

Micah 4:1-5:1

Present Distress and Future Hope

1

It shall come to pass in the latter days
 that the mountain of the house of the LORD
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
 and it shall be lifted up above the hills;
 and peoples shall flow to it,
 and many nations shall come, and say:
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 to the house of the God of Jacob,
 that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths."
 For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
 and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

2

He shall judge between many peoples,
 and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;
 and 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;
 but they shall sit every man 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.

3

For all the peoples walk
 each in the name of its god,
 but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
 forever and ever.
 In that day, declares the LORD,
 I will assemble the lame
 and gather those who have been driven away
 and those whom I have afflicted;
 and the lame I will make the remnant,
 and those who were cast off, a strong nation;
 and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion
 from this time forth and forevermore.

4

And you, O tower of the flock,
 hill of the daughter of Zion,
 to you shall it come,
 the former dominion shall come,
 kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem.
 Now why do you cry aloud?
 Is there no king in you?
 Has your counselor perished,
 that pain seized you like a woman in labor?
 Writhe and groan, O daughter of Zion,
 like a woman in labor,
 for now you shall go out from the city

5

and dwell in the open country;
 you shall go to Babylon.
 There you shall be rescued;
 there the LORD will redeem you
 from the hand of your enemies.
 Now many nations
 are assembled against you,
 saying, "Let her be defiled,
 and let our eyes gaze upon Zion."
 But they do not know
 the thoughts of the LORD;
 they do not understand his plan,

6

that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.

Arise and thresh, O daughter of Zion,
for I will make your horn iron,
and I will make your hoofs bronze;
you shall beat in pieces many peoples;
and shall devote their gain to the LORD,
their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth.
Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;
siege is laid against us;
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

Micah 4:1-5:1

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1. In the future, the nations will gather to worship the LORD at Mount Zion (4:1-8)

- Mount Zion will become the center of worship and source of God's word for many nations (4:1-2)
- God's reign will lead to international peace and a time of rest and security (4:3-4)
- And so God's people respond with a confession of trust in Him (4:5)
- God will gather his afflicted people back to Mt Zion and restore the king to her (4:6-8)

8

How would this prophecy be fulfilled?

- By successive fulfillments; it is already and not yet fulfilled.
- Already: Jerusalem and temple were rebuilt (Ezra 3)
- Already: "you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem... and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant" (Hebrews 12:22-24)

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2. In the present, the nations gather to dishonor Zion, but God will rescue her (4:9-5:1)

- Jerusalem's painful exile will lead to their redemption as the pain of childbirth leads to the joy of a newborn child (4:9-10)
- The nations plan Jerusalem's dishonor and destruction (4:11; 5:1)
- God plans the nations' downfall and conquest (4:12-13)

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How would this prophecy be fulfilled?

- By successive fulfillments; it is already and not yet fulfilled.
- Already: Assyria's army of nations was destroyed (2 Kings 19)
- Already: we wage spiritual warfare, as people come to faith in King Jesus (e.g., Ephesians 6:10-20, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

11

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

Revelation 21:22-26

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