

Micah 7:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage (re'eh ammekha beshivtekha tson nachalatekha, רְעֵה עֲמֶךָ בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ צֹאן נַחֲלָתֶךָ). This prayer addresses God as Shepherd—ra'ah (רָעָה, "to shepherd/feed") indicates both feeding and leading. The shebet (שֵׁבֶט, "rod/staff") is the shepherd's tool for guiding and protecting sheep (Psalm 23:4). Nachalah (נַחֲלָה, "heritage/inheritance") recalls Israel as God's special possession (Deuteronomy 32:9).

Which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel (shokenim levadad ya'ar betokh Karmel, שֹׁכְנִים לְבַדָּד יַעַר בְּתוֹךְ כַּרְמֶל). "Dwelling solitarily" (levadad) suggests isolation during exile or threat—sheep scattered and vulnerable. Yet even in the forest (danger, isolation), God can shepherd them. Carmel, known for lush vegetation, promises provision.

Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old (yir'u Bashan veGil'ad kimei olam, יִרְעוּ בָּשָׁן וְגִלְעָד כִּימֵי עוֹלָם). Bashan (east of Jordan) and Gilead were famous for rich pastures and livestock (Deuteronomy 32:14; Jeremiah 50:19). "As in days of old" recalls Israel's golden age under David/Solomon when they possessed these territories and enjoyed prosperity. The prayer asks God to restore former blessings—both territorial possession and spiritual prosperity. Christ fulfills this as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-14) who feeds His flock and will ultimately restore all things (Acts 3:21).

Historical Context

During exile and oppression, Israel lost control of their historic grazing lands. Bashan and Gilead, once Israelite territories, were occupied by others. The prayer for restoration looked back to the united monarchy's territorial extent and forward to Messianic restoration. Jesus as the Good Shepherd provides the ultimate answer—He feeds His people spiritually (John 6:35), protects them (John 10:28), and will gather them from every nation (John 10:16). The millennial kingdom promises literal restoration of Israel's land and peace (Isaiah 11:6-9), while the New Heavens and Earth provide eternal rest for God's flock (Revelation 7:17, 21:1-4).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does viewing God as our Shepherd with rod and staff provide comfort during times of isolation or vulnerability?
2. What 'Bashan and Gilead'—places of past blessing and abundance—do you long for God to restore?
3. How does Jesus as the Good Shepherd fulfill and surpass Micah's prayer for Israel's restoration?

Interlinear Text

לְבַד ד	שֹׁכֵן י	נַחֲלֶתָּ בְּ	צֹאן	בְּשִׁבְטְךָ	עַמֶּיךָ	יִרְעוּ ו
solitarily	which dwell	of thine heritage	the flock	with thy rod	thy people	Feed
H910	H7931	H5159	H6629	H7626	H5971	H7462
כִּימֵי י	וְגִלְעָד ד	בְּשָׁן	יִרְעוּ ו	כַּרְמֶל ל	בֵּית וְנָ	יַעַר
as in the days	and Gilead	in Bashan	Feed	of Carmel	in the midst	in the wood
H3117	H1568	H1316	H7462	H3760	H8432	H3293

עוֹלָם:

of old

H5769

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:10 (Parallel theme): They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

Micah 5:4 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 37:24 (Parallel theme): By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, and the forest of his Carmel.

Isaiah 40:11 (Parallel theme): He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Psalms 28:9 (Parallel theme): Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

Psalms 100:3 (Parallel theme): Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalms 95:7 (Parallel theme): For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,

Amos 9:11 (Parallel theme): In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

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