

NICAH'S VIEW OF THE LAST DAYS

Message by Dr. Allan A. MacRae
President and Professor of Old Testament
Faith Theological Seminary
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

God's Word contains no more important prophetic passage than the one that we are about to discuss. The prophet spoke in a day when sin was deepening, and the terrible captivity was beginning to loom on the horizon, yet this passage gives us a wonderful picture of the glorious springtime yet to come.

The prophets were not simply forecasters of the future. It was not their purpose merely to satisfy curiosity, but to encourage God's people to do His will. All their messages were intensely practical.

Although we shall now direct our attention mainly to the wonderful picture of the last days in Micah 4:1-8, we shall also examine the passages immediately preceding and immediately following. As in the case of most of the great prophetic passages in the Bible, the prophet relates his message very directly to a particular situation. This situation is described in the chapter preceding Micah's view of the last days. Consequently, we will look first at Chapter 3 - the occasion of the prediction.

I. THE OCCASION OF THE PREDICTION - Micah 3:1-12

Micah gave us the wonderful picture in Chapter 4 for our encouragement, and he gave it in the first instance for the encouragement of the people to whom he spoke. As we read the preceding chapter, we can almost imagine that we are reading a description of our own country. He is talking to a people whom God has greatly blessed, giving them such privileges as no other people in the history of the world had ever had. Yet we find this people turning against Him and doing what is contrary to His will. Micah says that they are "building up Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity (3:10)." "The heads thereof judge for reward, and