



Minor Prophets – Major Challenges

Cell Notes 2019

Study 4. Micah – Warning & Hope (Part 1)

Aim: To consider divine judgement, what it reveals about God and our response to injustice today.

To start with (6-7 minutes):

- On a piece of paper spend 90 seconds creating a mind-map of things the group associates with the word: **Covenant**
- Now do the same with their associations with the word: **Justice**
- Finally, do the same with the word: **Judgement**

Compare your 3 mind-maps. What strikes you about them?

Read aloud: *The Book of Micah swings between two things: Warnings of God's judgement for Israel's sin and promises of restoration and hope. It is rooted in his Covenant with Israel and his promises to their ancestor Abraham; to bless them in order that they might be a blessing to the nations.*

Engaging the text:

Read **Micah 1.1-4**

1. Understanding something about events of the time helps us understand Micah's prophecies. Read the following and summarise their reign in 1 sentence.
 - Jotham: 2 Kings 15.32-38
 - Ahaz: 2 Kings 16.1-4
 - Hezekiah: 2 Kings 18.1-8

2. Micah is explicit about the crimes of Israel and how they have broken the covenant. Give pairs some of the following passages (make sure all of them are covered) and work out:
 - What has been done (or not done)
 - Who is responsible?
 - What are the consequences?

Feedback to build a picture of God's complaint about the state of his nation.

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| • Micah 1.5-7 | * Micah 3.1-4 |
| • Micah 2.1-5 | * Micah 3. 5-7 |
| • Micah 2.6-11 | * Micah 3.9-12 |

3. Based on these accusations, how would you describe the state of Israel, the state of the Covenant and God's response of judgement?
4. We are not the nation of Israel nor under the old covenant. None the less God's Kingdom values of justice, dignity for the poor and vulnerable, and faithfulness to Him are what he wants in the world.
 - Today where do we see these same crimes being committed?
 - How far might these accusations aimed at rich and religious people apply to us?
 - How do we balance that challenge with the grace we have through Jesus?



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5. Because we are so globally connected, we can feel overwhelmed by the extent of poverty and exploitation. Some people become passive and ignore the issues, others (of all faiths and none) engage in trying to make the world a fairer place. What might it look like for us to follow in Jesus' footsteps (as a community and individuals) in how we respond to today's injustices and abuses of the poor?

Response:

Spend some time in reflection and prayer asking God for an eternal perspective but also how he would specifically have you serve him and use the blessings he has given you, to be a blessing to those in need.