

Micah 2:2~ **And they have desired fields and have seized them, also houses, and have taken them, and they have defrauded an able-bodied man¹ and his household, a man² and his hereditary possession.**

Footnote: An able-bodied man Hebrew, *ge'ver*

Footnote: A man Hebrew, *we'ish'*

1· Those in power over the people, see fields that they want for themselves, and so they take them, disregarding the inheritance laws, and the rights of others. Thus they have defrauded an able-bodied man and his household, and wrongfully removed from a man his God-given hereditary possession.

[Question] What wrong practices then, were they engaging in?

2· You must not desire your fellowman's house. You must not desire your fellowman's wife, nor his slave man nor his slave girl, nor his bull nor his ass, nor anything that belongs to your fellowman. (Exodus 20:17)

[Question] What did the Law Covenant warn Israelites not to covet?

3· So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying; Do give me your vineyard, that it may serve as a garden of vegetables to me, for it is close by my house, and let me give you in place of it, a vineyard better than it. Or if it is good in your eyes, I will give you money as the price of this. (1 Kings 21:2)

[Question] How did Ahab come to covet the possessions of Naboth?

4· Please, restore to them on this day their fields, their vineyards, their olive groves and their houses, and the hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil that you are exacting as interest from them. (Nehemiah 5:11)

[Question] What did Nehemiah call upon the people to return to those whom they had extorted from?

[Question] Was it ever proper for Israelites to charge other Israelites interest on anything?

5· Woe to the ones joining house to house, and those who annex field to field, until there is no more room, and you

men **have** been made to dwell all by yourselves in the midst of the land! (**Isaiah 5:8**)

[Question] Who did Isaiah state, that woe would come to, and why?

- 6· The people of the land themselves **have** carried on a scheme of defrauding, and **have** done a tearing away in robbery, and the afflicted one and the poor one they **have** maltreated, and the alien resident they **have defrauded** without justice. (**Ezekiel 22:29**)

[Question] In Ezekiel's day what had the people of the land carried on, that brought Yehowah God's wrath?

- 7· Assuredly your eyes and your heart are upon nothing, but upon your unjust gain, and upon the blood of the innocent one, in order to shed it, and upon defrauding, and upon extortion, in order to carry them on. (**Jeremiah 22:17**)

[Question] What alone were they interested in as leaders of the people, and how did they treat others?

- 8· The afflicted and poor one he has maltreated, things he has wrested away in robbery, a pledged thing he would not return, and to the dungy idols he lifted up his eyes, a detestable thing is what he has done. (**Ezekiel 18:12**)

[Question] How did they treat the afflicted and poor among them, and who did they raise up their worship to?

- 9· A bribe they **have taken** in you for the purpose of shedding blood. Interest and usury you **have taken**, and you violently keep making gain of your companions with defrauding, and me you **have** forgotten, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 22:12**)

[Question] What did their judges take to pervert justice, and how did they loan money, and who did they forget in all of this?

- 10· And now our flesh is the same as the flesh of our brothers, our sons are the same as their sons, but here we are reducing our sons and our daughters to slaves, and there are some of our daughters already reduced, and there is no power in our hands while our **fields** and our vineyards belong to others. (**Nehemiah 5:5**)

[Question] What situation did Nehemiah lament, had taken place within Israel in his day?

- 11· **In case a soul sins, in that he does behave unfaithfully toward Yehowah, and does deceive his associate about something in his charge, or a deposit in hand, or a robbery, or he does defraud his associate. (Leviticus 6:2)**

[Question] What were things condemned within the Law Covenant?

- 12· **Now in case **YOU** should sell merchandise to your associate, or be buying from your associate's hand, do not **YOU** wrong one another. (Leviticus 25:14)**

[Question] How were all business transactions to be done within Israel?

- 13· **When I got to see among the spoil an official garment from Shinar, a good-looking one, and two hundred shekels of silver and one gold bar, fifty shekels being its weight, then I wanted them, and I took them, and, look! They are hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent with the money underneath it. (Joshua 7:21)**

[Question] How did Achan disgrace and reproach the entire nation of Israel through his theft?

- 14· **However, there came to be a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brothers. (Nehemiah 5:1)**

[Question] Over what did the Jews make a great outcry to Nehemiah?

- 15· **He that is defrauding the lowly one to supply many things to himself, he also that is giving to the rich one, is surely destined for want. (Proverbs 22:16)**

[Question] Who are destined for want themselves?

- 16· **And I myself returned, that I might see all the acts of oppression that are being done under the sun, and, look! The tears of those being oppressed, but they had no comforter, and on the side of their oppressors there was power, so that they had no comforter. (Ecclesiastes 4:1)**

[Question] What did the congregator see within the sons of mankind that troubled him?

- 17· What do **YOU** men mean in that **YOU** crush my people, and that **YOU** grind the very faces of the afflicted ones? Is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord, Yehowah of armies. **(Isaiah 3:15)**

[Question] His did Yehowah God through Isaiah show how Israel's leaders treated his flocks?

- 18· As a cistern keeps its waters cool, so she has kept her badness cool. Violence and despoiling are heard in her, sickness and plague are before my face constantly. **(Jeremiah 6:7)**

[Question] What did the leaders of Israel keep cool, like what?

[Question] Yet what things were going on within her in secret?

- 19· Can there be stealing, murdering and committing adultery, and swearing falsely, and making sacrificial smoke to Baal, and walking after other gods, whom **YOU** had not known. **(Jeremiah 7:9)**

[Question] What did Jeremiah ask the people about, that they were doing, while saying that they had God's blessing?

- 20· O house of David, this is what Yehowah has said; Every morning render sentence in justice, and deliver the one being robbed out of the hand of the defrauder, that my rage may not go forth just like a fire, and actually burn, and there be no one to extinguish it, because of the badness of **YOUR** dealings. **(Jeremiah 21:12)**

[Question] How did Yehowah God command his people to render justice, and who should they look out for, to treat them fairly, and why them?

- 21· This is what Yehowah has said; **RENDER** justice and righteousness, and deliver the one that is being robbed out of the hand of the defrauder, and do not maltreat any alien resident, fatherless boy or widow. Do them no violence. And do not shed any innocent blood in this place. **(Jeremiah 22:3)**

[Question] What did Yehowah God through Jeremiah tell his people to render daily toward others?

- 22· Make the chain, for the land itself has become full of

bloodstained judgment and the city itself has become full of violence. (**Ezekiel 7:23**)

[Question] What chain would her captives have to wear, as they were led off into exile, and why were they being led off?

- 23· Is it such a little thing for **YOU** men that on the very best pasturage **YOU** feed, but the rest of **YOUR** pasturages **YOU** should trample down with **YOUR** feet, and that the clear waters **YOU** drink, but the ones left over, **YOU** should foul by stamping with **YOUR** very feet? (**Ezekiel 34:18**)

[Question] What did the shepherds of Israel feed upon, and what did they leave for others?

[Question] How have Christendom and the Jews both reserved the fine pasturage of the truths of the Bible for themselves, while feeding others their own thoughts, muddied waters?

- 24· Hear this word, **YOU** cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who are defrauding the lowly ones, who are crushing the poor ones, who are saying to their masters; Do bring, and let us drink! (**Amos 4:1**)

[Question] What did Yehowah God call the leaders of Israel, for what were they withholding from the lowly ones?

- 25· Therefore, for the reason that **YOU** are extracting farm rent from someone lowly, and the tribute of grain **YOU** keep taking from him, **houses** of hewn stone **YOU have** built, but **YOU** will not keep dwelling in them, and desirable vineyards **YOU have** planted, but **YOU** will not keep drinking the wine of them. (**Amos 5:11**)

[Question] How did their rich ones treat other poorer ones?

[Question] What were they building, but would they get the use out of their labors?

- 26· What, then, shall we say? Is the Law sin? Never may that become so! Really I would not **have** come to know sin, if it had not been for the Law, and, for example, I would not **have** known covetousness if the Law had not said; You must not covet. (**Romans 7:7**)

[Question] What question did Paul ask about the Law Covenant?

[Question] What though, does the Law Covenant make manifest to mankind?