

1. God's Promise of Restoration is Fulfilled in Christ

- a. "It shall come to pass"
 - i. prophetic word made more sure (2 Pet 1:19) by eyewitness accounts (transfiguration) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God
 - ii. Therefore, Scripture is God's Word and is thusly trustworthy and sure, certain in its promises and absolute in what it actually teaches
 1. Dan 2:45 – "the great God has made known...so the dream and its interpretation is trustworthy."
 2. Isa 40:6-8 – "the Word of the LORD remains forever" (cf. 1 Peter 1:24-25)
 3. Mark 13:31 – "heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."
- b. "in the latter days"
 - i. prophetic language for many divine interventions, not merely one final moment in history
- c. speaks to fulfillment and major advances in the kingdom of God's redemption to heal and restore the world from Genesis failure
 - i. In fact, the author of Hebrews establishes "these last days" as the days of Christ's incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and the giving of the Holy Spirit (Heb 1:1-2)
 - ii. Peter does the same (1 Peter 1:20)
 - iii. Note the ministry of Christ and its fulfillment of Micah 4:6-7
 1. The lame will be the remnant
 2. The cast-offs will be made into a strong nation
 3. The church was built up with the weak, the marginal, the ostracized, the "driven-away" from the life of Israel
 - a. This is the operative GRACE of God!
 - b. It is not the powerful, but the weak, not those who perceive themselves to be righteous, but the sinners who come to Christ
 - c. This is so that all the boasting goes to God and all the glory goes to God and all the honor goes to God
- d. Therefore, "the latter days" referred to by Micah began with the inauguration of the Kingdom of God (Matt 12:28; Mark 9:1) in Christ and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-32/Acts 2:16ff)
 - i. Jesus is the Temple, the place where God accepts Man (Mark 14:58; 15:38; Heb 10:19-22; Rev 21:22) that is lifted up (John 12:32) to whom all peoples are drawn.
 - ii. His Kingdom is the everlasting Kingdom (Rev 11:15) that supersedes the kingdoms of the world (Dan 2)
 - iii. His city is the people of God, redeemed by Him for the glory of the Father (Eph 2:19-22; 1 Pet 2:5; Rev 21:10ff) laid down upon the apostles and forefathers of the faith.

2. House of the LORD established as the highest mountain

- a. Mountain Temples in the Ancient Near East symbolized three primary things
 - i. A deity's presence with his people
 - ii. A deity's triumph over chaos (symbolized by water)
 - iii. A deity's territorial rule over the land which the mountain dominates
- b. Thus, Micah's prophecy shows the superlative nature of YHWH: HE is Greater than all Gods
 - i. He is present with His people, who come from every nation and people group
 - ii. He has triumphed over chaos of all the universe
 - iii. He has rule over all the earth, not merely one small territory
- c. In the latter days, i.e. the coming of the Christ, has God done this?
 - i. Note that this is not a literal growing up of an earthen hill so that it's higher than Mt. Everest

- ii. It is a symbol of the greatness of God's victory, rule, and presence with His people throughout the entire world!
- iii. "all things are summed up under [Christ]" Eph 1:10 and we "have come to Mt. Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel." (Heb 12:22-24)
- d. In fact, Jesus said that the physical city of Jerusalem is not where God's people will worship Him (John 4:20-23), but will worship in spirit and in truth.
 - i. All the Scriptures speak of HIM, the Christ, Jesus!
 - ii. Therefore, the Temple is His body, where God and Man meet, who opens the way for man to have fellowship with God through His own body (Heb 10:20; Col 1:22) and to redeem peoples through the same (Eph 2:16)
 - iii. Note in Revelation 21:10-22 (where John is taken by the Spirit "to a great and high mountain and shown) that the eternal city of God has no temple "for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple"
 - 1. Immanuel – God with Us!
 - 2. The New Jerusalem of Rev 21 is pictured as 12,000 stadia, either an area larger than the state of Oregon, or an area larger than all the states east of the Mississippi

3. The Peoples Flow to This Great Temple of the Lord

- a. Pictured is the temple of the LORD, where God dwells with His people, becoming larger than any other "high place" in the world.
 - i. This is indicative of the greatness of the LORD
 - ii. It is also a great promise of God's desire to dwell with His people, from every nation!
- b. Similar to Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 2:35, where "a stone cut without human hands" destroyed the kingdoms of the earth *at one time* and grew into "a great mountain that filled the whole earth"
 - i. Thusly, Daniel prophesied of the Kingdom of God arriving with Jesus' incarnation
 - ii. So, Micah's prophecy of the great mountain Temple begins with the arrival of Jesus, the "stone cut without human hands" that shatters all earthly kingdoms and begins to grow as an eternal kingdom never to be overtaken
- c. All the peoples of the earth flow to this place where God meets Man, has victory over chaos/death, and rules with sovereign power: JESUS!!
- d. "Son of Man lifted up will draw all peoples to Himself" (John 12:32)
 - i. This began with His birth, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, and the pouring out of His Spirit (Acts 2:9-11)
 - 1. "Parthians and Medes and Elamites...Arabians"
 - ii. WE are in the flow of peoples surging towards the mountain of the LORD in Christ!
 - 1. Christ is drawing peoples from every tongue and tribe and nation, our pedigree has no place in the Kingdom of God, for Christ is Lord and Savior of all!

4. The Peoples are Motivated to Learn from God and Walk in His Ways Contentedly

- a. The peoples will say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD"
 - i. They call others to join them
 - ii. This is indicative of the heart set free by the gospel: it wants to call others to join in their joy, to taste the glory of Christ with them
 - iii. The nations are glad to go to the house of the LORD and their desire is to bring as many as they can with them for He is beautiful to them
- b. that He might teach us His ways

- i. Their desire in going to the place of the LORD is to learn from Him
- ii. They want to know Him, are humble enough to see their need of His instruction and the insufficiency of their own wisdom
 - 1. 1 Cor 1:30-31 – Christ is our Wisdom and all wisdom and knowledge are found in Him (2:3)
 - 2. So they boast in the LORD to others
- c. that we might walk in His paths
 - i. Not merely to know Him or to know His ways as if mere head knowledge was sufficient (it's not the wisdom for its own sake)
 - ii. But to have their hearts and lives transformed by Him, so that we might live the way we're supposed to live, i.e. which they understand is the best way, the most beautiful way, the glorious way, the most joyful way
- d. Every person will have what they need, with covetousness nowhere to be found!
 - i. Every man his own vine and his own fig tree (shade and sustenance)
 - ii. One will be enough for each, with no coveting and no "war" over such graces
 - iii. Thus, the articles of war will be made into articles of agriculture, for there will be peace
 - 1. None will make them afraid
- e. "We will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever" – eternity with Him

Conclusion: vv3-5

"A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new a glorious morn!" What God had promised to Adam and Eve, He brought to fruition in Jesus: The perfection of God's presence with Man, the removal of guilt and of the condemnation of sin, the reconciliation of Creator and Created into the presence of Father and of Son; of victory over the chaos of death and of His glorious and perfect reign over all the earth. The King has come! He has founded His rule through His humble submission to death, and He has sat down at the Father's right hand to receive the Holy Spirit and has poured out this Promise abundantly upon those whom He has called.

So, therefore, those belonging to God: what is your motivation for drawing near to Him today? Are we here in His presence to learn from Him? To be corrected by Him? Are we yearning to think differently, to trust completely, to have our image of God reshaped by Him, even when it challenges us and admonishes us? Are we hear to learn and to walk in His ways? To turn from our self-centeredness and to humbly walk in the ways that He has set before us? Or, is our knowledge of Him only used to puff up our own sense of rightness which does not, ironically and catastrophically, lead to walking like Jesus?

A new and glorious dawn has broken in upon the world. A dawn which reconciles you to God through the blood of Jesus. A morning dew which instills life, eternal life to your soul because your Savior died and rose again to rule. There will come, at the end of these latter days, the bright high noon of Christ's reign when death is not only defeated, but abolished. That day is yet to come, and we await our Savior's return with great joy, fully cognizant of the glorious reality that in that day we will be like Him, finally loving like Him, faithful like Him, humble like Him to the glory of God.