"EVEN OF LATE MY PEOPLE IS RISEN UP AS AN ENEMY"

Micah 2:8

INTRODUCTION:
1. This is a sad thing to have to be said about God's people.
2. But, Micah the prophet of God, made this charge against God's people.
3. Let us study this grievous charge.

I. LET US LISTEN TO THE GRIEVOUS CHARGE
   1. They were His own people -- Micah 2:8
      (1) His people that He had brought out of Egypt -- Micah 6:4
      (2) God has enemies enough without His own people becoming such.
      (3) It is horrible ingratitude for the chosen of God to rebel.
   2. His own people had risen up "as an enemy" -- Micah 2:8
      (1) Faithless friends wound keenly -- Zech. 13:6; Psa. 41:9
      (2) For His favored people to rise up as a foe was cruel indeed.
   3. They had lately done this -- "Even of late" -- Micah 2:8
      (1) The sin is fresh, the wound is bleeding, the offense is rank.

II. THE GRIEVOUS EVIDENCE BY WHICH THE CHARGE IS SUBSTANTIATED
   1. They oppressed the poor.
      (1) They would lay awake at night and plan how they would do it -- Micah 2:1-2; Isa. 5:8
      (2) Women and children were driven out of house and home -- Micah 2:9
      (3) They would even pull off the robe with the garment from them that passed -- Mic. 2:8
   2. There was a complete lack of integrity.
      (1) They could not trust a friend -- Micah 7:5
      (2) They could not trust a neighbor
      (3) They could not trust their wife -- Micah 7:5
      (4) The inhabitants spoke lies -- Micah 6:12
      (5) The scant measure -- Micah 6:10-11
      (6) The most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge -- Micah 7:4
   3. There were problems of juvenile delinquency -- Micah 7:6
(1) A man's enemies were in his own house -- Micah 7:6

4. The people did not want any preaching done, except the weak kind that would allow them to go on in their sin without embarrassment -- Micah 2:11; Jer. 5:31

5. The prophets and priests were corrupt and greedy -- Micah 3:5; 3:11

   (1) They were in it for the money

   (2) War was made against the man that did not pay off -- Micah 3:5

6. Good men had perished out of the land -- Micah 7:2

7. The heads of Jacob hated the good and loved the evil -- Micah 3:1-2

8. They did not want to hear about their sins and transgressions -- Micah 2:6

   (1) Micah told them anyway -- Micah 3:8

9. They had corrupted their worship with idols -- Micah 5:12-15

III. GRIEVOUS EVIDENCE AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY THAT MANY HAVE RISEN UP AS AN ENEMY

1. Worldliness in the lives of many Christians -- James 4:4; I John 2:15 - 17

2. Lack of integrity

   (1) Brethren will lie to one another -- Eph. 4:25

   (2) Brethren will cheat in their dealings with one another.

3. Homes are filled with distrust and lack of love.

   (1) Men cannot trust their wives, and wives cannot trust their husbands.

   (2) Sons dishonor their Fathers -- Eph. 6:1 - 4

   (3) Daughters rise up against their mothers -- Micah 7:6

   (4) Daughter-in-laws are often against her mother-in-law -- Ruth 1:16

4. Many people today do not want any preaching done except the weak kind that will allow them to go on in their sins without having to change -- II Tim. 4:1 - 5

5. Many preachers today preach what people want to hear and make merchandise of their hearers -- II Pet. 2:3; Jude 16; Tit. 1:11

   (1) Bro. H. E. Phillips said in "The Forest Hills Teacher", Nov. 3, 1974: "It is a known fact, and I am in a position to offer proof, that a few preachers will not hesitate to impose upon the time, the influence, or the financial ability of a brother without his consent. Even of late my people is risen up as an enemy."

6. There are leaders in the church today that call "evil good" and "good evil".

   (1) Those who teach it is good to get people to attend the services with carnal means -- (Bus ministry with promotions to get people to come, etc.)

   1. The Gospel is the drawing power -- John 6:44 - 45; Rom. 1:16
(2) Those who teach the church should furnish entertainment as part of its work.
(3) They say it is wrong to oppose such works -- they say this is evil.

7. There are those who have corrupted the work and organization of the church.
   (1) Would have the church do its work through human institutions.
   (2) Would have the church do its work through sponsoring church arrangements.
   (3) Would have the church to preach and practice a social gospel.

CONCLUSION:
1. God’s people today are no different than they were in the Old Testament.
2. Many still rise up as an enemy.

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