

**What You Think You Need, You Don't
The Future of the Remnant of Israel
Micah 5: 7 – 15**

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In the first six verses of Micah 5, we have been introduced further to the coming King. We have been given very specific details as to birthplace, but more than that, we now know that He is eternal, yet a man. We learned that Micah 5:2 & 3 is a picture of the first coming of Jesus Christ, and the second coming. As we concluded last time, we were at the end of the tribulation, Jesus had returned and He is using His followers in Judah to mop up the enemy, the Assyrian and establish His rule.

Micah 5:5–6

“This One will be our peace. When the Assyrian invades our land, When he tramples on our citadels, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight leaders of people. They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, The land of Nimrod at its entrances; And He will rescue us from the Assyrian When he invades our land, And when he tramples our territory.” (NASB 2020)

We discussed at length the dual fulfillment aspects of this passage and that the Assyrian in the last days is the antichrist and his forces.

“They shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword” continues the prediction of the last days when “the Assyrian” represents the confederacy of nations which will come against Israel at the end of the Tribulation Period. Israel, strengthened by their Shepherd, will not only repulse the attack but will carry the battle into enemy territory. (McGee 1997, 792)

When Christ returns, He brings judgement, protection, victory, and ultimately, His peace to this planet. So, let's talk about the remnant when He returns.

Let's set the stage first. Christ has returned in power and the events surrounding the defeat of the forces of the antichrist have all taken place. He has indeed brought all of His people home to the land.

Now that they are back and in belief, they have a job to do.

I am sure that these new followers of Messiah have some ideas of what they think they need.

Like many of us, as we contemplate starting a new business, or moving to a new location or starting anything new, we develop lists.

The lists, normally, include stuff we want in the new place. Many times, the list is a laundry list of everything we want but when you distill it to what you need, it becomes a much smaller list.

The remnant will be like that. They know what they need to be successful on the battlefield at the end of the age. Here in Micah, the Lord explains what He will do to get them to the point that they will rely only on Him. Kind of like what took place with a guy named Gideon.

We must move back in time to the period between the taking of the land by Joshua and the anointing of Saul by Samuel. We are in the period of the judges. The intent was for the people to be obedient to YAHWEH and follow Him by learning and following Torah. A Theocracy. But instead, we find out this.

Judges 17:6

"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (NKJV)

This was not a pattern for success in the eyes of YAHWEH. So, He disciplined His people. Several times. Just like us with kids.

The book of Judges, when you read through it, is a downward spiral of lawlessness, idolatry and disobedience. But during this period, God would show mercy to His people when they would turn to Him and He would raise up a judge to resolve the oppression being used to discipline them. Gideon was one of those judges.

Midian was oppressing the nation and the nation cried out to the Lord who in turn sent a prophet to them (Judges 6:7 – 10) who reminds them of the why; this is due to their idolatry. Then the Lord selects a judge, who would not be anyone's first, second or third choice. Gideon.

Judges 6:11–12

"Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" (NKJV)

In order to harvest a crop, Gideon was hiding out in a winepress rather than using a threshing floor at the top of a hill where the enemy would see him. He is hiding out in a winepress where no one would look.

Did you catch what the angel called him?

The Lord selected this guy to be His deliverer for the nation. Really. The Lord provides instructions. So, after sneaking around at night and destroying an altar to Baal, in the dark due to fear, things heated up.

Judges 6:34–35

“But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.” (NKJV)

And there is that whole fleece thing too (Judges 6:36 – 40).

Thousands responded to the call. A nice sized army to deal with the forces arrayed against Israel. But God told Gideon the same thing He tells Micah, what you think you need, you don't. All you need is Me.

Using several culling processes, the Lord had Gideon send 31,700 troops home, leaving 300 men.

Judges 7:8.

“So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.” (NKJV)

With the 300, the Lord routed an army of over 135,000 (Judges 8:10 – 12). So much for conventional wisdom and military prowess. Earlier, YAHWEH told Gideon why He was doing it this way, the people of Israel had a pride problem. They would accept the deliverance of YAHWEH but then claim that they did it, when they would have nothing to do with it at all.

Judges 7:2

“And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’” (NKJV)

This lesson is further reemphasized in the New Testament. Not from the perspective of military prowess, but just exactly how the Lord achieves things among His followers and who He selects to do the work.

As Jesus followers, we need to reject conventional wisdom and seek wisdom only from above.

Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” (NRSV)

1 Corinthians 1:20–29

“So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, **he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.** It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. **Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.**” (NLT)

Again, the message I hear is from the Lord is this. “What you think you need to be successful in doing ministry, you don't really need. All you need is Me. Be obedient, follow and watch and see. Who knows what the Lord wants to do?”

Here in Micah, this is now the lesson that YAHWEH will teach to the remnant.

Once again, we are at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Micah 5:7–9

“Then the remnant of Jacob Will be among many peoples Like dew from the LORD, Like showers on vegetation That do not wait for man, Or delay for mankind. The remnant of Jacob Will be among the nations, Among many peoples Like a lion among the animals of the forest, Like a young lion among flocks of sheep, Which, if he passes through, Tramples and tears, And there is no one who can rescue. Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries, And all your enemies will be eliminated.” (NASB 2020)

Who Are the Remnant?

“The remnant is that part of Israel that believes...All individual Jews who become believers during the seven years of the Tribulation are part of the Remnant of Israel. These include the 144,000 Jews. These also include those Jews of Jerusalem who become believers in the middle of the Tribulation (Rev. 11:13). It includes all individual Jews who become believers as a result of the preaching of the 144,000 or the Two Witnesses of Revelation 11. it includes the remnant of Revelation 12:17 whom Satan will attack in a particular way. There will be a large segment of the Jewish population who will become members of the Remnant of Israel only at the end of the Tribulation. These can be called the Faithful Remnant. Based upon all the passages involved, this group will comprise the majority of the one-third of the nation that will survive the Tribulation. Throughout the Tribulation they will be unbelievers as far as the Messiahship of Jesus is concerned and also unbelievers as far as the Antichrist is concerned.” (Fruchtenbaum 1994, 777-778)

These are the ones who believe and ask for Messiah to save them, and it is at that point He returns in power (Isaiah 63:1 – 6, Hosea 5:15, Zechariah 13:9, 14:4).

Micah is going to spend some time discussing some of the duties of the remnant as well as some of the things, the props they think they have to do based on so many years in the flesh. YAHWEH will remove these things they think they must have in order to get them to the point of trust and belief only in Him.

There is a new reality to be confronted at the end of the age. This is very different from the reality in which Micah is writing, with the Jewish nation in Israel and Judah staring down exile due to disobedience. Exile has been guaranteed via prophecy, a diaspora is in store; but a new reality will be in existence at the end of the age.

The remnant of Jacob will be spread around the world. We see the results of this today.

Prophecy about Israel is currently being fulfilled. They are in the land and are a nation (Ezekiel 37). Israel which had been dead for over 2000 years suddenly is alive again, the bones have flesh. That alone is huge. During the Six Day War, more prophecy was fulfilled as Israel regained control of all of Jerusalem. We are in the last of the last days.

But they are not all in belief yet. That is still in the future since God has promised that. “And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.” (Ezekiel 37:14, ESV)

Micah is talking about that yet future event when the remnant of Israel is all in belief. It is that remnant who are the ones who are now going back out among the nations, not to escape, but in obedience. They are doing so to reach all the nations in their new, promised role.

The remnant of Jacob will again spread around the world. They will again go out into the nations, but this will be intentional. Now they are spreading the gospel globally.

This new role was outlined for us in Isaiah 61.

Isaiah 61:5–7

“Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; **but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God**; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.” (NRSV)

Israel’s exalted position is to be one not of privilege but of responsibility. As a priest is to be a mediator between humans and God, assisting humans in their worship of God, and teaching humans the ways of God, Israel is to be a priest to the nations. (Oswalt 1998, 571-572)

In other words, what we are seeing take place once Christ returns and establishes His rule, is YAHWEH fulfilling a promise made in Exodus.

Exodus 19:4–6

“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, **but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation**. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.” (NRSV)

The Israel of the future, that remnant Micah is writing about, will be a blessing to the world. Roles have been reversed.

The overarching theme of the piece is that God will overturn the tables of history: the victim will become the victor. Like their Messiah, they step forth small and lowly among the nations and become great by the divine initiative. (Waltke 2007, 315)

We are not talking about the job Messiah has for the church here, trust me, we will all be very busy. But this is specific to His people the Jews.

The first image constructs a world in which Israel enjoys a role superior to that of the nations but is yet supportive of and vital to them. The second image develops a hostile image of the relationship between the nations and the remnant. This image is similar to those advanced in the “oracles against the nations” sections in the prophetic books and in the announcements of reversal (i.e., this time Israel is the powerful lion and the nations the powerless “flock”). Like the first image, this second one is presented as being consistent with YHWH’s point of view. (Zvi 2000, 135)

Micah 5:7–9

“Then the remnant of Jacob Will be among many peoples Like dew from the LORD, Like showers on vegetation That do not wait for man, Or delay for mankind. The remnant of Jacob Will be among the nations, Among many peoples Like a lion among the animals of the forest, Like a young lion among flocks of sheep, Which, if he passes through, Tramples and tears, And there is no one who can rescue. Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries, And all your enemies will be eliminated.” (NASB 2020)

Remember, Messiah rules with a rod of iron. Yes, His people will indeed be priests for the nations before YAHWEH who will be visibly in the Temple in Jerusalem. But they are also representing the King and His rule and in the early days of His rule, sometimes folks need to be reminded about the change. His people, the Jews, will be in every nation in the world to represent Him.

They will indeed be refreshing to the nations, just like dew or rain is in the dry region which is Israel of the current day. It is no longer the time of the gentiles, Jesus is on the throne, “they will either bless the nations like dew or curse the nations as predators of God’s judgment.” (Gignilliat 2019, 186-187)

The idea of the remnant being a blessing to the nations and refreshment to the nations is the primary idea in verse 7.

But verse 8 is the other side of the coin. “In 5:6–8 he nourishes it to maturity: that great nation, spiritually unified under their eternal King and having been handed over by I AM to his faithful Messiah for his skillful shepherding, will be I AM’s instrument both of life among the nations, like a gentle rain falling upon plants, and of death, like a lion mauling its victims.” (Waltke 2007, 317)

Those people, who just a few weeks or months prior, were fighting to preserve their lives, had made the decision to call for and follow Messiah. They became believers. He responded and now, on the other side of Armageddon, everything has reversed.

The world had been lied to about the antichrist by the false prophet. He had been represented as the one who would bless mankind once all the enemies were gone (Revelation 13:4). Now, those enemies, are the ones providing blessing to the planet. When they take action on behalf of the King, they are also the ones who would trample or tear.

The Great Reset now has the Jewish people, the remnant, spread across the globe occupying the nations that had previously attacked them. There are no more enemies and Israel is now the occupier, globally. Considering who is the King and where He is ruling from, it is obvious now that all enemies have been eliminated. Those who had been oppressed, are now governing the former oppressors, as the occupiers. This is only part of the coming Great Reset under Messiah.

As for those military forces who had oppressed, they are gone. The deliverance of His people is complete. The Great Reset has become reality.

In this contrast of being a blessing versus also being a source of judgement on behalf of the King, we see the dichotomy of the way people come to Christ today.

There are many who are wooed into the kingdom. They hear the truth of God’s word and step out in faith saying that is for me.

I wasn’t one of those. I was from the other side of the equation; I was frightened about the judgement. I knew what I deserved, and hearing someone talk about it made me rather uncomfortable. So, I came to Christ because that dark side captured my attention. I had the hell scared out of me, literally.

These two roles seem almost contradictory for the remnant. This is not going to be the condition for the entire Millennium, but it appears that during the period of consolidation post Armageddon, it may be the case. “These two roles need not contradict each other if they are two distinct stages of the End-time, the common pattern of Armageddon before Paradise restored.” (Anderson and Freedman 2008, 487)

In the Judah of Micah’s present day, there are geopolitical ideas in existence that are the current conventional wisdom for a well defended nation. We would recognize that there are certain conventions we would accept as being common among the nations as they defend themselves or engage in warfare. None of that involves reducing your army to 300 per Gideon. God’s ways are not our ways.

YAHWEH is going to cleanse the remnant by removing those things which they had previously relied on. These are all things they thought were important and YAHWEH sets them aside.

Micah 5:10–11

““And it will be on that day,” declares the LORD, “That I will eliminate your horses from among you, And destroy your chariots. I will also eliminate the cities of your land, And tear down all your fortifications.”” (NASB 2020)

The first area to be addressed is that of the conventional wisdom of might makes right. The present day IDF is indeed a force to be contended with, but YAHWEH is saying that He will thrust the remnant into power by another method. Military forces will not be needed. In other words, think Gideon. He is יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת (YAHWEH SABAOT), the LORD of Armies.

In Micah's time, under King Uzziah, Judah had a strong professional military. By the time of King Hezekiah, that was no longer the case. Judah had placed their faith for protection in their military might and interlocking agreements with supposed allies, not in YAHWEH.

But didn't Micah just say that the remnant will be like a young lion? He did, just a few verses prior as he discussed the power the remnant would wield at the end of the Tribulation.

This is counter intuitive, don't you have to have light armor, tanks and fortified defensive positions to be successful? Not doing it God's way.

Here YAHWEH simply says that on that day, what day, the day we have been discussing, the one when Messiah returns in power. On that day, horses, or in modern terms, light armored vehicles, air cavalry and aircraft designed to deliver troops to the battlefield, will not be available or needed. They will be exterminated, cut off. When Jesus returns, those resources will not be available, nor will they be necessary.

He further says their chariots; tanks, heavy armor, bombers, fighters, missiles will be destroyed. Also, YAHWEH says He will cut off access to the cities as well. There will not be any reinforcements coming. They will be relying solely on YAHWEH.

Ancient Israel did indeed put its trust in war-horses, and war-chariots, and fortifications (cf. Isa. 2:7); but the Messianic Israel, or the true people of the Lord, will only put its trust in such things so far as it is not yet pervaded by the power of the peace brought by the Messiah. And the more it appropriates the spiritual power of the Prince of peace, the more will the trust in horses and chariots disappear; so that they will be destroyed, because all war comes to an end (compare Isa. 9:4–6). (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 331)

When God is on your side and the armies of heaven are allied with you and arrayed on the battlefield as we see in Zechariah 14 and Revelation 19, the need for anything else becomes unnecessary.

This is like what happened when King Jehoshaphat was on the throne of Judah. Another example of doing military defense God's way, not man's way.

2 Chronicles 20:15–17

“And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. **You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you.**” (NKJV)

The people were called into a faith partnership with YAHWEH and had to be on hand as He would deal with the enemy. Just to be there, exposed to the enemy, outnumbered, and outgunned, was a serious step of faith. So, what did the people do when they arrived? They worshipped.

2 Chronicles 20:22 “Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.” (NKJV)

These worshippers obviously took a dangerous step of faith. If the unthinkable happened and God did not intervene they would be the first ones slaughtered by a merciless enemy. No wonder king Jehoshaphat consulted with the people about who these singers and worshippers should be. (Guzik 2014, 2 Ch 20:20-21)

On that day, at the end of the age, He will handle the battle for them. Thus, there is no need for those things they previously thought were necessary.

Just a few years after this was given by Micah, an example, a type of the deliverance to be experienced at the end of the age, was experienced by Jerusalem as the Lord dealt with the might of the Assyrian military on one evening (Isaiah 37:36 – 38).

When Messiah returns, all of those things which we connect with military power and capability today, will not be necessary for Israel to have. In fact, they will not have it, but they do have the Lord on their side.

They have all that they need. We do too.

Romans 8:37–39

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NKJV)

In Christ, we have all we need.

Satan would like us to believe that is not the case, that we need something else to truly be at peace. But if we have Jesus, we have the source of shalom, what more do we need?

The first thing God will do for the remnant is remove those things they believe they need to have to ensure they remain safe. YAHWEH wants them to rely on Him. “They had been forbidden even in the time of Moses. (Deu 17:16). Her fortified cities will be demolished.” (Feinberg 1990, 176)

Those sources of reliance on self for protection, gone.

Micah 5:12–14

“I will eliminate sorceries from your hand, And you will have no fortune-tellers. I will eliminate your carved images And your memorial stones from among you, So that you will no longer bow down To the work of your hands. I will uproot your Asherim from among you, And destroy your cities.” (NASB 2020)

One of the problems of relying on military might is it tends to lead to a type of idolatry. This is then encouraged by government as a good thing as everyone begins to rally around the flag and begin to believe the propaganda being fed to them. This shows up as nationalism taken to the extreme.

For Israel, the removal of military might will be the removal of the temptation to worship that military might and look to it as your salvation rather than the Lord. As Jesus Christ returns and consolidates His power, He will also make certain that those things which the world leaned on, and which some of His people also leaned on, are removed. Yes, all of Israel is now in belief, but those things which had been worshiped instead of YAHWEH in the past, must go.

All those things that were used routinely to deal with the pressure of life with out God, those must go as well.

The very first thing referenced is sorceries, witchcraft may be in your translation. We look at that and immediately think false religion and occult magic practices; and that is indeed some of it, but not all. We do know this is a major problem of the last days.

Revelation 9:20–21

“The rest of humankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands or give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot

see or hear or walk. **And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their fornication or their thefts.**" (NRSV)

The word used here for sorcery is כְּשָׁפִים (ksāpîm). "The pharaoh of the exodus had those who practiced this variety of the occult in his retinue of advisers (Ex 7:11). They are grouped with the ḥākāmîm (wise men) and ḥarṭmmîm (magicians, q.v.). These sorcerers were outlawed in Israel. In Ex 22:17 the feminine form appears (mēkaššēpā) and in the long list of Deut 18:10 the masculine (mēkaššēp). The penalty was death." (Alden 1999, 458)

The Hebrew word suggests seeking information from demonic sources. (Martin 1985, 1487)

God is telling the remnant that the widespread practice of the Tribulation which included sorcery, will be a thing of the past. Sorcery carried the death penalty under the covenant, and He is making it clear that it will not exist under the new covenant of the millennial rule of Christ.

The practice of sorcery also involved divination or fortune telling. All of this was done to obtain an advantage over someone else. It also involved communication with demons and fallen angels. In the Kingdom, demons and fallen angels are imprisoned. They are all in the abyss with their boss (Revelation 20:1 – 3). Since that source is now imprisoned, it goes to say that it is now gone as a means of knowing the future. In the New Testament, the word for sorcery has other connotations attached as well. The Septuagint reflects the use of the same Greek word used in the New Testament.

The word is φαρμάκων (pharmakon). The same word we obtain pharmacy from. The word means a harmful drug, poison...a drug used as a controlling medium, magic potion, charm...a healing remedy, medicine, remedy, drug. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 1050)

To practice sorcery would involve an individual using drugs to help place themselves into an altered state of consciousness.

In "sorcery," the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer. (Vine, Unger and White Jr. 1996, 587)

They simply will not be needed any longer.

Sorcery includes the realm of magic (not sleight of hand); that is, the use of drugs, chants, and ceremonies which in themselves possess power to produce desired results or changes in people, circumstances or events, both black and white "magic." (Murphy 1996, 164)

The practices common to the world of the Tribulation will no longer be acceptable practices in the Millennium. You cannot manipulate God. The practices eliminated imply that option is available. It isn't, but we even do it in prayer sometimes.

If God were basically a negotiator, human beings would always end up with a raw deal. For one thing, God doesn't need anything we have to offer. God can walk away from any proposition. And as any negotiator knows, it is impossible to strike a good deal under such conditions...Second, even if we could entice God into making a deal with us, we would have no way of enforcing compliance. Since God doesn't need anything and God's power infinitely exceeds ours. (Volf 2010, 6-7)

The bottom line, you cannot manipulate God or get Him to do it your way. He loves us. There is nothing you can do to make Him love you more or less than He already does.

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God;” (NET 2nd ed.)

Micah 5:13

“I will eliminate your carved images And your memorial stones from among you, So that you will no longer bow down To the work of your hands.” (NASB 2020)

A day is coming that not only all false counsel will be gone, but every form of false worship that exists on the planet will also be gone.

The biggest problem that Israel and Judah dealt with, their disobedience to the covenant by turning to the gods of the nations. They turned to and worshipped fallen angels and demons. The beings they worshipped are all in the abyss now with their boss.

Micah 5:13–14

“I will eliminate your carved images And your memorial stones from among you, So that you will no longer bow down To the work of your hands. I will uproot your Asherim from among you, And destroy your cities.” (NASB 2020)

Once Christ is on the throne, idol worship globally is a thing of the past. For a culture like ours that now worships the virtual hero, program or tech thing of the hour, this culminates with the worship of a digital image that has multiple instances of the Beast showing up globally, we see where this tech worship is headed.

Here is the thing, all throughout history, idol worship was always accompanied by big business. Paul found out about that in Ephesus.

Ephesus had big business associated with their idol worship.

Acts 19:23–28

“About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.” When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”” (ESV)

All of this resulted in a near riot and Paul having to leave town in a hurry. The manner in which the idol centric industry reacted though is no different than what we see today when some of our more modern idols are attacked. Many of them are now in the realm of high tech. This tech infrastructure is necessary beast tech for the enabling of those things we read in Revelation.

This idolatrous worship was and is fundamentally perverted. It inevitably led to perverse lifestyles. It was the result of worshipping the creature rather than the Creator. It held its worshippers to no ethical norms or boundaries. It was a licence for licentiousness. And it could take over whole communities or entire cities... (Prior 1988, 167)

I also think that since we are looking at the world of the end of the age in what Micah is saying, that there are also hints of what is being worshipped from the language used. Think Romans 1:18 – 32 on steroids. In verse 13 we read about memorial stones also known as sacred pillars. In some circumstances, they were okay to erect to YAHWEH. But not to any other god. A sacred pillar was a traditional sign of a “high place” where the worship of false gods would take place.

The Phenicians, like the Canaanites, were accustomed to place by the altars sacred stones as the abode of the deity, pillars being substituted later for natural stones. (Jackson 1908-1914, 18)

Then we come across Asherah in verse 14.

“Asherah” was a term used for many things involved with pagan worship, but in the Bible its most common reference was to a phallic pole that represented the Canaanite fertility goddess who was also called Asherah. In the Old Testament it is often difficult to determine whether the term “Asherah” refers to the phallic pole or to the goddess herself. Asherah was often confused with the Phoenician fertility goddess Astarte or the Persian Ishtar. (Losch 2008, 47)

The worship of the goddess Asherah involved sacred prostitution.

So, we have an item which contains the god to be worshipped and the worship is of a sexual nature to include images considered in the Bible to be obscene.

2 Chronicles 15:16

“King Asa removed his grandmother Maacah from her position as queen mother, because she had made an obscene idol of the fertility goddess Asherah. Asa cut down the idol, chopped it up, and burnt the pieces in the valley of the Kidron.” (GNB)

When Jesus Christ returns, the earth dwellers are involved in drugs, to include those that induce abortion, as well as human trafficking (Revelation 18:13). This is talking about the global removal of human trafficking for the purposes of sacred prostitution. This includes the end of all forms of pornography, implied by the images being removed and the obscene sexual nature of those images. Those cities which were involved in this practice will be gone. That is a given based on what we have already seen in Revelation with the flattening of all cities globally (Revelation 16:19).

Micah 5:15

“And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath On the nations which have not obeyed.” (NASB 2020)

“The people of Israel and Judah had placed their hope in numerous things besides God: their government, culture, religion, and national identity. Despite the fact that Micah talked in terms of national consequences, in reality, those national consequences were a byproduct of individual choices. When we read Micah 5, we’re reminded that the majority of individual Jews in Israel and Judah had found their personal identity in a lifestyle that rejected God’s covenant, commands, and counsel. As a result, they did not find their identity in their position as God-fearers; they found their identity in their participation with secular culture.” (Redmond, Curtis and Fentress 2016, 117)

YAHWEH will remove all of that. None of this will exist in the Kingdom.

Though surrounded by “many peoples,” God’s people are commanded not to adopt the pagan practices of the nations and thereby lose their distinctiveness in the world, their distinction as a divinely elected people. The situation is not much different today. Professing faith in Jesus Christ is a profession the world is, as of yet, incapable of making. And yet we are called to be engaged in transforming our world without adopting its ways. (Brown 1996, 56)

How are we doing?

Let's remind ourselves once again of who we are in Christ.

Ephesians 2:1–10

“You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” (NRSV)

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