do not know specifically why, but as I expand my exploration of the book, I am getting excited at how God's Holy Spirit has been opening my eyes to truths I missed over the years! I love it when the Holy Spirit brings to the forefront nuggets of truth and helps connect the dots between passages of scripture. Praise God! For His enlightenment!

As we relook at God's ownership and the impacts of sin, then Micah 6:8 cries out even louder and it has more significance:

He has told you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?

Some much darkness in the world! Why? Sin! Man chooses his way vice God's. But even in these times of darkness there is light, because God, El Elyon, the Most High God, is always God! **HE OWNS IT ALL!**

Man broke his word; did not meet his requirements of the covenant between him and God. Sin leads to despair and death; but there is hope, because God, El Roi, the God who sees, is the God of hope; for He is Jehovah-shammah, The Lord Is There! **HE OWNS THE WAY TO RESTORATION!**

Even in the world of corruption there is truth; though hidden to some, God is not silent; His Word speaks to us and those a far off. Jesus was born to testify to the truth (John 18:37 - 38)

Micah's name means: Who is Jehovah like?

Who is like our Lord? Who are we too fully understand what God has done, is doing, and will do?

God created it all! **He owns the vineyard (Earth)** and man is His steward, servant, caretaker, etc. Micah expresses God's broken heart; His disappointment; His anger over breaking of promises/covenants; for God is a promise keeper...He is the King/provider, judge, faithful Father, and restorer!

Last week I asked you to scan/read the Old Testament chapters below to help give you a high level view of the state of man, state of both the North and Southern kingdoms of Israel. These will be a couple of our references during our view of Micah; so insure you keep them bookmarked to come back as necessary.

2 Kings 15:17 - 20:21
2 Chronicles 26 - 30

Let us list the three kings of Judah that reigned during Micah's ministry and label whether or not they were good or bad in the sight of God.

What other prophets of God were ministering during Micah's service?

As a quick review, from your reading of Micah coupled with the 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles sections describe the state of the people's morality, their social practices; dealings with others; and the spiritual worship focus.

Last week I asked that you scan Micah and see if you could identify the three apparent sections of the book which began with the **repeated word, "Hear"?**

It appears that **Micah is divided into three sections**, or message to audience:

Chapters 1 & 2 — Hear, _____

Chapters 3 - 5 — Hear, _____

Chapters 6 & 7 — Hear, _____ and hear _____

Our journey should help us see God's justice, His severity and His kindness. Remember God's purpose is to restore man's relationship with Him; and to restore the entire creation...a new heaven and new earth!

But why is God so interested in restoring the creation and man's relationship with Him? **HE OWNS IT ALL!** Therefore, the owner had to restore His property...place new tenants — stewards on the land...the cost was high...Praise God for the Son's obedience to pay the cost of freedom from slavery of sin on the cross and to restore His property.

So, before we can proceed any further in our exploration of Micah we need to do a little review of God's ownership and the impact man's continued choice to break covenants.

Do not let the amount of scripture references force you to run for the hills! :-)

I believe it is important that we read and allow the Holy Spirit to connect the dots. Let us start digging for Bible golden nuggets.

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Ps 24:1

Whether a person believes in the creation of an Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Transcendent Being (GOD) or natural and evolutionary development will impact every aspect of that person's worldview.

God owns the earth; Genesis 1:1, Psalm 24:1 - 10; Revelation 4:11, and many others throughout the Bible conveys this foundational truth.

Let us look at:

Psalm 50:10 — God owns the living creatures that inhabit the earth

Haggai 2:8 — God owns the metals that establish monetary value in the earth

1 Corinthians 6:19 - 20 — God claims ownership over our bodies

1 Chronicles 29:11 - 12; Isaiah 45:12; Colossians 1:16 - 17 — shows that nothing is excluded from the sphere of His ownership and kingship

Genesis 1:26 and 2:15 — what is man's role? _____

We are to manage God's resources as stewards/servants of the Owner. Let us read with a refreshed view of who the "owner" is:

Matthew 20:1 - 16 — what does the "owner" do? How did the labors react to His decision/
action? _____

Matthew 25:14 - 30 — what golden nugget(s) do you see in this parable when you replace the
master with GOD? _____

So why was God so angry at Israel?

"All this is for the rebellion of Jacob
And for the sins of the house of Israel.
What is the rebellion of Jacob?
Is it not Samaria?
What is the high place of Judah?
Is it not Jerusalem? Micah 1:5

Lucifer's error was that he thought he could become like the Owner, usurping all the rights and privileges of the Creator - Isaiah 14:12 - 14.

Israel's error was similar; they not only behaved as if their possessions were their own property (Micah 3:8 - 10); but they broke their promise /covenant with God. God had a covenant with Israel concerning the promise/designated land for the nation and their object of worship and obedience. Let us read the following scriptures and allow the Holy Spirit illuminate your understanding.

Genesis 16:18 — Covenant with _____ over what? _____

Genesis 17:7 — with whom was the covenant and its validity period? _____

Exodus 6:2 - 8 — God speaks with _____ and reminds him of what?

Exodus 19:1 - 8 — God covenant with _____ and their acceptance

Notice the law was given to Israel after this covenant was agreed upon!

Exodus 23:20 - 23 — God sets the rules for living in the promise land in which Israel was to be steward

Exodus 24:1 - 8 — What occurred after God communicated the standards of life?

Deut 4:5 - 40 and 5:1 - 13 — Moses reminds the people what?

Deut 6:1 - 15 — what was the responsibility of the head of a household?

Joshua 1:1 - 9 — God now is reminding _____ and reassuring him of what?

GOD OWNS IT ALL!

We have been delegated authority over the creation (Genesis 1:28), are required to be faithful with the mysteries of God (1 Col 4:1 - 2), and are expected to administer the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10).

Micah had the hard task of reminding the people of Judah that they had broken their promises to God.

“But I did not know!” I can hear it now...the leaders and teachers failed to pass the Word. Fathers let others do what they were tasked to do; for their fathers before them did not pass the Word down.

But God held to His Word...expected Israel to uphold their promises and stay true to worshiping Him not the idols of the land. He warned them! They forgot they were the stewards/servants and not the OWNER.

So let us look at the parable of the vineyard in **Matthew 21: 33 - 41 and Mark 12:1 -11**

Are we executing our stewardship duties with integrity?

Are we represent our land owner correctly?

What reward should our actions reap?

Coupled with the parable of the owner and how He chose to pay the labors of the day, why do we get anger with God, the OWNER, when He does as He desires with His property?

Now as we re-read Micah I believe we have a better perspective of God's heart and His requirement to reclaim His property; and install a new property manager!