

Micah 4:1-5 Let's Go Up to the Mountain of the LORD: Ascension of Christ

In Christ's Ascension the nations ascend to be taught and governed by the Lord.

1) Christ demonstrably ascends above all gods (4:1).

- a) "Latter days"—lit. "end of days" places this in context of the coming of Christ
- b) Zion—The Mountain of the House of the LORD
 - i) Sacred Geography—mountains esteemed as gateways to the gods
 - ii) Prefiguration of Christ in whom the fulness of the Deity dwells (cf. Psalm 68:15-18)
 - iii) Demonstrably Ascends: "established"—set up for all to see; "highest of the mountains . . . lifted up above all the hills"—mountains and hills represent various deities; Christ above all (Eph. 1:20-21; Col. 2:9-10, 15)
- c) **Application:** Pagan Revival: Prosperity and pleasure by war, sexual promiscuity, and human sacrifice; Christ was proclaimed as God and King in Pagan Rome (Philippians 2:9-11).

2) The nations irresistibly ascend to God's dwelling (4:1-2a)

- a) "peoples shall flow/stream to it"—imagery of flowing uphill
- b) "many/mighty nations shall come"—made willing
- c) "Come, let us go up to the Mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob"
- d) **Application:** Abrahamic Promise—bless all families of the earth; Great Commission—Christ's Kingdom overthrew the gods of Rome. Your labor is not in vain in the Lord! (1 Cor. 15:58)

3) The nations are taught how to live by the LORD (4:2b).

- a) "that He may teach us His ways, and that we may walk in His paths"—truth that transforms
- b) "out of Zion . . . from Jerusalem"—"pilgrimage to Jerusalem" / "go into all the earth"
- c) "the law . . . the Word of the LORD"—Torah = legal code and doctrinal instruction
- d) **Application:** Matt. 28:20; Moses & Jesus ascended to give a gift to God's people.

4) The nations are ruled in righteousness by the LORD (4:3a).

- a) "He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations far away"
- b) **Application:** False gods of the nations lead to conflict. Christ, the prince of peace, leads into peace.

5) The Ascension of Christ brings true peace to the nations (4:3b-4).

- a) Blessing: "swords into ploughshares . . . spears into pruninghooks"
- b) Peace: "neither shall they learn war any more"
- c) Security: "and no one shall make them afraid"
- d) Certainty: "for the mouth of the LORD of Hosts has spoken"
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Pagan gods cannot afford this peace. All peace processes apart from Christ are sure to fail.
 - ii) How Should We Then Live? Micah 4:5 "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." (cf. Col. 3:1-4)
 - (1) Unjust Rulers in their day (3:9-11a) / the LORD's Righteous Rule (4:3).
 - (2) False Teachers/Priests in their day (3:11b) / the LORD Himself as our Teacher (4:2).
 - (3) False Prophets in their day (3:11c) / the LORD's Own Speech (4:2, 4).

Doxology: He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:15-16)