

Micah 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

Analysis

Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off. After describing the remnant's character (dew and lion), verse 9 announces victory. "**Thine hand shall be lifted up**" (תָּרַם יָדֶךָ, tarom yadkha) signals triumph—the raised hand of conquest. In battle, the victor raises his hand/weapon in triumph over defeated foes. This echoes Moses's raised hands during Israel's battle with Amalek (Exodus 17:11): when hands were lifted, Israel prevailed.

"All thine enemies shall be cut off" (וְכֹל-אֹיְבֶיךָ יִכְרַתּוּ, ve-khol oyvekha yikkaretu) promises complete victory. The verb קָרַת (karat), to cut off, destroy, exterminate, indicates decisive judgment. No enemy survives; all opposition is eliminated. This doesn't mean individual believers never suffer but that Christ's ultimate victory is certain. Revelation 20:7-10 describes Satan's final defeat; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26 promises Christ will abolish all rule, authority, and power, with death itself destroyed last.

This victory belongs not to human effort but divine intervention. The remnant doesn't conquer through military prowess but through Messiah's power working through them. Zechariah 4:6 declares: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Romans 16:20 promises: "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." The Church militant becomes the Church triumphant—current struggles give way to ultimate victory.

Historical Context

Micah's audience faced overwhelming enemies—Assyria threatened annihilation. How could Israel triumph? By trusting the coming Ruler from Bethlehem. Church history demonstrates this pattern: early Christians faced Roman persecution yet outlasted the empire. Medieval believers endured darkness yet preserved Scripture. Reformers confronted ecclesiastical tyranny yet recovered the gospel. Modern believers face secularism, persecution, and apostasy yet stand on Christ's promise: "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Every generation faces existential threats; every generation proves God's faithfulness. The remnant endures because Messiah ensures its survival.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does confidence in Christ's ultimate victory over all enemies sustain you during present trials and opposition?
2. What "enemies" (spiritual forces, false ideologies, personal sins) does Christ promise to "cut off" in your life?
3. How should awareness of certain triumph shape the Church's approach to cultural hostility and persecution?

Interlinear Text

מָתַר	עַל	בְּעֵבֶר	כִּל
shall be lifted up	Thine hand	H5921	upon thine adversaries
H7311	H3027		H6862
אֵיבֶרֶתָה			
and all thine enemies	shall be cut off		
H341	H3772		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 26:11 (Parallel theme): LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.

Psalms 21:8 (Parallel theme): Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.

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