

## God's anger, mercy and hope for Africa

When we look at Africa we see a lot of unrest, violence, displaced people, fear, AIDS, hunger, poverty, human trafficking and corruption just to name some of the issues facing Africa today. Many have a tendency to write Africa off as a "hopeless case" and see it as a "God forsaken continent".

But is that true?

Has God really forsaken Africa?

Is God pleased with Africa? Or is He angry with Africa? Or both?

Micah 7: 1 – 20

### 1) God's anger

- Why is God angry?
  - General wickedness: The godly have been swept from the land; not one upright man remains (v.2)
  - Bloodshed: All men lie in wait to shed blood; each hunts his brother with a net (v.2)
  - Bribery and Corruption: Both hands are skilled in doing evil; the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes, the powerful dictate what they desire-- they all conspire together.(v.3)
  - Dishonouring of parents: For a son dishonors his father, a daughter rises up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- a man's enemies are the members of his own household. (v. 6)
- Consequences of wickedness
  - Poverty, no food: I am like one who gathers summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard; there is no cluster of grapes to eat, none of the early figs that I crave.(v.1)
  - Confusion: Now is the time of their confusion (v.4)
  - Breakdown of community: Do not trust a neighbor; put no confidence in a friend. Even with her who lies in your embrace be careful of your words.(v. 5)
  - Breakdown of families: a man's enemies are the members of his own household.
  - Desolation of the land: The earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants, as the result of their deeds.
- The Woes of God
  - ISA 3:11 Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them! They will be paid back for what their hands have done.
  - ISA 5:11 Woe to those who rise early in the morning to run after their drinks, who stay up late at night till they are inflamed with wine.
  - ISA 5:18 Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes,
  - ISA 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.
  - ISA 10:1& 2 Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, ISA 10:2 to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.
  - Ezekiel 13: 18 Woe to the women who sew magic charms on all their wrists and make veils of various lengths for their heads in order to ensnare people.
  - Ezekiel 34: 2 Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves!
  - HAB 2:12 "Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by crime!"
- Judgment begins with the household of God
  - 1 Peter 4: 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

- God always deals with His people before he deals with the whole nation or nations.
- When the church even tolerates sin in any way it is as good as committing it.
- *Romans 1: 32* Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.
- On a personal note
  - Do we consider that all this wickedness is somewhere out there?
  - If we look at it and agree with it then it is the same as having done it ourselves
  - Remember: God looks at the heart.

## 2) God's mercy and hope

- Even though God is angry with sin He is also a merciful God
- God never leaves us without hope
  - *MIC 7:7* But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.
- God has NOT forsaken Africa but there is a great hope for this continent.
  - We will bear God's wrath until He pleads her case (v.9)
  - He will bring us out into the light to see His righteousness (v.9)
  - The day of rebuilding will come (v.11)
- God shows mercy
  - He pardons sin and forgives transgression (v. 18)
  - He will not stay angry forever but delights to show mercy (v. 18)
  - You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea (v.19)
- Christ has already paid the price for all the sin in Africa. His mercy is only received through faith and repentance

## 3) Our responsibility

- Intercede for Africa
  - *MIC 7:7* But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.
- Shepherd the people of Africa
  - Through evangelism – how will they know of God's anger, judgment and mercy if His people don't tell them?
  - *Matthew 9: 36 - 38* When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
  - *MIC 6:8* He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.