

Micah 5:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And 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.

Analysis

Messianic King's peaceful reign: 'And 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.' The Ruler from Bethlehem (v. 2) will 'stand and shepherd' (we-amad we-ra'ah) His flock with YHWH's strength and majesty. 'They shall abide/dwell securely' (we-yashavu) contrasts with Israel's exile and instability. 'Great unto the ends of the earth' (ad-apsey-aretz) indicates universal dominion. Jesus fulfills this: the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-14) who draws all peoples (John 12:32), reigning over an everlasting kingdom (Luke 1:32-33, Revelation 11:15). His greatness extends globally through gospel spread; His peaceable kingdom manifests progressively now, consummately at His return.

Historical Context

Micah prophesied during tumultuous 8th century BC: Assyrian threat, political instability, social injustice. The promise of a shepherd-king from Bethlehem offered hope beyond immediate crisis. David, the shepherd-king from Bethlehem, typified this greater David (Matthew 1:1). Jesus's birth in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-6, Luke 2:4-7) fulfilled the geographic prophecy; His ministry as teaching, healing, and sacrificial Shepherd fulfilled the functional aspect. His resurrection and ascension established His universal reign. The church age sees progressive expansion of His kingdom 'unto the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). The second coming will consummate the peaceable kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-9, Revelation 20-22).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus as the Shepherd-King from Bethlehem provide security and peace for my soul?
2. In what ways do I participate in extending Christ's reign 'unto the ends of the earth' through witness and discipleship?

Interlinear Text

וְעָמַד דַּ	וְרָעָה	בְּעֹז	יְהוָה	בְּגֹאֲוֹן
And he shall stand	and feed	in the strength	of the LORD	in the majesty
H5975	H7462	H5797	H3068	H1347
שֵׁם	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יוֹ	וְיָשְׁבוּ	כִּי
of the name	of the LORD	his God	and they shall abide	
H8034	H3068	H430	H3427	H3588
				H6258
לְגָדֵךְ	עַד	אַפְסֵי	אֶרֶץ:	
for now shall he be great		unto the ends	of the earth	
H1431	H5704	H657	H776	

Additional Cross-References

Micah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

Luke 1:32 (References God): He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Revelation 11:15 (References Lord): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

1 Peter 1:5 (References God): Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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