

Micah 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And 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.

Analysis

And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the LORD. The phrase "remnant of Jacob" (שֵׁאָרִית יַעֲקֹב, she'erit Ya'akov) refers to the faithful surviving community—those who trust Messiah. In judgment, God preserves a remnant (Isaiah 10:20-22; Romans 9:27; 11:5). This remnant becomes a blessing "in the midst of many people"—among Gentile nations. The simile "as a dew from the LORD" (כְּתַל מְאֹת יְהָוָה, ke-tal me'et Yahweh) pictures gentle, life-giving moisture descending from heaven. Dew in Israel's dry climate meant survival for crops during rainless summers.

"As the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men." This intensifies the imagery: like rain showers reviving vegetation, the remnant brings blessing. The phrase "tarrieth not for man" (לֹא יָקַבֵּה לְאַישׁ, lo yekavveh le-ish) emphasizes divine sovereignty—blessing doesn't depend on human initiation or merit but on God's gracious design. Rain falls at God's command, not man's manipulation. Similarly, the gospel spreads by divine power, not human scheming.

This describes the Church's mission: scattered among nations, believers bring spiritual refreshment. Jesus declared, "Ye are the light of the world...the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13-14). Paul wrote that God "always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place" (2

Corinthians 2:14). The remnant's presence brings blessing—evangelism, compassion, justice, truth. Where Christ's people dwell, nations are refreshed.

Historical Context

Micah prophesied during a period when Israel faced extinction. The Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria in 722 BC; Judah teetered on collapse. Yet Micah promises a surviving remnant that would bless nations. This echoes God's promise to Abraham: "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). Israel was chosen not for exclusive privilege but to mediate blessing to all nations. The New Testament reveals the Church as this remnant—Jewish and Gentile believers united in Christ (Romans 11:17-24; Ephesians 2:11-22). Acts chronicles the gospel spreading from Jerusalem to Rome, fulfilling Micah's vision of the remnant blessing "many people." Wherever missionaries plant churches, communities are transformed—hospitals built, orphanages founded, literacy promoted, justice advanced. The remnant's influence exceeds its numbers.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the image of "dew from the LORD" shape your understanding of the Church's role among the nations?
2. In what ways can you serve as spiritual refreshment to those around you, bringing the life-giving gospel to spiritually dry places?
3. How does recognizing that blessing "tarrieth not for man" guard against both pride (when ministry thrives) and despair (when ministry struggles)?

Interlinear Text

וְיִהְיֶה	בְּשָׂאָר יִתְהַקֵּב	בְּצָקָרְבָּן	בְּעָמָדִים	רַבְּיִם
H1961	And the remnant	of Jacob	shall be in the midst	people
H7611		H3290	H7130	H5971
				H7227
כְּתֹל	מֵאַת	עַלְיִם	עַלְשָׁבָד	רָאשָׁנָה
as a dew	from the LORD	as the showers	upon the grass	
H2919	H853	H3068	H7241	H834
				H6212
לֹא	לֹא יְשַׁקְּיָה	לֹא יְמִתְּלַכֵּד	לֹבֶן יְמִינָה	אָדָם:
H3808	that tarrieth	not for man	nor waiteth	for the sons
H6960	H376	H3808	H3176	H1121
				H120

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 44:3 (Parallel theme): For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

Deuteronomy 32:2 (Parallel theme): My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

Micah 5:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore 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.

Psalms 72:6 (Parallel theme): He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.

Hosea 14:5 (Parallel theme): I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

Psalms 110:3 (Parallel theme): Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

Jeremiah 14:22 (References Lord): Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

Romans 10:20 (Parallel theme): But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

Zechariah 14:8 (Parallel theme): And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Hosea 6:3 (References Lord): Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

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