

The Good News of Israel's Future

Micah 4

Micah 4:1-4 - *"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. ² Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths."*

For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ³ He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off. They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁴ But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken."

Background Notes

We come now to the deliverance portion of Micah's second message – the message that is contained in chapters 3, 4 and 5. The judgment part of the message was in Micah 3. Now chapters 4 and 5 are the deliverance - the good news! Micah's first message, in Micah 1-2, had only two verses of good news (the last two verses of chapter 2), but there are two whole chapters of good news in Micah's second message.

Notice that the good news of deliverance will be fulfilled in *"the last days"* (v1). We believe "the last days" here refers to the time of the Lord's second coming. "The Lord's house" (v1) is not a reference to the Church. It is very important to note this, because some Christians have a different interpretation of this verse. "The Lord's house" is a reference to the Temple that will be rebuilt in Jerusalem in the future, when the Lord returns and restores the fortunes of Israel. The destruction of the Temple will be reversed. The Temple will be built again, and Jerusalem will become the capital of the world (v2).

When the Lord returns and sets up His kingdom here on earth, Jerusalem will be His headquarters. Nations will come to Jerusalem and be subject to the word of the Lord. This will all literally take place in the future.

Notice: verse 2 is not speaking about mission work in the Church today, as some Christians think. No, verse 2 is describing the way it will be in the future when the Lord returns and sets up His kingdom on earth. All nations will come to Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be the headquarters of our Lord's kingdom. The word of the Lord will go out, and all nations will be subject to it. This prophecy will be fulfilled in a future time period that is known as the millennial kingdom of Christ because it will last for a thousand years, according to Revelation 20.

Doctrinal Points

1. The Lord will restore and renew the peace of Israel.

“He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off. They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (v3).

The “He” in verse 3 is the Lord. The Lord will be here on this earth, reigning as King. What a great time of peace that will be! Peace will extend beyond Jerusalem and the restored nation of Israel to the whole world. There will be no need for military academies or war colleges because there will be no more war!

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.” This verse is also found in Isaiah 2:4. Remember, Micah and Isaiah were contemporaries and they both gave this great prediction of peace. This verse is inscribed on the entrance to the United Nations as an incentive for peace, but it will not be fulfilled through the UN. It will only be fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ returns and sets up His kingdom of peace on this earth. The Lord alone is the Prince of Peace.

Verse 4 is a wonderful description of peace: *“But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.”*

Micah 4:5 – *“For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.”* This verse could be confusing. This verse is not saying that in that future day, everyone will have a different god. That’s not the idea. The point here is that in contrast to Micah’s day where everyone was following his own god, in that future day everyone will walk in the name of the Lord our God - forever and ever. The Lord will restore and renew the peace of Israel.

2. The Lord will rescue and redeem the people of Israel.

Micah 4:6-8 - *“In that day,” says the Lord, “I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; ⁷ I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation.*

So the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever. ⁸ And you, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.”

In these verses we have a prediction and a promise that the Lord will rescue and bring back a godly remnant of His people to the land of Israel. He will make them a strong nation, not weak and “lame” as they were before.

Notice again that these verses are not speaking about the Church today, but about restored Israel in the future. *“And the former dominion shall come”* (v8). All that Israel was in its greatest glory under Solomon shall return! When the Lord returns, all the land promised to Abraham under the Abrahamic Covenant will belong to Israel. In the words of our Lord in Luke 21:24, the *“times of the Gentiles”* will have run their course. The time period of Gentile domination will be over.

In verse 6 God says, *“I have afflicted Israel.”* God has been working through the sufferings of the Jewish people down through the years to bring about the godly remnant that He will rescue and redeem in the last days.

In verses 9 through 13, Micah predicted four events that would have to take place before the realization of the restored godly remnant and glorious kingdom of the last days.

a. The Jews would go as captives to Babylon (v9-10)

Micah 4:9-10 - *“Now why do you cry aloud? Is there no king in your midst? Has your counselor perished? For pangs have seized you like a woman in labor. ¹⁰ Be in pain, and labor to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in birth pangs. For now you shall go forth from the city. You shall dwell in the field, and to Babylon you shall go. There you shall be delivered; there the Lord will redeem you from the hand of your enemies.”*

This is an amazing prophecy: *“For now you shall go forth from the city. You shall dwell in the field, and to Babylon you shall go.”* When Micah wrote this prophecy, the Assyrian Empire was the dominant world power, not Babylon. And yet Micah accurately predicted that the Jews would go as captives to **Babylon**.

b. The Jews would return from their captivity in Babylon (v10)

“And to Babylon you shall go. There you shall be delivered; there the Lord will redeem you from the hand of your enemies.”

Indeed this took place when the Persians conquered the Babylonian Empire, and Cyrus, the Persian Emperor, allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem.

c. Many nations will be gathered against Israel.

Micah 4:11 - *“Now also many nations have gathered against you, who say, “Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.”*

We believe that this prophecy is yet to be fulfilled. Although it will be fulfilled in the future, the stage is being set even as we speak. The anti-Semitism of the last days will culminate in an invasion of Israel, when the nations of the world will turn against Israel. Zechariah 14:2 predicted these same events, *“For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem.”*

From current events, I think it's easy to see how such a scenario could come to pass in a very short time - and in the very near future. Even now, I have frequently seen the attitude and heard the comment: "If not for the State of Israel, we could solve all the problems in the Middle East!" Unfortunately that attitude will continue to grow in the days ahead. Today is not the end of the story.

d. Israel will be victorious.

Micah 4: 12-13 - *"But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord, nor do they understand His counsel; for He will gather them like sheaves to the threshing floor.*

¹³ "Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion; or I will make your horn iron, and I will make your hooves bronze. You shall beat in pieces many peoples. I will consecrate their gain to the Lord, and their substance to the Lord of the whole earth."

Israel will emerge victorious, because the Lord will fight for Israel! This prophecy will be fulfilled at the time of the Lord's return and the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16 and 19). God will gather all the nations together against Israel in the future, and they will be judged (v12).

God is bringing them together. God will judge them. Israel will be victorious, and Israel will give glory to God! The Lord will rescue and redeem the people of Israel.

Practical Application

Let prophecy change your character!

What is your response to the study of prophecy? Do you get excited and want to know more details so you can become a Bible prophecy expert? Well, that's not all bad. But the study of prophecy should do much more than that. It should change your character!

When we realize what's going to take place in the future, we should be motivated to serve the Lord more faithfully **now**. All these events will take place in the future. All our material possessions and earthly interests will mean nothing then.

So let's make some lifestyle changes now! Let's use our time and talent and treasure wisely now. Let prophecy change your character!