

March 19, 2023 PM – Pastor Kevin Olivier  
**Micah 4:1-5** — “The Blessed Last Days”

- A. Enduring the OT prophets would be gruesome if the entire message was all of judgment.
- B. Today’s text shines with the light of the gospel.

Rejoice in the blessed last days given to us through Jesus Christ.	I. <u>DEFINING THE “LAST DAYS”</u> II. <u>THE REALIZED FULFILLMENT</u> III. <u>THE FUTURE TO BE FULFILLED</u>
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I. DEFINING THE “LAST DAYS” → **v1**

A. Eschatology comes from Greek word *eschatos*, ‘last’, the term refers to the ‘doctrine of the last things’.

- 1. To clarify the definition of “**last days**,” from **Micah 4:1**, we have to do a more in-depth study of how the Bible uses these 2 words together. How “last” or final is the word “last” used?

- a. **Heb 1:1-2** “**God, ... in these last days has spoken to us in His Son**”

- b. At the opening of his Pentecost sermon, Peter mentioned the fulfillment of the “**last days**” from Joel’s prophecy. → **Acts 2:1-21**

- 1) Peter said the gift of tongues here is the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy concerning the “**the last days.**”

- 2) Even the language that some may say concerns the end of the world, (**v20**) was fulfilled during Pentecost.

- c. According to **Heb 1** & **Acts 2**, we can say we are already living in the “**last days**” foretold by **Joel 2** & **Micah 4:1**

- 1) Last is not very last as many think about the use of the word.

- 2) There is an absolute sense of “**last**” we should love as Reformed believers as opposed to dispensationalists.

- a. We are in the last age of redemptive history.

- b. Dispensationalism says the “church age” or “age of grace” is an extended period from the resurrection of Jesus until the rapture of the church (**1 Thess 4:13-18**).<sup>1</sup>

- c. Christ promised to build His church & “**the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it**” (**Mat 16:18**, NKJV).

B. The “**last days**” must be understood as the last age of redemptive history; however, there are elements of Micah’s prophecy concerning the “**last days**” that are future. “In NT eschatology both an ‘already’ of accomplished fulfillment & a ‘not yet’ of still outstanding promise. There is both a ‘realized’ & a ‘future’ aspect to eschatology.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.compellingtruth.org/seven-dispensations.html>

<sup>2</sup> Bauckham, R. J. (1996). Eschatology. In D. R. W. Wood, et al Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 334).

## II. THE REALIZED FULFILLMENT → **vv1-3**

A. It is not a coincidence that the Lord Jesus ascended a small mountain to deliver His most famous sermon.

1. Jesus came to build a spiritual house. It is built upon the foundation of prophets & apostles with Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone.

a. His house— His holy bride— has been **“established as the chief of the chief of the mountains” (v1).**

b. Micah foretold that **“the peoples will stream to it.”**

1) The Hebrew word used here is **“goyim”** which can also be translated as “nations” or “gentiles.”

2) For those Israelites who use the word “goyim” with disdain, they need a dose of **Micah 4!**

3) The fact that Christ’s church is comprised of people from almost every nation, tribe, & tongue is a testimony to **Micah 4:1-3. →v2**

2. Christ’s Great Commission was also given on the mountain just before He ascended up into heaven. His mandate is reminiscent of **Micah 4:2**

→ **Mat 28:16-20.**

B. Micah’s comment in **v5** should be seen as a steadfast commitment the faithful should make in light of God’s glorious revelation in **vv1-4. → v5**

This is reminiscent of **Josh 24:15. “Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me & my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

## III. THE FUTURE TO BE FULFILLED → **vv3**

A. This day is coming yet the ongoing war between Ukraine & Russia reminds us that we are not there yet.

B. Isaiah said that the holy Messiah, the root of Jesse, is the source of such peace on earth. → **Isa 11:1-10.**

1. **Isa 11:9** also foretells that the God of Israel wasn’t just to be worshipped in Jerusalem. **“For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”**

2. Much of this prophecy has matters already fulfilled or realized in Jesus yet matters such as an end to all hurt and destruction are the future aspect yet to be fulfilled.

C. **Micah 4:4** gives us another beautiful example of glorious peace for the new heavens and the new earth: **“Each of them [goyim, v3] will sit under his vine & under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.”**

Review, further application, & conclusion: