

THE BOOK OF MICAH

CHANGED BY GENTLE KINDNESS AND RUTHLESS SEVERITY

These are all warning markers—DANGER!—in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. **1 Corinthians 10:11** - Message

*The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did... ¹⁰⁻¹¹These are all warning markers—DANGER!—in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel—they at the beginning, we at the end—and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. Don't be naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else... **1 Corinthians 10:6, 11-12a** (MP)*

*Witness the simultaneous balance of the kindness and severity of our God. Severity is directed at the fallen branches withering without faith. Yet kindness is directed at you. So live in the kindness of God or else prepare to be cut off yourselves. **Romans 1:22** (VOICE)*

➤ **THERE ARE SOME THINGS I CAN DO... AND SOME THINGS I CANNOT.**

I cannot change the _____ of God.

God was, is, and always will be _____ and _____.

I can choose the way He _____ with me.

The character I experience results from the behavior I _____.

*Which do you choose? Should I come with a rod to punish you, or should I come with love and a gentle spirit? **1 Corinthians 4:21** (NLT)*

➤ **WHAT MAKES GOD ANGRY WITH THOSE WHO CLAIM TO FOLLOW HIM?**

1. God gets angry when I _____.

*Listen, all you people! Earth and everyone on it, listen! The Lord GOD will be a witness against you. The Lord will come from his holy temple.³ See, the LORD is leaving his place to come down and walk on the high places of the earth.⁴ The mountains will melt under him like wax in a fire. The valleys will break apart and slide like water rushing down a hill.⁵ This will happen because of Jacob's sin, because of the sins of the nation of Israel. What caused Jacob to sin? It was Samaria. Where is the high place in Judah? It is Jerusalem.⁶ So I will change Samaria into a pile of rocks in the field, a place ready for planting grapes. I will push Samaria's stones down into the valley, leaving nothing but the foundations. **Micah 1:2-5** (ERV)*

2. God gets angry when I _____.

How terrible it will be for those who plan to harm others! How terrible for those who make evil plans before they even get out of bed! As soon as daylight comes, they carry them out. That's because they have the power to do it.² If they want fields or houses, they take them. They cheat men out of their homes and property.³ So the



LORD says to them, "I am planning to send trouble on you. You will not be able to save yourselves from it. You will not live so proudly anymore. It will be a time of trouble. **Micah 2:1-3** (NIRV)

3. God get angry when I _____ ...

...as a _____ or as a _____.

"Don't prophesy," the people's prophets say. "Don't prophesy about bad things. Nothing shameful is going to happen to us."¹⁰ Get up! Leave this land! ... You have made it 'unclean.' You have completely destroyed it.¹¹ Suppose a prophet goes around telling lies. And prophesies that you will have plenty of wine and beer. Then that kind of prophet would be just right for this nation! **Micah 2:6, 10-11** (NIRV)

The time will come when Israel will cry out to the LORD. But he won't answer them. In fact, he'll turn his face away from them. They have done what is evil.⁵ The LORD says, "You prophets are leading my people down the wrong path. If they feed you, you promise them peace. If they do not, you prepare to go to war against them.⁶ So night will come on you. But you will not have any visions. Darkness will cover you. But you will not be able to figure out what is going to happen. The sun will set on you prophets. The day will become dark for you. **Micah 3: 4-6** (NIRV)

Your judges take money from people who want special favors. Your priests teach only if they get paid for it. Your prophets won't tell fortunes unless they receive money. But you still claim to depend on the LORD. You say, "The LORD is with us. No trouble will come on us."¹² So because of you..., Zion will be plowed up like a field. Jerusalem will be turned into a pile of trash. The temple hill will be covered with bushes and weeds. **Micah 3: 11-12** (NIRV)

➤ WHAT CAN THOSE CLAIMING TO FOLLOW DO TO CALM GOD'S ANGER?

1. _____ the kindness of God

And now, O mountains, listen to the LORD's complaint! He has a case against His people. He will bring charges against Israel.³ "O My people, what have I done to you? What have I done to make you tired of Me? Answer Me!⁴ For I brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to help you.⁵ Don't you remember, My people, how King Balak of Moab tried to have you cursed and how Balaam son of Beor blessed you instead? And remember your journey from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, when I, the LORD, did everything I could to teach you about My faithfulness." **Micah 6: 2-4** (NIRV)

2. _____ a ritualistic response.

What can we bring to the LORD? What kind offerings should we give Him? Should we bow before God with offerings of yearling calves?⁷ Should we offer Him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins?⁸ No, oh people... **Micah 6:6-8a** (NIRV)

3. _____ as required.

... the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:8b** (NIRV)

- Have the right _____ – I commit to _____.
- Have the right _____ – I commit to _____.