

Micah 4:1-5

- After describing the failure of the leaders and the city in chapter 3 Micah focuses on a future day where the leadership and the city of Jerusalem would be extremely successful.
- Also, chapter 3 compared to chapter 4:
 - the nation of Israel is overrun by the nations for destruction in ch. 3, but is overrun by the nations in ch. 4 to seek the instruction of the Lord
 - the Word of the Lord is rejected, suppressed and replaced with the words of deceit in ch. 3, but in ch. 4 the Word of the Lord is sought out by all people, readily made available and put into practice world wide
 - the Lord was honored in name only in ch. 3 by Israel, but in ch. 4 the Lord is honored and obeyed even by the nations.
 - The heads of 3:1,9,11 have given way to the new head in 4:1
- One main point: If God will be universally received in the future would it not be wise for Israel to receive him in Micah's day?
- Two parts to 4:1-4:
 - 4:1-2 – Jerusalem is the center and the nations gather to learn
 - 4:2-4 – The lessons the nations learn from the Lord in Jerusalem are taken back to their lands, nations, governments, societies and homes to be applied resulting in universal peace and prosperity.
- Chapter 3 is connected to 4:1-5. This is the same topic. Chapter 4 is a mockery of Israel's failed leadership in king, judge, prophet, priest, etc.

Micah 4:1 – **“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,**

4:2 – 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.

1. The future will be completely opposite:
 - a. The abandoned mountain of 3:12 will become the center of global activity
 - b. Where unjust bloodshed prevailed in 3:9-11 there will be justice
 - c. The site of war and overthrow from chapter 1 and 2:8-9 will become peace
 - d. Lost inheritance of 2:1-2 will be restored
2. The mountains occupied by Pagan gods such as Baal or El or even the Greek gods on Mount Olympus were inaccessible to humans. But the mount of the Lord will receive streams of people from all the nations. The Canaanite gods claimed Mount Zaphon (on Mediterranean coast on the border of Turkey and Syria on the Orontes River) was their home, thus Baal-zephon (Hadad in Aram and Ugaritic texts) was the Canaanite storm god and the lord of Mount Zaphon.
 - a. Psalm 24

- b. Isaiah 2
- c. Psalm 46:9-11
- d. Psalm 68:15-16 – the mountains
- e. Psalm 84
- f. Zechariah 3:10

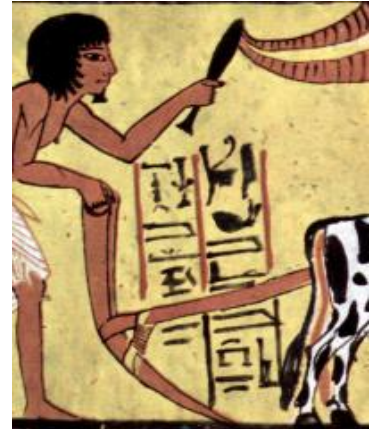
3. This time period is not identified as “the end” but a period of time in the future that occurs after an important turning point in history. There was hope. Do not give up on the Lord and his plan!

**4:3 – 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;**

1. Sword was short and straight like the point of a plow, thus swords become plow points. Yet for a sword to function like a plow the metal would have to be reworked losing the usefulness of the sword.
2. Spears were long shafts with a point of metal attached to the end like a pruning hook was a similar wooden shaft with a metal hook attached to the end. The spear head would have to be given up for the metal to be retooled as a hook.
3. For the farmers to completely disarm would mean they were thoroughly convince there was no need for self-protection.
4. The Lord judges justly in 4:3 is opposite of the leadership in Micah’s day seen in 3:1, 9, 11
5. The nations desire godly instruction in 4:2 is contrast to the failure of the priest of 3:11

**4:4 – 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.**

1. Vine and fig were an Israelites most important fruits.
 - a. The vine gave grapes and took a long time to grow to maturity to be productive. This shows the stability and longevity of the kingdom age
 - b. The fig was sweet and the tree provided shade. Again a tree indicates stability and a long period of time for this age of peace.
2. Notice the focus in the perfect kingdom is on a stable, self-sustaining middle class that owns their own property and does their own work.
 - a. Free, no oppression
 - b. Own property
 - c. Work own land
 - d. Food, peace, work, production
3. This is the exact image we have of man in the Garden of Eden
4. It seems the nations maintain their own statehood and self-government while forming an alliance under the leadership of Israel’s god. These verses focus on Israel’s God, not on the state of Israel.



**4:5 – 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.**

1. Now, back to our current day, what does these verses mean?
 - a. Today the nations may choose their own gods
 - b. Today Israel (believers) should choose to follow Yahweh since this is the ultimate end.
 - c. The nations will eventually come to know the Lord.
 - d. We should be the first to walk in his ways. Even before he sets up his kingdom on earth.

**4:6 – 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;**

**4:7 – 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.**

**4:8 – 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.**

**4:9 – 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?**

**4:10 – Writhe and groan,[b] O daughter of Zion,
like a woman in labor,
for now you shall go out from the city
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.**

**4:11 – Now many nations
are assembled against you,
saying, “Let her be defiled,
and let our eyes gaze upon Zion.”**

**4:12 – But they do not know
the thoughts of the Lord;
they do not understand his plan,
that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.**

**4:13 – 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[c] their gain to the Lord,
their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth.**