

## Judgment through Micah's Mourning

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Women's Retreat - Get signed up. Theme: ONE ANOTHER. Refreshing and encouraging retreat weekend. April 21-23 to Hume SoCal in Green Valley. Register online today or please contact Kelly if you have any questions. [If anyone would like to help sponsor some ladies to attend, mark "ladies retreat"]
- B. Slide3 Easter Weekend.

### II. Slide4 Intro: Judgment through Micah's Mourning READ vs.1

- A. Timing: 700 years before Jesus. 300 after David. (760 bc)
- B. Layout of book: 3 parts/cycles. See ch's. 1,3,6 start with *Hear...*
1. 1/3 of Micah exposes his country men's sins.
  2. 1/3 pictures the punishment God is about to send.
  3. Final 3rd holds out the hope of restoration once that discipline has ended.
- C. Slide5a Divided Kingdom: Israel N/S. Is-Judah.
1. Micah was a contemporary of Hosea up North. And Isaiah in Jerusalem.
    - a) Micah was a *mini-Isaiah*, both addressed *same people/same problems*.
    - b) The prophet Micah identified himself by his hometown, called *Moresheth Gath*, near the border of *Philistia* and *Judah*.
      - (1) Dwelling in a largely **agricultural** part of the country, Micah lived outside the governmental centers of power in his nation, leading to his strong concern for the lowly and less fortunate of society - *the lame, the outcasts, and the afflicted* (see Micah 4:6).
      - (2) Therefore, Micah directed much of his prophecy toward the powerful leaders of *Samaria* and *Jerusalem*, *the capital cities of Israel and Judah*, respectively.
  2. Slide5b Chart of N/S Kings (good & bad, i.e. following God).

a) Jotham (good), Ahaz (bad) Hezekiah (good).

D. Slide6 Map of Assyrian Empire (Heartland vs. outer territories)

E. Slide7 2 important dates (exiles).

F. Slide8 Key Vs: What does the Lord require of you? Micah 6:8 *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

1. (God hasn't changed: He still desires heartfelt love & obedience ... so 1 be fair, do the right thing, defend the poor & powerless. 2 Be compassionate & loyal in your love toward others. 3 Walk humbly w/your God - only time used is here, indicates *carefulness or thoughtfulness*)
2. Micah emphasizes an important relationship between spirituality & social ethics (i.e. principles or standards of human conduct) [Lv God compl, ppl auth]

G. So, Micah shows that a true relationship with God is *inextricably linked* to how we treat *one another*. And he also contrasts Judah's **sinful** kingdom with *God's righteous and just Messianic Kingdom*.

### III. Slide9 IDOLATRY (Micah ch.1) READ vs.2-16

A. (2-8) running commentary

B. Slide10 (9-16) Read vs.9 only. (then explain 10-16).

C. The longest sustained *play on words* in OT. (*What City?* Lost Wages. City of Lost Angels. Or, NY, a big apple w/a rotten core)

D. Slide11 (msg) Don't gossip about this in Telltown. Don't waste your tears.

In Dustville, roll in the dust. In Alarmtown, the alarm is sounded. The citizens of Exitburgh will never get out alive. Lament, Last-Stand City: There's nothing in you left standing. The villagers of Bittertown wait in vain for sweet peace. Harsh judgment has come from God and entered Peace City. All you who live in Chariotville, get in your chariots for flight. You led the daughter of Zion into trusting not God but chariots. Similar sins in Israel also got their start in you. Go ahead and give your good-bye gifts to Good-byeville. Miragetown beckoned, but disappointed Israel's kings. Inheritance City has lost its inheritance. Glorytown has

seen its last of glory. Shave your heads in mourning over the loss of your precious towns. Go bald as a goose egg - they've gone into exile and aren't coming back.

1. Wow, the everywhere-present God, is all knowing. He knows every city, every small town, every person in the town, each of their actions, each & every thought. Sovereignty isn't just sweeping *but* meticulous.

E. Many want a Christianity without a *hell*, *but* that wouldn't be right.

1. That's not Christianity, that's **Universalism**. Where on the last day God will say, *everybody, come on in!* - There is a hell.
2. The problem is a low-view of God's holiness, a low-view of sin, and a low-view of the crucified Christ. Who came to absorb my hell. Who took my wrath that I deserved.
3. This also represents a high-view of man.

a) Tim Keller said, *If you don't understand or believe in the wrath of God, the gospel will not thrill or empower or move you.*

b) Slide12 Timothy George said, *God's love is not sentimental it is holy. It is tender but not squishy. It involves not only compassion, kindness, and mercy beyond measure but also indignation against injustice and unremitting opposition to all that is evil.*

F. When we read about **God's wrath** it's to remind us about **God's mercy** ... of His wrath that is not coming to us. *It was poured out on Christ.*

1. As a flawed human, I can't imagine the giving of my only son Zach, on behalf of you, and you saying, *thanks but no thanks.*

G. We not only don't take our holiness seriously, *but* don't take our sin seriously.

1. Slide13 What makes sin so bad? John Piper said, *What is sin? It is the glory of God not honored, the holiness of God not referenced, the greatness of God not at admired, the power of God not praised, the truth of God not sought, the wisdom of God not esteemed, the beauty of God not treasured, the goodness of God not savored, the faithfulness of God not trusted, the commandments of God not obeyed, the justice*

*of God not respected, the **wrath** of God not feared, the **grace** of God not cherished, the **presence** of God not prized, and the **person** of God not loved. That is sin!*

H. Slide14 Here 2 sins: idolatry and injustice. Repeated throughout Micah , repeated throughout the minor prophets.

1. Idolatry vs.7. The worship of false gods. In Ch.2 it's about Injustice.

a) The 2 together: It's a failure to love God and love neighbor.

b) Idolatry, abusing the poor, the weak, and the vulnerable.

2. That's what enrages God, a failure to take His great commandments seriously. Good thing you and I don't bow down to some wooden god! Oh but Steven said in Acts 7:39 about their fathers sin of idolatry, *in their hearts they turned to Egypt ...*

a) Don't take good things and make them God things!

#### IV. Slide15 INJUSTICE (Micah ch.2) READ

A. They weren't using their wealth and power to bless, but to crush.

B. (1,2) Here are some specific causes for judgement: premeditated schemes, covetousness, and cruelty.

C. (3-5) Judgement is coming.

D. (7-11) They want a pleasant message about security, & strong drink.

E. Slide16 (12,13) Nevertheless, God will regather a remnant of His people (in Millennium).

1. How gracious of God to end this section w/a message of Hope!

F. Micah speaks of both comings of the Messiah. 1st Coming (5:2). 2nd Coming here in vs.12,13 (& 4:1-8; 5:4,5).

G. \*\*\*\*\*

H. Slide17 Why is Micah so important?

I. The book of Micah provides one of the most significant prophecies of **Jesus Christ's birth** in all the OT, pointing some 700 yrs before Christ's birth **to** His birthplace of **Bethlehem** and **to His eternal nature** (Micah 5:2).

1. Surrounding Micah's prophecy of Jesus's birth is **one of the most lucid pictures** of the world's future under the reign of **the Prince of Peace** (5:5).
2. This future **kingdom**, which scholars call **the millennial kingdom**, will be characterized by the presence of **many nations living with one another in peace and security** (4:3,4) **and** coming to Jerusalem to worship the reigning king, that is, **Jesus Himself** (4:2).
  - a) Because these events have not yet occurred, we look forward to the millennial kingdom at some undetermined time in the future.

J. **Slide18** How do I apply this?

K. Much of Micah's indictment against **Israel and Judah** involves **these nations' injustice** toward **the lowly** - unjust business dealings, robbery, mistreatment of women and children, and a government that lived in luxury - off the hard work of its nation's people.

L. Where does the **injustice** dwell in your own life? *Who are the **lowly** in your life? Do you need a call toward **repentance**, like the people of Israel and Judah did?*

1. Micah's impassioned plea for God's chosen people to repent is **powerful**. **Most of us don't decide daily to cut people down or find ways to carry out injustice. Instead**, we do it out of habit.
2. Let's allow the words of Micah to **break us out of our apathy** about **extending justice and kindness to others**, **and** **press on toward a world that better resembles the harmonious millennial kingdom to come**.
3. Let's determine to live as God desires - **to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God** (Micah 6:8).

M. Keywords: judgment, remnant, Micah, idolatry, injustice.