

MICAH AND GOD'S FUTURE 'REMNANT'

Micah's teaching of the remnant is unique among the Prophets. He sees the remnant as a force, not simply a residue of people (4:11-13).

■ REMNANT GATHERED (2:12-13)

¹²I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men. ¹³The breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them." (Mh.2:12-13)

- The Messiah ("the breaker", 2:13) will break down anything that will hinder the restoration of Israel from exile. He will do this based on His covenant promise to Abraham.
- The Messiah will accomplish two things from this passage. [1] He will re-gather and renew His people as their Shepherd (Mh.5:4; 7:14). [2] He will lead His people as their King (Is.33:22; Zp.3:15; Zc.14:9).
- "Jacob" and "Israel" (2:12) are synonymous for the entire nation unified (Mh.1:5).

■ REMNANT STRENGTHENED (4:6-7)

⁶In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; ⁷And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever." (Mh.4:6-7)

- In that day (Mh.4:1; 5:10) the Messiah will restore the exiles that have been removed from the land (4:6).
- Micah did not know when this re-gathering and blessing period would occur. Many supposed it would occur immediately following the Babylonian exile. It did not begin at that time!
- The Messiah will make Israel "a strong nation" once again (4:7).

■ REMNANT UNITED (5:3-4)

³Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth." (Mh.5:3-4)

- The pain of Israel being dispersed is likened to a woman's physical pain in labor. However, when the labor pain is ended the birth will come. This refers to Israel's national re-gathering (Mh.2:12; 4:6-7).
- The fellow Israelites ("brethren", 5:3) will return and join other Israelites and become one again.
- Micah 5:2-3 describes the two advents of the Messiah (Is.9:6-7; 61:1-2).
- The Messiah will shepherd His flock (Mh.2:12; 7:14; Zc.10:3) which is what the leader's in Micah's day refused to do (Mh.3:1-11).
- The whole world will know the Lord's strength (Ml.1:11) which will guarantee Israel's safety (5:4).



■ REMNANT BLESSED (5:7-8)

⁷And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the LORD, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men. ⁸And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep: who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver." (Mh.5:7-8)

- After the Messiah destroy's Israel's enemies the remnant of believing Israelites (Mh.2:12; 4:7; 5:8; 7:18) will be refreshed and influential like dew and rain showers (5:7) among many peoples.
- God's remnant will be like a ferocious lion (5:8) having dominion over other nations of the world (Du.28:13).

■ REMNANT PARDONED (7:18)

"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy." (Mh.7:18)

- The phrase, "Who is a God like you" seems like a word-play on Micah's name which means, "Who is like YHWH." This expects an answer of "none".
- The Lord pardons sin and transgression (Mh.1:5; 3:8; 6:7).
- Micah reminds his readers about the goodness and uniqueness of their God (Ex.34:6-7).
- The Lord does not stay angry for long (Ps.103:9).