

Micah 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In 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;

Analysis

In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth (בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא נֶאֱמַר, bayyom hahu ne'um-YHWH osehah tsole'ah). "That day" (בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, bayyom hahu) points to the messianic age. God promises to אָסַף (asaph, assemble/gather) the צִלְעָה (tsole'ah, lame/limping/halting one). This feminine singular personifies Israel—wounded, disabled by judgment, unable to walk straight. Physical lameness metaphorically depicts spiritual condition after exile—broken, scattered, weak.

And I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted (וְהִנַּדַּחְתִּי וְאֶקְבְּצָהּ, we-hanniddachah aqabetsah wa-asher hare'oti). The נִדָּח (niddach, driven away/banished/outcast) describes exile's dispersal. God acknowledges: אֲשֶׁר הִרְעֵיתִי (asher hare'oti, whom I have afflicted)—He caused the affliction. This isn't arbitrary cruelty but covenant discipline. Hebrews 12:5-11 explains: **"Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth... no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness."**

The imagery is pastoral and tender—God gathering wounded sheep. Ezekiel 34:11-16 similarly depicts God seeking lost sheep, binding up the broken, strengthening the sick. Jesus fulfilled this role: **"I am come to seek and to save that which was lost"** (Luke 19:10). He healed the lame literally (Matthew 15:30-31; Luke 7:22) and spiritually (John 5:1-9), demonstrating Messianic

credentials. The prophecy assures: judgment isn't God's final word; restoration follows discipline for the repentant remnant.

Historical Context

Exile was Israel's ultimate covenant curse—expulsion from the promised land (Deuteronomy 28:36-37, 63-68). Assyria scattered the Northern Kingdom (722 BC); Babylon exiled Judah (586 BC). These events left survivors traumatized—physically displaced, culturally disoriented, spiritually shaken. Ezekiel's vision of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14) captured this hopeless condition: dead, scattered, without breath or life.

Yet God promised restoration. Cyrus's edict (538 BC) allowed return; Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah led groups home. Yet prophetic promises transcended this partial fulfillment. Jesus's ministry focused on **"the lost sheep of the house of Israel"** (Matthew 10:6, 15:24). Pentecost began regathering scattered Jews (Acts 2:5-11). Paul's mission extended to Gentiles, creating one new humanity (Ephesians 2:11-22). The ultimate regathering occurs at Christ's return (Matthew 24:31; Revelation 7:9-10)—gathering elect from all nations into eternal kingdom.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to gather 'her that halteth' demonstrate His compassion for those broken by the consequences of sin and rebellion?
2. What does God's acknowledgment 'whom I have afflicted' teach about divine discipline being purposeful chastening rather than vindictive punishment?
3. In what ways does Christ's ministry of healing the lame fulfill this prophecy both literally and spiritually?

Interlinear Text

בִּי וּם	הָהּ וָא	נֶאֱמַר	יְהוָה ה	אֶסְפָּהּ	הַצֵּלָהּ ה
In that day	H1931	saith	the LORD	will I assemble	her that halteth
H3117		H5002	H3068	H622	H6760
וְהִנָּדָהּ ה	אֶקְבֹּץ צָה	וְאֶשׂ ר		הִרְעֵתִי:	
her that is driven out	and I will gather	H834		and her that I have afflicted	
H5080	H6908			H7489	

Additional Cross-References

Zephaniah 3:19 (Parallel theme): Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

Isaiah 56:8 (References Lord): The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.

Psalms 147:2 (References Lord): The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel.

John 10:16 (Parallel theme): And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.