

Who is Like God? (Part 5)

Jerry Cisar — July 9, 2017

B. How do we beat our swords into plowshares and our spears in to pruning hooks?

i. Matthew 5:38-45

- a) Those who come into Messiah's Kingdom instead of killing our enemies feed them.
- b) They turn weapons of war into tools for feeding others – implements for expanding Eden to the ends of the earth!

ii. Rom. 12:9-21

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Contrast the vision of Jerusalem in Micah 3:12 with that of 4:1-7.
- When are “the last days” about which Micah and other Old Testament prophets spoke? How does this compare to popular ideas about the last days?
- What does this prophetic vision promise? What do these promises mean to you? How do they change your life?
- Why is the well known saying of 4:3bc about more than merely a prophetic vision, but also a prophetic call to action? How might Joel 3:9-10 or Jeremiah 46:3-4 help us see this?
- What does this prophetic vision call you to? How do Matthew 5:38-45 or Romans 12:9-21 relate to the call of Micah 4:3?
- Has there been anything in your life that, like the Saxons, you've “kept out of the waters of baptism”? What is Christ calling you to do about this?

Text: Micah 4:1-7

Introduction – A Glorious Vision

- A. The vision painted in Micah 4:1-7 is one of the greatest visions ever given to humanity. (See also Isaiah 2:2-4.)
- B. Micah's vision of Jerusalem's future is nothing short of death and resurrection. (3:12 – 4:7)

I. When will the Vision Happen?

- A. When are the last days?
 - i. Deuteronomy 4:30
 - ii. Hosea 3:5
 - iii. Jeremiah 30:24 – 31:1; 31:31-33 ESV
- B. We are in the last days. But they started a long time ago!
 - i. Acts 2:16-17
 - ii. “The last days” of Micah 4 refers to the Messianic age and began with the enthronement of Jesus at the right hand of God as Ruler of heaven and earth.

II. What does the Vision Promise?

- A. The Vision promises that the rule of YHWH will be global.
 - i. In the ancient near east, temples were built on mountains because mountain tops symbolized victory over chaos.
 - ii. Mountains were sometimes hidden in the clouds, and thought to provide access to heaven itself.

- iii. The mountain was considered a place where heaven came to earth... where God, or the god(s), dwelt with man.
 - iv. The exaltation of YHWH's house exalted above every mountain means that YHWH is no regional or local god.
 - v. This isn't speaking of a change in topography. This is metaphorical.
 - a) Hebrews 12:22-23
 - b) Acts 1:6-8
- B. The rule of YHWH will transform violence to peace and poverty to contentment.
- i. Violence to peace.
 - ii. Poverty to contentment.
 - a) Each has their own vine and fig tree. No one threatens to take it away.
 - b) Isaiah 5:8 (NETS): *Ah, those who join house to house and bring field next to field so that they may take something from their neighbor! Will you dwell alone on the earth?*

III. What Does the Vision Require?

- A. Who is "they" and what are they supposed to do?
- i. According to the beginning of vs. 3, *they* are many peoples and *strong nations far and wide*.
 - ii. This helps unravel v5.
 - a) If we aren't paying attention, we might assume that the "we" who walk in the name of the Lord our God, in contrast to all nations is Israel.
 - b) So v5 is saying, *"All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we, all of us peoples from among the nations who have submitted to the Messiah as our King, will walk in the name of the Lord **our God** forever."*
 - c) The *they* of v3 is the church! *They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.*
 - iii. What are "they" (that's the church) supposed to do?
 - a) This expression is modeled after what is called a *"prophetic call to battle."*
 - Jeremiah 46:3-4
 - Joel 3:9-10
 - b) Micah's call is to take the instruments of war and turn them into implements of planting and cultivating food.
 - c) Just as the call war did not come after the war started, but preceded the war, so the call to convert weapons to implements of peace comes before the peace.