

RESTORATION THROUGH JUDGEMENT

It Shall Come to Pass...

The Latter Days: The Era of Full and Complete Restoration of Creation

Micah 4:1-8

1. The Reign and Worship of God will be Supreme (v.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*

2. The ways will seem backward to the world (v.1b)

and peoples shall flow to it,

3. People from all nations will come (v.2a)

*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*

4. The Word will be desired, obeyed, and proclaimed (v.2b)

*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.*

5. There will be perfect justice (v.3a)

*He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall decide disputes for strong nations far
away;*

6. Instead of violence there will be fruitful work (v.3b)

*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;*

7. All will dwell in peace and security (v.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.*

8. His people all walk in His ways (v.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.*

9. The Lord will gather and restore (v.6-7)

*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.*

10. The Lord will establish dominion and kingship (v.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.*

RESTORATION THROUGH JUDGEMENT

Now...

Micah 4:9-13

Grief and exile are coming...

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.

...but the Lord promises to redeem and restore.

There you shall be rescued;

there the LORD will redeem you

from the hand of your enemies.

The world will mock and scorn God's people...

¹¹ Now many nations

are assembled against you,

saying, "Let her be defiled,

and let our eyes gaze upon Zion."

...but the Lord's plans will prosper.

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.

The Latter Days Have Begun

"Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" Mark 1:15

Inaugurated by the life and work of Christ

- "...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son..." Hebrews 1:2
- "He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you..." 1 Peter 1:20
- "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Matthew 12:28
- "And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'" Revelation 21:5

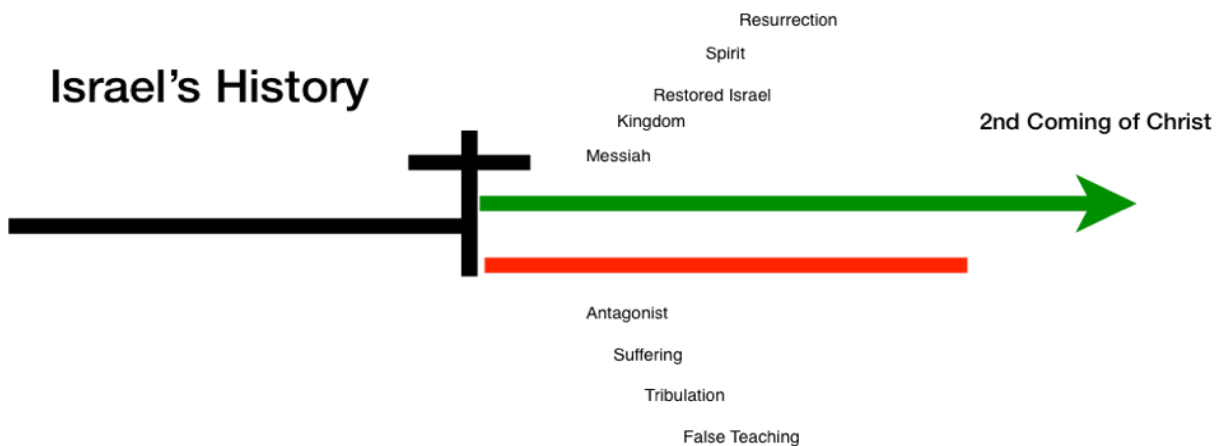
Not yet Fulfilled and full of Hardship

- "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty." 2 Timothy 3:1
- "Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour." 1 John 2:18
- "...that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires." 2 Peter 3:2-3

Will be Complete at Christ's Second Coming

- “But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” 2 Peter 3:13
- “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.” Revelation 21:1

“Latter Days”



Now...

- **We are part of the inaugurated Kingdom as new creations in Christ**
 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.” Colossians 1:13
- **We grieve in exile**
 - “Elect exiles...conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile...” 1 Peter 1:1, 17
 - “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...” Philippians 3:20
 - “For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.” Hebrews 13:14
- **We grieve with labor pains**
 - “When a woman is giving birth, she has **sorrow** because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the **anguish**, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.” John 16:21-22
 - “For we know that the whole creation has been **groaning** together in the **pains** of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.” Romans 8:22-23
- **We are mocked and scorned by the world**
 - “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” John 15:18-19

The Lord Rescues and Redeems

- **Through judgement and discipline**
 - I will assemble the lame
and gather those who have been driven away
and those **whom I have afflicted**; (v.6)
 - There (*from exile in Babylon*) you shall be rescued;
there (*from exile in Babylon*) the LORD will redeem you
from the hand of your enemies. (v.10b)
- **The place of exile and judgement becomes the place of deliverance.**

"We should never be surprised at the places God begins His recovery work." -Dale Ralph Davis

"When Yahweh disciplines those who are his, the purpose is not retribution but discipline. Israel is assured that by going through the judgment/discipline, Yahweh will redeem them. Yahweh's discipline tears down their sin so that he can build them up in righteousness and holiness." -Joanna Hoyt

"For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime."

Psalm 30:5

The Cross of Christ: the place of judgement becomes the place of redemption.

"...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it." Acts 2:23-24

The Thoughts and Plans of the Lord will Prosper

"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." (v.12)

"Does one crush grain for bread?
No, he does not thresh it forever;
when he drives his cart wheel over it
with his horses, he does not crush it.
This also comes from the Lord of hosts;
he is wonderful in counsel
and excellent in wisdom."

Isaiah 28:28-29

"His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Matthew 3:12

"...strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that **through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**" Acts 14:22

DISCUSSION

1. In what ways do we see the “Latter Days” of the Messianic kingdom now?
2. Where do we see the “Latter Days” not yet fulfilled and full of hardship, grief, exile, destruction?
3. *“This is Micah’s call: to live the life of the next age in the ruins of the present one.” -Dale Ralph Davis*
How can we live a last days lifestyle in these days?
4. When have you seen the Lord rescue and redeem from a place of destruction and judgment?
5. Where is it difficult to believe the thoughts and plans of the Lord will prosper?
6. How does believing His plans will prosper provide courage or endurance or comfort in difficult times?

HOMEWORK

READ

Hebrews 11

REFLECT

1. List everyone in Hebrews 11 who suffered through judgment and hardship before restoration and redemption.
2. What characteristic did each person share? What were they looking forward to?
3. Choose one of the people listed in Hebrews 11.
 - a. What hardship did the Lord have this person walk through?
 - b. How did they respond to the hardship?
 - c. How did their life demonstrate faith in God?
 - d. How has their life encouraged you in your faith?
4. How does Hebrew 11 impact how you understand restoration through judgment in Micah?

REMEMBER

“For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.”

Psalm 30:5