

Introduction

- 1 Micah has told us how God judged Israel's (N) sin, warned re Judah's coming judgement
- 2 God made cov'nt with Abr, Israel- gave Moses law-disobed will lead to judgement **Deut 28 4**
- 3 Micah was 1 of 16 prophets sent by God to warn Israel to turn away from sin back to God.
- 4 Their message **a** Stop sinning **b** Coming judgement **c** Other nations warned **d** Future hope
- 5 Throughout OT God promised Israel He would send an Anointed One/Messiah to reconcile sinful, self-centred Israel back to God – **Micah 5:2-4** because God is also gracious and loving.

I 7:1-7 Cannot always trust sinful people, but can always trust God

- Micah begins/ends 7:1,7 with "I"-Moves from misery/sadness to hope in God's faithfulness
- a** Begins by identifying himself with the Lord who'd accused/sentenced people in 6:9-16;
 - b** And ends by identifying himself with the remnant (4:7, 5:7), who will lay claim to God's promise of forgiveness in 7:18-20 as our compassionate God loves to show mercy

A 7:1-4a Micah is upset by his people's sin especially the leaders, both rulers and judges

- 1 7:1 Speaking for God, Micah describes how vineyards have no early grapes or figs
 - a** God expected Israel to trust, obey His word, **but** as He looked saw no evidence of this
 - b** He really wanted Judah to listen to God to avoid judgement that had come to Israel-N
- 2 7:2-4 describes what God expects from His chosen people
 - a** Vineyards are Judah and the missing fruit are righteous judges, who should obey God's moral standards & show Israel how to live in accordance with God's Covenant
 - b** But failure of leaders has chased the godly away, with no upright people left,
 - c** Like **(i)** hunters 7:2 who catch/rob others & **(ii)** Hedges 7:4 -they obstruct God's justice
 - d v3** Judah's leaders work together to enrich themselves, rob poor of land/possessions
 - 1 Rulers demand gifts if person wants anything done
 - 2 Judges accept bribes, with justice only for the rich
 - 3 the Powerful always get what they want-sound familiar??
 - e** 7:4 Fear of God and obeying His Covenant laws has been abandoned – God's warning

B 7:4b-6 You cannot trust anyone any more, not even members of your family

- 1 7:4b General statement that time of confusion is at hand
 - a** God's long suffering's coming to end, with judgement near - Assyria at Jerusalem
 - b** Judah's leaders refused to believe, obey prophets' warnings re coming exile -4:10
- 2 7:5-6 Due to bribery, corruption and city under siege, informers, who can be trusted?
 - a** To ensure survival couldn't trust neighbour, confide in friends/marriage partner-
 - b** 7:6 For a nation who usually trusted those closest to them by blood/marriage **Lk 12:53** will rise up as enemies against one another to save themselves from corrupt leaders

C 7:7 But you can still trust God, who promises to save

- 1 Moves from watching for God's judgement to actively waiting for God's salvation, based on God's promises to their forefathers 7:20-these won't fail as can trust God
- 2 Verbs **a** Watch in hope **b** Wait for God **c** God will hear-be involved by prayer/hope
- 3 **eg** Twice Peter was jailed for preaching gospel **Acts 5:19-26; 12:3-11** Angel freed him.

II 7:8-20 the song of victory – looking to the future

A 7:8-10 Nations who gloat over Israel will be covered with shame

- 1 **7:8** Micah warns Judah's enemy nations who gloat as Judah faces attack, judgement
a 7:9 Judah deserves to be judged because **Deut 28** warned sin would bring judgement
b Judah accepts God must be true to His word, so deserve, accept God's anger - But
c God is also loving, compassionate, merciful will accept Micah's confession –restore
d Will bring Judah out of darkness into God's light - God will bless those who trust Him
2 **7:10** Enemy nations who mocked Judah will experience shame- God will judge their sin
3 Soon after this, Assyria's king was killed by his 2 sons - later Babylon destroyed Assyria

B 7:11-13 Everyone who trusts God will come to Jerusalem to be saved from judgement

- 1 Responding to Judah's confession of sin/faith in God's future restoration, God gives a message of hope as He prepares to judge all nations for their sin/rebellion against Him
a Jerusalem will become centre offering salvation to whole world under His judgement
b God'll enlarge Jerusalem's walls so all who want to be saved may seek refuge there
2 This looks forward to the coming of the Messiah when people from all nations can come to Him in repentance & faith following Jesus' death/resurrection from the dead
3 In NT believers from all nations come to new Jerusalem **Heb 12:22-24; Acts 3:25-26; Rev 7:9-**

C 7:14-17 Prayer to God to again become their shepherd, God's Assurance and Reflection

- 1 **7:14** Micah prays Lord will again become Judah's shepherd as He did 700 years earlier
2 Shepherd describes an ideal king, who protected his people Bashan/Gilead-fertile fields
3 **7:15** "I will show" – God's Assurance He would show Judah in the future how He had saved them in the past **eg a** Brought them out of Egypt crossed Red Sea & Jordan river
b Helped Israel defeat nations far greater than themselves, **c** killed 185000 Assyrians.
4 **7:16-17** Micah reflects on **7:8-10**, nations will be humiliated, defeated, & in turn fear Lord
5 Will lick dust-defeated king groveling in dust before conqueror - Assyria + other nations
6 Greatest **eg**-Lord's defeat of Satan/death thru' resurrection-many have believed in Him

D 7:18-20 God's great faithfulness to His promises – see Romans 9-11

- 1 **7:18** God is unique, no other god like Him **a** He pardons sin, forgives transgressions of the remnant who confess their sins-Jews & Gentiles who repent, believe, place trust in Jesus
b He doesn't stay angry forever-or people would become hardened in their sin & despair
c Because God is merciful He offers hope to those who repent & place their trust in Him
2 **7:19 -20** Because God always remains true to His promises in His word from the start, (Exod 34:6-7), after Israel confesses their sin, their loving God will forgive Israel's sin

III Message of Micah 7 – God invites people from every nation to place their trust in Him

A 7:1-7 God is completely trustworthy, but we can't fully trust people as all are sinners

B 7:8-10 God ultimately controls the history of the world He created to fulfil his purposes

Although godless nations take control, this is only for a time but God'll bring them down

eg Assyria, Babylon, Rome, Communist Russia, Apartheid RSA, Hitler, Gaddafi, Mubarak

C 7:11-13 People coming to Jerusalem is a picture of non-Jews receiving the Messiah

1 Jerusa'm is a picture of the true Ch'n church, where people from all nations trust Jesus

D 7:14-17 God cares for and loves His people from every nation Isaiah 49:6, Micah 5:4

1 God will punish nations' crimes, but there's a place for individuals who trust in Him

E 7:9, 18-20 God forgives remnant who truly confess their sin, repent & believe in Jesus

1 **7:9** To be forgiven person must first agree is a sinner who deserves God's judgement

2 **7:18-20** God forgives all who confess sin, fulfilling promises to Abraham & descendants