

Micah 7:1–20 (NIV)

Israel's Misery

7 What misery is mine!

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.

² The faithful have been swept from the land;
not one upright person remains.

Everyone lies in wait to shed blood;
they hunt each other with nets.

³ 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.

⁴The best of them is like a brier,
the most upright worse than a thorn hedge.
The day God visits you has come,
the day your watchmen sound the alarm.
Now is the time of your confusion.

⁵ Do not trust a neighbor;
put no confidence in a friend.

Even with the woman who lies in your embrace
guard the words of your lips.

⁶ 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.

⁷ But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,
I wait for God my Savior;
my God will hear me.

Israel Will Rise

⁸ Do not gloat over me, my enemy!
Though I have fallen, I will rise.
Though I sit in darkness,
the LORD will be my light.

⁹ Because I have sinned against him,
I will bear the LORD's wrath,
until he pleads my case
and upholds my cause.

He will bring me out into the light;
I will see his righteousness.

¹⁰ Then my enemy will see it
and will be covered with shame,

she who said to me,

“Where is the LORD your God?”

My eyes will see her downfall;

even now she will be trampled underfoot
like mire in the streets.

¹¹ The day for building your walls will come,
the day for extending your boundaries.

¹² In that day people will come to you
from Assyria and the cities of Egypt,
even from Egypt to the Euphrates
and from sea to sea
and from mountain to mountain.

¹³ The earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants,
as the result of their deeds.

Prayer and Praise

¹⁴ Shepherd your people with your staff,
the flock of your inheritance,
which lives by itself in a forest,
in fertile pasturelands.

Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead
as in days long ago.

¹⁵ “As in the days when you came out of Egypt,
I will show them my wonders.”

¹⁶ Nations will see and be ashamed,
deprived of all their power.

They will put their hands over their mouths
and their ears will become deaf.

¹⁷ They will lick dust like a snake,
like creatures that crawl on the ground.

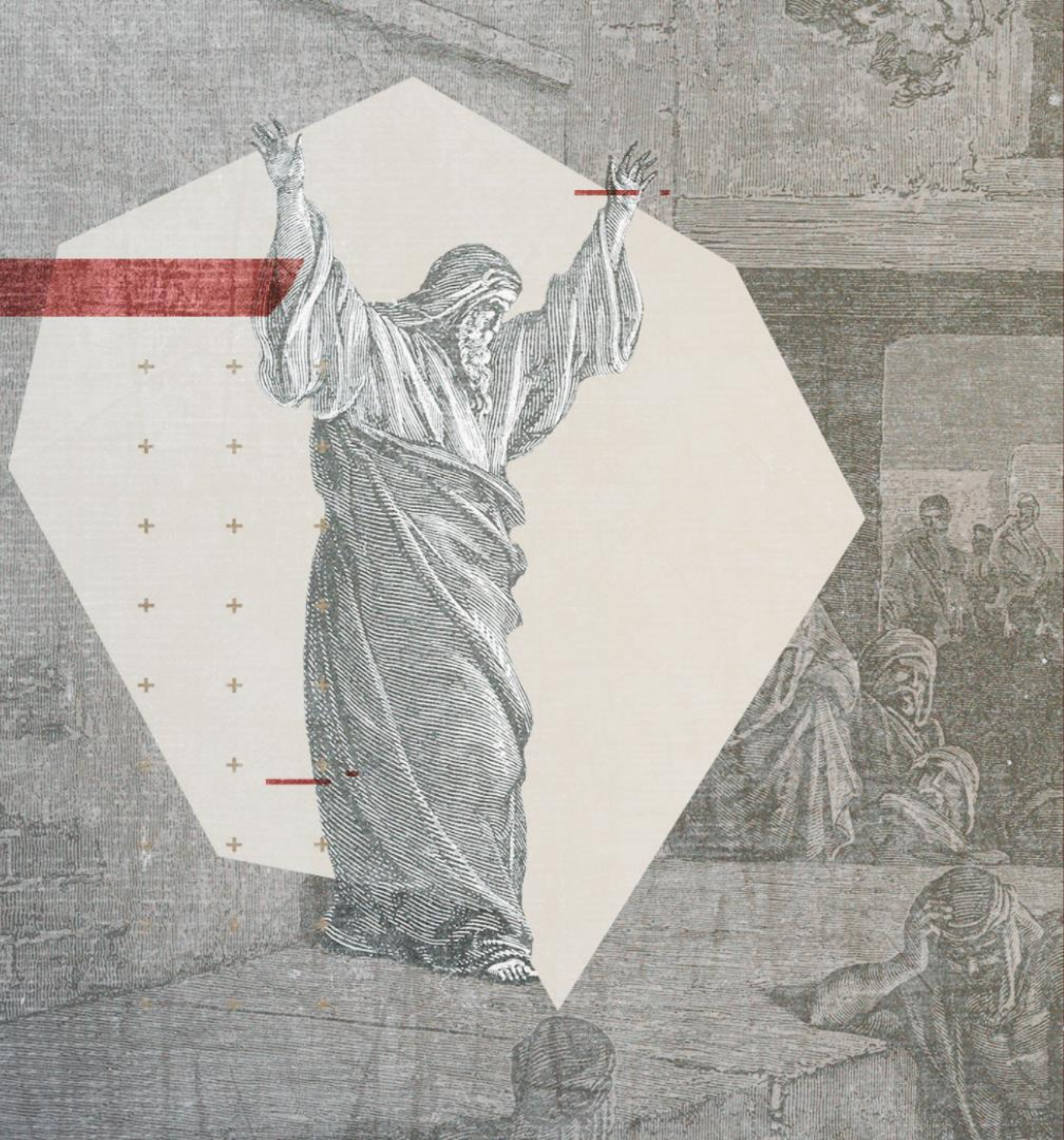
They will come trembling out of their dens;
they will turn in fear to the LORD our God
and will be afraid of you.

¹⁸ Who is a God like you,
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever
but delight to show mercy.

¹⁹ You will again have compassion on us;
you will tread our sins underfoot
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

²⁰ You will be faithful to Jacob,
and show love to Abraham,
as you pledged on oath to our ancestors
in days long ago.



*walk
humbly*

Micah

WALK HUMBLY

*do
justive*

GOD'S
FAITHFUL
MERCY

*love
mercy*

Reading

Writing

Listening

Love and Obey the LORD

¹⁸ **Fix these words** of mine in your hearts and minds; **tie them** as symbols on your hands and **bind them** on your foreheads.

¹⁹ **Teach them** to your children, **talking about them** when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ²⁰ **Write them** on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, ²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Reading

Writing

Listening

ADDRESSES	CYCLE 1	CYCLE 2	CYCLE 3
PATTERN	JUDGMENT → PROMISE/ HOPE	JUDGMENT → PROMISE/ HOPE	JUDGMENT → PROMISE/ HOPE
MESSAGE	<i>sin and judgment</i>	<i>hope and comfort</i>	<i>controversy and pardon</i>

SIN



PARDON

“Shema”

Hebrew understanding of what it means to truly hear.

LISTENING

+

DOING

Deut. 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Ex. 23:22

If you carefully obey His voice...

Jn. 14:21

He who keeps my commandments is the one who loves me...

Jas. 1:22

Be doers of the Word, not hearers only...

Micah 1:2 | Cycle 1

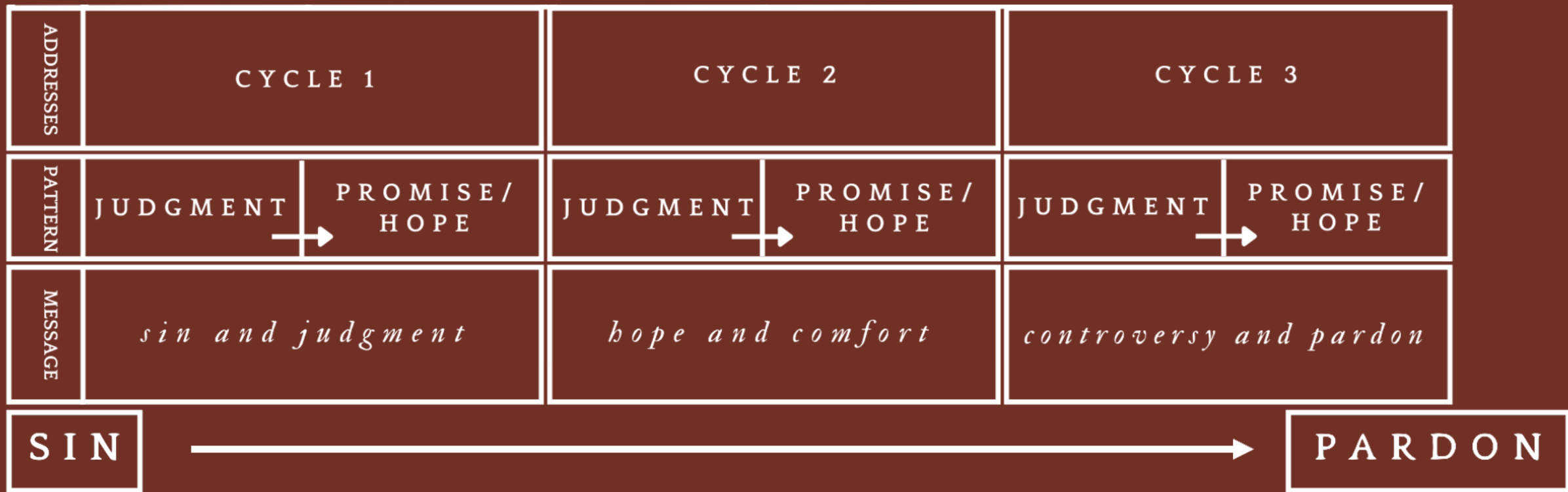
Hear, you peoples, all of you, **listen**, earth and all who live in it, that the Sovereign Lord may bear witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.

Micah 3:1 | Cycle 2

Then I said, “**Listen**, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel. Should you not embrace justice...

Micah 6:1–2 | Cycle 3

Listen to what the Lord says: “Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. ² “**Hear**, you mountains, the Lord’s accusation; **listen**, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the Lord has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel.



- I: Oppressors receive retribution, **a faithful remnant will be gathered up.**
- II: Man's corrupt kingdoms fall, **God's good Messianic Kingdom thrives.**
- III: Sin brings judgement, **God mercifully reforms and promises to redeem.**

Lament over Judah's Sin

Micah 7:1-7

What is Lamentation?

“The crying of the soul.”

Lament is the prayer language for God's people as they live in a world marred by sin. It is how we talk to God about our sorrows as we renew our hope in his sovereign care. To cry is human, but to lament is Christian.

Four Elements of Lament

1. Turn to God. *How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? Ps. 13:1*
2. Bring your complaint. *My tears have been my food... Ps. 42:3*
3. Ask boldly for help. *Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; Ps. 13:3*
4. Choose to trust. *But I have trusted in your steadfast love. Ps. 13:5*

Lament over Judah's Sin

Micah 7:1-7

Israel's Vindication

Micah 7:8-10

A New Day of Restoration

Micah 7:11-13

Four outcomes of the Day of the LORD

1. The **building up** of Zion's walls (v. 11)
2. The **expansion** of Zion's territory (v. 11)
3. The **influx** of people from other locations (v. 12)
4. The **desolation** of the earth (v. 13)

Has the LORD ever needed to deconstruct/tear down something in your life before He could build something undeniably good or better in its place?

God will Shepherd the Flock

Micah 7:14-17

God's Faithful Mercy

Micah 7:18-20

Psalm 73 | *God is My Strength and Portion Forever*

“²¹ When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,
²² I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.
²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. ²⁴ You
guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into
glory. ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing
I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is
the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ²⁷ Those who
are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to
you. ²⁸ But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the
Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.”

Who is like Yahweh?

In character (v. 18)

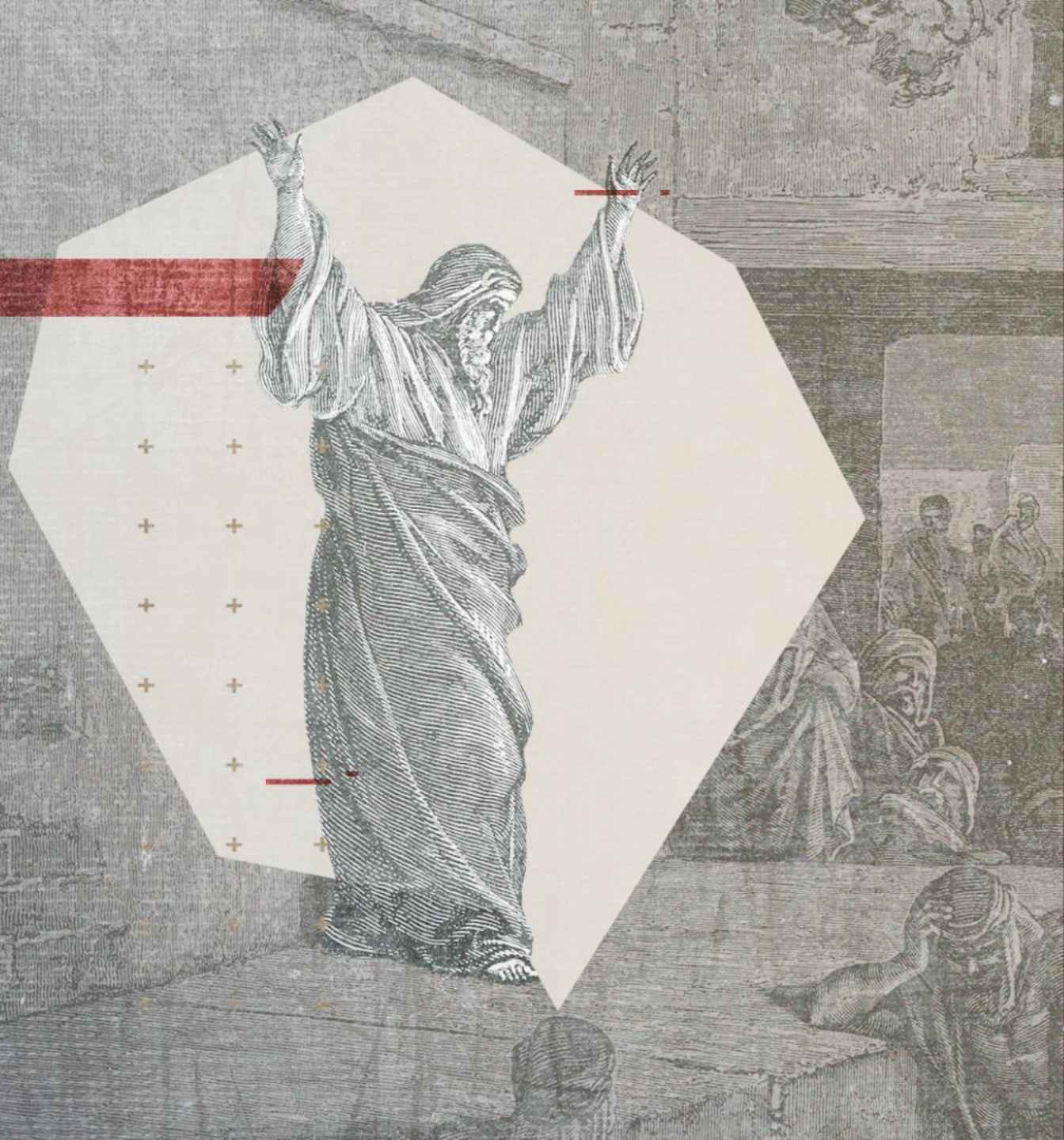
- God pardons guilt and takes away iniquity
- God passes over rebellion and transgression
- God does not nurse His anger forever
- God delights in *hesed* [faithful love]

In action (vv. 19-20)

- God will again show compassion
- God will trample our guilt/iniquity
- God will throw all our sins into the depths of the sea
- God will again show *hesed* to Israel, in keeping with His promises.

Application Questions

1. To what extent do you recognize and lament (grieve) the sin of the United States? What about your own sin?
2. In which close relationships (family, friends, coworkers) do you currently experience traces of sin's destructive effect? How actively do you pursue the LORD's intervention and restoration in these relationships?
3. How does reflecting on God's past faithfulness and mercy help you to confess and repent of present sin?



walk humbly

Micah

WALK HUMBLY

do justice

GOD'S FAITHFUL MERCY

*love
mercy*
