

No God Like God: The Message of Micah For Our Generation
The Nations: The Promise of a Global God
Micah 4:1–5
October 6, 2019 | Sunday Evening Bible Study

Micah's Prophecies for Israel's Future

1. Bad News and Good News for Jerusalem (4:1)
In Micah's day, Jerusalem was *brought down* by the nations (Assyria, Babylon)
In the future, Jerusalem will be *lifted up* among the nations.
2. Bad News and Good News for Biblical Interpretation (4:2a)
In Micah's day, priests and prophets *twisted* God's Word in Jerusalem.
In the future, God himself will *teach* his Word in Jerusalem.
3. Bad News and Good News for Biblical Application (4:2b)
In Micah's day, the people *rebelled* against God's Word.
In the future, the people will *obey* to God's Word.
4. Bad News and Good News for Justice (4:3a)
In Micah's day, rulers abused their power to judge with *partiality* and serve themselves.
In the future, God will use his power to judge with *perfection* and serve his people.
5. Bad News and Good News for War (4:3b)
In Micah's day, there is a proliferation of weapons designed to *kill* people.
In the future, the defense industry will re-apply technology to *feed* people.
6. Bad News and Good News for the Economy (4:4)
In Micah's day, the economy created a wealth gap and is vulnerable to failure.
In the future, the economy will benefit all people, built on solid economic principles.
7. Bad News and Good News for World Religions (4:5).
In Micah's day, the false religions of the nations had infiltrated Israel.
In the future, all false religions will be permanently removed from the earth.

Have these prophecies been fulfilled? Yes and No!

1. Is Jerusalem Lifted Up?

Already: Solomon's temple was destroyed by Babylon in 586 BC, but rebuilt by decree of Cyrus, King of Persia in 515 BC, then magnificently renovated and expanded by Herod the Great in 20 BC, making it famous among the nations.

Not Yet: Herod's temple was destroyed by Rome in 70 AD and on the site a Muslim mosque was built in 691 AD. Though Jerusalem is "lifted up" as a world class city and millions from the nations "flow to it," Jerusalem is not the "highest." Rev. 21:2,10.

2. God teaching his Word in the Temple?

Already: Jesus taught in the temple throughout his earthly ministry (Mk. 12:35; Lk. 19:47; Mt. 26:55; Lk. 2:49; Mt. 21:13; Acts 5:42).

Not Yet: Jesus will be the temple (Rev. 21:22)

3. All people submitting to God's Word and walking in his ways?

Already: When the Son of David (Jesus) taught in the temple, his teaching was met with a mixture of repentance and resistance (Jn. 2:14–23).

Not Yet: When Jesus teaches in the New Jerusalem, everyone on earth will walk in his ways (Rev. 21:23,24; 22:14; Ps.119:105).

4. Is there no injustice on the earth?

Already: Where Jesus' teaching is rightly interpreted and applied, equal justice increases. Jesus spoke truth to power and advocated for the poor and his followers reversed injustice (Lk. 16:22; 18:22; 19:8).

Not Yet: Now justice is applied unequally. But Jesus will execute justice perfectly and impartially (Acts 10:34; Ro. 2:11; Gal. 2:6; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25).

5. Is the defense industry shrinking?

Already: Jesus told his followers not to use weapons and violence to advance his kingdom. He prepared his followers to die for their faith, not to kill for it (Mt. 26:52). Where true Christianity goes, violence declines.

Not Yet: Right now, there are 64 countries involved in 10 wars and 8 military conflicts. People will die today. But Jesus will leave the gates of the New Jerusalem open because we there will be no more war (Rev. 21:25).

6. Is the world economy sound?

Already: Where Jesus' teaching has had its greatest influence, economies improve (Calvin's compassionate capitalism, Protestant work ethic, etc.). Jerusalem today is the beneficiary of financial aid from the most Christianized nation on earth (1/3 of US foreign aid goes to Israel).

Not Yet: The major economies of the earth are built on shaky foundation of debt and tremble with uncertainty. But Jesus will rule over a New Earth in which every citizen is wealthy and healthy (22:1-3).

7. Do false religions remain?

Already: Jesus commanded his disciples to start in Jerusalem and make disciples of the nations (Acts 1:8; Mt. 28:18-20). As new believers turned to Christ, they renounced their idols so that Christianity is now the largest religion on the earth (1 Th. 1:9).

Not Yet: Most of the Christian church is nominal. Most of the world worships idols and false gods. Jerusalem itself has a small minority of true believers. But Jesus will remove all idolaters from the earth (Rev. 22:14,15).