

The Lord's Promised Ruler

Micah 2:12-13, 4:1 – 5:15, 7:8-20

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The Lord spoke through the prophet Micah:

In the last days, people from all over the world will stream to Jerusalem saying, "Let the God of Israel teach us how to live."

So when Assyria attacks Israel and Judah is exiled to Babylon, be patient. I will rescue you from your enemies. Many nations are gathered around you, longing to see your destruction. But they do not know my thoughts; they do not understand my plans for you. I will redeem you. Though you fall, I will lift you up. Though you sit in darkness, I will be your light. Your enemies will be overcome, and many will turn to me.

Bethlehem is only a small town. Yet out of Bethlehem will come my promised ruler, whose origins are in the distant past. He will bring together the faithful remnant of Israel. He will shepherd his flock from Jerusalem. His people will live in peace and prosperity. The whole world will know of him and will be amazed at what he accomplishes.

People of all nations will be welcomed under his rule. He will establish justice, settling disputes. Everyone's needs will be met. His peaceful ways will overcome any who would attack the innocent. He will put an end to war and will wipe out idol worship. Fear will be a thing of the past.

With compassion he will pardon the sins of his people and show them unfailing love.