

Micah 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain.

Analysis

In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria (yom hu ve'adeyka yavo lemiAssur, יוֹם הוּא וְעַד־יָבוֹא לִמְנֵי אַשּׁוּר). This describes worldwide ingathering to restored Israel. Ashur (אַשּׁוּר, Assyria) represents the empire that conquered Northern Israel and deported populations. The prophecy promises their return and, more broadly, nations streaming to Zion.

And from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain (ume'arei matsor ve'ad-nahar veyam miyyam vehar hahar, וּמִמְעָרֵי מְצוֹר וְעַד־נָהָר וַיָּם מִיָּם וְהָר הָהָר). This comprehensive geographic description—from fortified cities to the river (Euphrates), from sea to sea (Mediterranean to Persian Gulf or Red Sea), from mountain to mountain—indicates universal scope. People from every direction and all nations will come to worship the Lord.

This connects with Micah 4:1-2's prophecy of nations flowing to the mountain of the Lord. Partial fulfillment occurred when exiles returned from Babylon/Persia. Greater fulfillment came through Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) as the gospel spread worldwide. Ultimate fulfillment awaits the eschaton when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:9) and Revelation 7:9's multitude from every nation worships before the throne.

Historical Context

After Assyria conquered Israel (722 BC), populations were deported throughout the empire (2 Kings 17:6)—Media, Mesopotamia, and beyond. Babylon later exiled Judah similarly. The promise of return seemed impossible, yet God brought remnants back (Ezra 1-2). But the prophecy's scope exceeds mere political restoration. It envisions worldwide pilgrimage to worship Israel's God. This finds fulfillment in the church age as Gentiles from every nation are incorporated into God's people (Ephesians 2:11-22), and will be consummated when Christ returns and establishes His global kingdom (Zechariah 14:16-19; Revelation 21:24-26).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this prophecy of worldwide ingathering expand our vision for gospel mission and global church?
2. In what ways do we see fulfillment of nations 'coming to Zion' in the church's multi-ethnic, global composition?
3. How should the certainty of ultimate worldwide worship of God shape our prayers and efforts for evangelism?

Interlinear Text

י וֹם	הוא	יָבֹא	יָבֹא	לְמִנִּי	אֶשׁ וֹר
In that day		also he shall come			even to thee from Assyria
H3117	H1931	H5704	H935	H4480	H804
י וְעָרֵי	וְלִמְנֵי	מִצּוֹר	יָבֹא	נָהָר	
cities		and from the fortified		even to the river	
H5892	H4692	H4480	H5704	H5104	
מִיָּם	מִיָּם	הַהָרִ:	הַהָרִ:		
and from sea	and from sea	and from mountain	and from mountain		
H3220	H3220	H2022	H2022		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 11:16 (Parallel theme): And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Hosea 11:11 (Parallel theme): They shall tremble as a bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of Assyria: and I will place them in their houses, saith the LORD.