

Micah

Chapter 4

The Mountain of the LORD

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, 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. 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; 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. 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.

4:1–3 Nearly identical to Is 2:2–4. Micah envisions complete transformation of the conditions that existed in his day, described in chs 1–3. He pictures a time when all nations will cherish the Word of the Lord, a time of universal peace. This perfect future will be realized only in heaven. (TLSB)

4:1 *in the latter days* – Several of the prophets use expressions such as “at that time” (Zep 3:9) or “on that day” (Zec 13:1) when speaking of the future fulfillment of all God’s promises. On that day, the Lord will triumph over all His enemies. It will be a day of condemnation for unbelievers but one of salvation for God’s people. (TLSB)

the mountain – He was predicting the establishment of the spiritual Mount Zion, the NT church founded upon Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:20). (PBC)

In contrast with the description of the temple mount in 3:12, this mountain will become the very highest. (TLSB)

4:2 *shall come and say*. Micah quotes the nations to show how eager they are to have the Lord teach them His ways. (TLSB)

walk in His paths. God’s teachings are put into practice (Ps 119:105). (TLSB)

word of the law. Cyr: “The former law which was given by Moses was to cease.... A new law was to be given” (ANF 5:510). (TLSB)

4:3 *ge between many peoples* – This verse has been erroneously interpreted as promising worldwide political and social peace as a result of the preaching of the gospel. It’s a pleasing thought, but quite contrary to what Scripture says, The gospel may, in fact, cause divisions and discord, even in close-knit families, because to accept it while others do not (Matt. 10:34-36). “He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations” through His word, the same gospel that goes out from Mt Zion, the church of believers. He will judge between those who in faith accept His word and those who not; He will rebuke (another meaning for “settle disputes”) those who reject it. (PBC)

War will no longer be necessary to settle disputes and conflicts because the righteous Judge will preside over the nations. (TLSB)

beat their swords into plowshares. The Lord will bring perfect peace. Iren: “The law of liberty ... preached by the apostles ... throughout all the earth, caused such a change in the state of things, that these [nations] did form the swords and war-lances into ploughshares, and changed them ... for peaceful purposes” (ANF 1:512). (TLSB)

4:4 Agricultural imagery continues; people enjoy security and contentment, afraid of no one. What a contrast with present conditions in Micah’s day. (TLSB)

vine and ... fig tree. A reference to the peaceful security of the kingdom of God. See 1Ki 4:25; Zec 3:10. (CSB)

no one shall make them afraid. See Zep 3:13. Fear will be a thing of the past. (CSB)

4:5 *we will.* Words of an oath. (TLSB)

walk in the name of the LORD. Confess, love, obey and rely on the Lord. Cf. Zec 10:12. (CSB)

Believers will respond to this glorious vision of heavenly bliss with their commitment of faithfulness to the Lord (Is 2:5). (TLSB)

forever and ever. Common ending to prayers, as in the Lord’s Prayer. (TLSB)

4:1–5 Micah prophesies of a time when the Lord will bring about His reign of peace and justice by bringing people from all nations to worship at His heavenly temple. In this world, there is much evidence of hostility, distrust, and conflict among various nations and cultures. Our Father provides the remedy for disunity by leading people to faith in Christ Jesus. As we are baptized into Christ, we are made into God’s temple, and cultural and national hostilities are abolished (Gal 3:26–29). In heaven, we will experience this reality in its fullness. • Lord Jesus, thank You for teaching me Your way and for giving me brothers and sisters from every tribe, people, and language. Please bring all people into Your holy temple, so that they may receive Your justice, security, and peace. Amen. (TLSB)

The LORD Shall Rescue Zion

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; **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. **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. **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? **10** Writhe and groan, 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. **11** Now many nations are assembled against you, saying, “Let her be defiled, and let our eyes gaze upon Zion.” **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. **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 their gain to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of the whole earth.

4:6 *In that day*. The Messianic period. (CSB)

assemble...gather – The Lord compares Himself to a shepherd gathering lost and hurting sheep. (TLSB)

4:7 *remnant*. The people of God. (CSB)

Prophecy is fulfilled in the just and merciful rule of Christ, who lives and reigns forever. Luth: “Here is a clear and magnificent passage about the divinity of Christ. For this is the way David used to call Him who was going to sit upon his throne his Seed. Ps. 110. This passage Christ Himself quotes in the Gospel account (cf. Mark 12:36). So also here he calls Him Lord who is going to rule forever over His people on Mount Zion. It is necessary, then, that this be not a physical kingdom but a spiritual and eternal one” (AE 18:241). (TLSB)

4:8 *tower of the flock*. The capital city of David, the shepherd-king. (CSB)

Jerusalem, a tower of security for the earthly flock of Israel before being destroyed, will give eternal security when it is made new (Rv 21:1–4). (TLSB)

former dominion. The kingdom of David will be restored under the Messiah. (CSB)

kingship. Kingdom of David will be restored in the person of Christ, the Son of David (Mt 21:5, 9; Lk 1:32). (TLSB)

4:9–13 In vv. 9–10 Micah foresees the collapse of the monarchy and the impending exile in 586 B.C. as well as the restoration beginning in 538. Verses 11–13 are a prophecy of judgment against the gloating enemies of Jerusalem. (CSB)

4:9 *Now*. Contrasts with “latter days” (v 1); also introduces v 11 and 5:1. (TLSB)

counselor. Title for a king whose wisdom is borne out in policies that provide peace and security for the realm. (TLSB)

pain seized you – Conveys present pain of the daughter of Zion (v 10). (TLSB)

4:10 *open country* – Dwelling in open country meant loss of security and companionship found in walled communities. (TLSB)

woman in labor – the catastrophe of the destruction of Jerusalem and of the exile of the people being imminent. (Kretzmann)

go to Babylon. Prophecy fulfilled in 587 BC. (TLSB)

rescued ... redeem. The Lord would bring His people deliverance from captivity. Their earthly redemption prefigures the ultimate deliverance in Christ. (TLSB)

4:11 *many nations are assembled* – Military situation looked hopeless. (TLSB)

4:12 *threshing floor* – Day of Judgment is often compared to threshing grain, separating wheat from chaff. (TLSB)

4:13 thresh. Though the Lord Himself is the Judge of the nations (Rv 14:15–17), the people of Jerusalem are pictured as His agents. (TLSB)

make your horn iron. Horn, symbol of strength, is made doubly strong to accomplish God's judgment. (TLSB)

hoofs bronze. In threshing, oxen trod down the grain with their hoofs, here made of metal. (TLSB)

devote. Wealth of the nations would be consecrated to the Lord in acknowledgment of His victory. (TLSB)

4:6–13 Micah proclaims the time when the Lord will gather His faithful people and reign over them as King. Though the nations assemble against Jerusalem, the Lord promises that in the end they will all be threshed out like grain. The forces of evil continue to rage against God's Church, but we have His assurance that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Mt 16:18; Rv 6:15–16). When we face difficult times, when the forces of the devil are lined up against us, we may be tempted to give up trusting that God is with us to guide and protect us. We can be certain of His gracious presence whenever we hear His Word and receive the body and blood of Christ. He will not leave us or forsake us. • Father, thank You for giving me Your Son, in whom I have life and security and peace. By the leading of Your Holy Spirit, I devote all that I have to Your service. Amen. (TLSB)