



# Minor Prophets – Major Challenges

## Cell Notes 2019

### Study 5. Micah – Warning and Hope (Part 2)

**Aim:** To consider the promises God made to his people after warning them about their injustices and betrayals of the covenant, and to consider how we respond to God's promises.

**To Start with:**

What's the best promise that has ever been made (and kept!) to you?

**Read Aloud:** In chapters 1-3 Micah is very clear that God is angry at the powerful and religious in Israel who have exploited the poor and broken the Covenant. However, he also follows the warnings of judgement with three promises of restoration and hope.

**Engaging the text.**

**Promise 1.**

Read **Micah 4.1-7**

1. a. What strikes you about these promises? (What image do they paint in your imagination?)  
b. Who will they benefit and in what way?  
c. Try to sum up this promise in three words or less.

**Promise 2.**

Read **Micah 5. 1-5**

2. a. What do you think Micah's original hearers thought a ruler from Bethlehem was going to be like and do? (N.B. *King David was a Benjaminite so they were probably expecting a 'David' – a warrior king to unite the nation*)  
b. This passage is interpreted by Christians to prophecy Jesus – how far do you think that's a legitimate interpretation? Why/why not? (*Matt 2.1-6, Luke 4.16-22, Mk 11.1-10, Mk 15.29-39 might help if people are struggling but don't feel you have to look them up otherwise*)  
c. Try to sum up this promise in three words or less

**Promise 3.**

Read **Micah 5.7-15**

3. A. What strikes you about this promise? Why would it be particularly encouraging for the nation of Israel?  
b. How would you summarise the promises in this passage in three words or less?

**Drawing the Threads Together**

4. If you consider these three promises what do they tell us about the character of God - the promise giver?
5. A. Given the state of Israel at the time (filled with injustice, corruption and abuse of the poor as discussed last week) how easy do you think it would have been for people to believe these promises of hope? What might have helped them?  
  
B. How can we learn to trust God when the world around us seems to bleak? (*People may have testimonies of how they have learnt to do that*)
6. Today we live in the light of these, and many other promises from God. Which do you find most comforting, encouraging and difficult to believe in? Why?

**Response:**

Spend some time praying for each other in the light of the promises God has made to us – that we may grow in faith in Him and be able to live faithfully in the light of them.