

Prophecy of Peace

Peace, perfect peace—we all seek peace. General Douglas MacArthur once said, “Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations—all, in turn, failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blots out this alternative.” Truly the only path to peace, true peace, perfect peace, peace within, is the path that takes us to Jesus Christ.

From the Old Testament, in Micah, Chapter 4, beginning with verse 1, we find what we might, indeed, call the prophecy of peace:

But in the latter days it shall come to pass,
that the mountain of Jehovah's house
shall be established on the top of the mountains,
and it shall be exalted above the hills;
and peoples shall flow unto it.
And many nations shall go and say,
Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah,
and to the house of the God of Jacob;
and he will teach us of his ways,
and we will walk in his paths.
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem;
and he will judge between many peoples,
and will decide concerning strong nations afar off:
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 any more.

But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree;
and none shall make them afraid:
for the mouth of Jehovah of hosts hath spoken it.
For all the peoples walk every one in the name of his god;
and we will walk in the name of Jehovah our God for ever and ever.

In that day, saith Jehovah,
will I assemble that which is lame,
and I will gather that which is driven away,

and that which I have afflicted;
and I will make that which was lame a remnant,
and that which was cast far off a strong nation:
and Jehovah will reign over them in mount Zion
from henceforth even for ever.

This prophecy of peace is a prophecy pertaining to the time when the kingdom of God, the church of Jesus Christ would come into existence. It is not a future prophecy still, as some mistakenly think. It is not prophesying of a time of total abstinence from war or hostility in the physical sense. This clearly, according to every capable commentator who has ever written on this passage, refers to the kingdom of Christ, the church. So, today, I would like for us to look at this great prophecy of peace and look at several aspects of it—the period of peace, the place of peace, the Prince of Peace, the particulars of peace, the path to peace, and finally, the prize of peace.

You see, in verse 1 of this great prophecy, we find the period of peace—that is, the time in which this peace would come. *“In the latter days”*—that’s it—*“...in the latter days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of Jehovah’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow unto it.”* Now, what does the Scripture mean by the phrase “the latter days?” According to the Scripture we find that “the latter days” refer to the Christian dispensation, the ushering in of the Christian Age. In Acts, the second chapter, for example, we have one clear example of how this “latter days” phrase is applied by an inspired man, Peter, as he stood before the crowd gathered there on the day of Pentecost, following the resurrection of Christ, with the eleven apostles, *“...lifted up his voice, and spake forth unto them, saying, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and give ear unto my words. For these are not drunken, as ye suppose; seeing it is but the third hour of the day.”* Now, notice verse 16: *“but this is that which hath been spoken through the prophet Joel,”* quoting Joel 2:28, now, *“And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all flesh: And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams.”* But, notice the key: these are “the last days.” He identifies the beginning of the kingdom, the time at which the gospel of Christ was first preached to those Jews from every nation under heaven. Devout men gathered there on that Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ. Peter said, “This is it,” *“but this is that which hath been spoken through the prophet Joel.”* Joel said this would happen when? In the latter days, which is the Christian Dispensation.

When we go back to Micah 4, verse 1, and look at the period of peace, in the last days, we clearly see, then, from other passages, that the last days refers to the Christian Dispensation, which tells us that clearly we are in that dispensation of time. Therefore, this prophecy has been fulfilled clearly in the coming of the kingdom, the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

But what about the place of peace? *“[I]n the latter days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of Jehovah’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow unto it.”* The place of peace—the house of the Lord, the mountain of the house of the Lord—a clear reference to the establishment of the church in Jerusalem. Look down at verse 2: *“For out of Zion shall go forth the law,*

and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem.” This prophecy is very, very similar, almost identical to the prophecy of Isaiah 2:2-4. So, clearly, here, the mountain of the house of the Lord is identified with Jerusalem. Where did the church have its beginning in Acts 2? Yes, it was in Jerusalem. So, the period of peace—the last days, the Christian Dispensation. The place of peace according to Micah’s prophecy? Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, the church of the living God. That is, there is peace in the church, in the kingdom which had its beginning on that first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ, in Jerusalem, as the law—that is, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, went forth out of Zion, the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

But notice the Prince of Peace in verse 2 of this text, Micah 4: *“And many nations shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths”* The Prince of Peace, through whom the peace within, the perfect peace, is obtained is Jesus Christ. In verse 5 of Chapter 5 of Micah, these words are found: *“And this man shall be our peace...”*—Jesus Christ our Lord. In John 14:6, Jesus Christ himself as he lived among men, said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* “The Prince of Peace”—he is the only one through whom and by whom any of us may be saved.

But, now, what about the particulars of this peace, the specifics? Notice: *“and he will judge between many peoples, and will decide concerning strong nations afar off: 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 any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of Jehovah of hosts hath spoken it.”* Now, this is not a literal thing where there is a prophecy about no more wars whatsoever. He is talking about the state of those who are in the kingdom and the attitude of those who have come to the Lord in his kingdom. There is that peace, the result or the particulars of that peace, the attitude of love, concern, care for others, and the attitude that says, I no longer have to fear what man will do unto me, as in Hebrews 13:6. You see, the expression in verse 4, *“But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid”*—you don’t have to be in the house all locked up, all boarded up, to avoid harm. We can sit in the open under the vine and under the fig tree, and none shall make us afraid, *“for the mouth of Jehovah of hosts hath spoken it.”* These are the particulars of peace.

But what about the path of peace? Verse 5: *“For all the peoples walk every one in the name of his god; and we will walk in the name of Jehovah our God for ever and ever.”* You see, the path to peace continually is to walk in the name of the Lord our God—that is, by his authority, according to his revealed will in his word, his Last Will and Testament, the New Testament of Jesus Christ—that is the path to peace. Again, John 14:6, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* This is the path to peace—through Jesus Christ the Lord.

But, finally, there is a prize of peace. Verse 7 of this beautiful text reveals it: *“...and Jehovah will reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth even for ever.”* Yes, the Lord reigns now over his kingdom the church; but, when the Lord returns and we meet him in the air, the faithful shall ever be with the Lord in the eternal phase of the kingdom—not a different kingdom, the same kingdom. But entering into that eternal phase—there is the prize of peace. Remember Revelation 2:10: Jesus said, *“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the*

crown of life.”—life as a crown, eternal life as a crown. The prize of peace is eternal life with God the Father, with Christ the Son, with the Holy Spirit, and with the faithful of all the ages.

Yes, this great prophecy of peace in Micah 4 tells of the coming of the kingdom, the church. It has come. You now have an opportunity to be a part of that kingdom, that kingdom that brings the peace that passes all understanding, as Paul spoke of it in the Philippian letter. That is only possible by believing in Christ as the Son of God, repenting of your sins, confessing him as the Christ, and being buried with Him in baptism as He has commanded for the forgiveness of sins, that He might add you to the kingdom of peace, where you may live faithfully in order to one day have the prize of peace—life eternal.



Truth For The World™

FROM HEARING TO HEAVEN

truthfortheworld.org

info@tftw.org

P.O. Box 5048

Duluth, GA 30096

U.S.A



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License.