

March 26, 2023 PM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

Micah 4:6-8 — “The Lord’s Restoration”

- A. Restoration of various things is popular both on TV & on the internet: homes, boats, cars, trucks, tools, & old guns.
- B. The prophet Micah spoke of a restoration of His people back to the promised land after a time of great affliction.

The Lord promised a great day of restoration.	I. <u>THE RESTORED LAME & OUTCASTS</u> II. <u>DOMINION FROM ZION</u>
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I. THE RESTORED LAME & OUTCASTS → vv6-7

A. Who are the outcasts & the afflicted in these verses? → **Micah 1:1f**

- 1. The Jews should have smashed & burned the pagan idols & images in the land yet instead adored them. For that reason, God brought in pagan nations to do the smashing & burning (**v7**).
- 2. The outcasts & the afflicted from today’s text in **Micah 4:6-7** are those God was still yet to cast-out & afflict by removing them from the promised land & bringing them into pagan captivity.

B. Why does our loving God afflict His own people?

- 1. → Turn to **Heb 12:4-11**
- 2. **Ps 119:71** says, “It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.”

C. In **v6**, God promised: “I will assemble the lame & gather the outcasts, even those whom I have afflicted.”

- 1. God fulfilled His promise beginning with Cyrus, King of Persia. → **2 Chron 36:22-23**
- 2. Further restoration was accomplished under King Artaxerxes during the days of Nehemiah.

D. God’s making the “**lame a remnant**” (**v7**) likely points to the healing ministry of the Lord Jesus. This cannot point to the new heavens & new earth wherein there will no longer be a remnant of any lame or ill at all.

— When we have a prophecy that is difficult to interpret, it is essential to remember the writings of one authority on the end times. Eschatology includes “both an ‘already’ of accomplished fulfilment & a ‘not yet’ of still outstanding promise.”¹

¹ Bauckham, R. J. (1996). Eschatology. In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 334). InterVarsity Press.

II. DOMINION FROM ZION v8 says: **“As for you, tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you it will come— even the former dominion will come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.”**

A. God restored the Jews to have their own, borderline dominion & self-rule again after their captivity.

This is a partial fulfillment of this prophecy; however, it cannot be what is spoken of here in v8.

1. In later years after their return to the promised land, the Greeks ruled over the Jews.
2. After that, the Romans ruled the Jewish people (during the life of Christ & afterwards).
3. All this isn't worthy of being described as a coming of the **“former dominion” (v8)**.
— The Jews never had anything like the **“former dominion”** as in the days of David or Solomon.

B. The current existence & autonomy of Israel as a modern nation cannot be seen as the ultimate fulfillment of v8 either.

1. The nation's current status cannot be compared to the former dominion under David or Solomon before his sin directed God to cause the nation to split into the northern & southern kingdoms.
2. Some dispensationalist make too much of a big deal of modern Israel.

C. The dominion from Zion continues to be fulfilled in the promised Messiah, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The resurrected, exalted Jesus is the current, reigning King of the **“kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem” (Micah 3:8)**. His current reign extends far beyond what the Jews could have imagined.

1. Ps 110:1-2 **“The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.’²The Lord will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, ‘Rule in the midst of Your enemies.’”**
- As great as David & his rule was, Jesus was both David's Son & David's Lord (Mk 12:35-37).
2. The Messiah would come from Zion yet rule the heavens & earth. Jesus said in Mat 28: **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven & on earth. Go therefore & make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & the Son & the Holy Spirit” (18-19)**.
3. → Rev 19:11-16
4. The reign of King Jesus will be extensive; it will extend to abolish all of His & our enemies.
→ Psalter Hymnal. p 965-196 for WLC 191

Review, further application, & conclusion: