



**God  
Promises  
Wars Will  
Cease**

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**Berean Series  
Bible Studies**

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## God Promises Wars Will Cease

(Public Address)

**B**eginning this subject, we would like to read a prophecy from the book of Micah. When we read from the Old Testament, we realize that God's prophets spoke as they were moved by His spirit. It was not their message, it was God's message for us. Micah 4:1-4 reads — "In the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none

shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.”

“The mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it” through the prophet Micah; that is God’s message to everyone who can read this prophecy and take it to heart. It will be fulfilled in God’s wonderful due time, which is not very far off today, considering world events. This message from Micah really means what it says, because God hath spoken it, and that sets the seal as to the surety of the fulfilment of this prophecy.

It is helpful to determine at what time this prophecy is due for fulfilment. Three great periods of time are outlined by the Apostle Peter in 2 Pet. 3, as “the world that was”, “the world that now is” (from Peter’s day to the second advent of Christ), and “the world to come, wherein dwelleth righteousness” — referring to the Kingdom Age of the Lord.

Micah was used to prophesy the words quoted in this 4th chapter about the eighth century B.C., during the Jewish Age, when God was dealing with the nation of Israel in particular; and the time for the fulfilment of Micah 4 will be mainly during the Millennial

Age. The close of the Gospel Age agrees with the opening words of Micah — “In the last days it shall come to pass” — referring to the last days of the reign of sin and death in the world. This reign of sin and death has been over all mankind for the past six thousand years, since man disobeyed and God was required to pronounce His penalty of death — “dying thou shalt die”. These words of Micah are to be fulfilled at the end of the Gospel Age and into the Millennial Age.

We can well understand that the establishment of the mountain or kingdom of the Lord in the top of the world’s kingdoms will create world-wide upheaval. Mankind under the spirit of the Adversary will resist God in His taking over the world’s affairs. This is shown clearly in other prophecies, as well as by the Lord Himself.

Turning to Daniel 12, we note how Daniel was also used of God to explain the very days in which we live, and the events we know are very prevalent in our day. Verse 1 reads — “At that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a

nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” Daniel wished to know about these events, but verse 4 reads — “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Three outstanding things are mentioned in these verses — increase of knowledge, running to and fro, and a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. No intelligent person can doubt that we are now living in “the time of the end”, when these three things are being fulfilled before our eyes. The increase of knowledge over the last 50 years, and the last decade in particular, has led not only to running to and fro, but the very increase of knowledge is leading to the greatest time of trouble the world has ever known. Increased knowledge in the hands of imperfect and sinful people creates trouble. The Lord, knowing this, withheld the knowledge from mankind until near the time when His Kingdom would be set up. Think of mankind living for well over five thousand years with very little increase of

knowledge. Now, when we get to the last 100, 50, 25, 10, even the last year, the increase of knowledge is immense. The young people now know what the old people did not know just a few years ago. God has allowed this in the time of the end of the reign of sin and death, the time when God is about to take a hand in world affairs, judge the nations, and remove the present order of society to make a clean foundation for His Kingdom, the reign of Christ, during which there will then be no more wars, no more suffering, no more death.

Let us note the prophet Joel's prophecy concerning the time preparatory to the establishment of the Lord's Kingdom. This is the exact opposite to what Micah told us about. This great time of trouble will be a blessing in disguise — the outcome will be so glorious that it will be "the desire of all nations" ultimately — Haggai 2:7. Joel was also speaking by God's holy spirit. Reading from Joel 3:9-14 — "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into

spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.”

Thus we have described the day of the LORD, the day of Jehovah, when God takes over to clear away this “present evil world”.

This will be a terrible time of trouble, but God knows how to arrange affairs so that the Kingdom of Christ may have a clean basis, not hindered by the governments of men. It will have a clean foundation, wherein will dwell righteousness. This happens in point of time prior to the day we read of in Micah. Warmongers are now manufacturing munitions with the greatest power of all time.

The weak and insignificant nations are saying, I am strong. Poor nations are trying to get the atomic bomb, thinking this will make them a force to be reckoned with.

In verses 17 and 18 of Joel 3, the prophecy passes over into the Millennial Age for fulfilment. The verses read — “So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.” There we have explained the changing over into the new order of things God has arranged to follow the time of great trouble upon the world.

In Luke 21 our Lord tells us much the same as these prophecies. He explains also what would happen in the end of this dispensation, prior to the setting up of His Kingdom, so we would be informed and

know that we need not be unduly concerned, because God's hand is in all the world affairs He permits. In Luke 21:25,26 we read Jesus' words — "Upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Not God's heaven, but the powers of the religious heavens, on the earth.

Regarding "the sea and the waves roaring", the "sea" represents the masses of humanity and the "waves" dashing up against the land pictures the anarchistic conditions. In Isa. 57:20,21 we read — "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."

However, the Lord will have His way of so shaking the nations that lasting lessons will be learned, as expressed in Haggai 2:6,7 — "For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the

dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.” “The desire of all nations shall come” — all people of all nations will be satisfied with Christ’s Kingdom reign, because it will be a new order that will give them hope and confidence and trust in the Lord, who really is able to bring in a Kingdom which to all eternity will be for their highest welfare.

In Revelation 7 we have a vision given to the Apostle John that agrees with Haggai. It speaks of the holding back of the winds of trouble. It seems we are living today in the time of the holding back of the trouble for a particular purpose. “After these things I saw.” This is not necessarily in point of time after the events of chapter 6, but after the events of the previous recording to John. “I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to

whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” — Rev.7:1-3. That is a wonderful prophecy, depicting the holding back of the winds of trouble that they do not blow down this present world order until God’s time — waiting for the sealing of God’s servants. Many have known the Lord in their hearts, now they need the sealing in their foreheads in respect of the intelligence of God’s Plan — understanding the will of the Lord and to be equipped to know what to expect when taken to be with the Lord on the other side of the veil. The winds could blow severely at almost any time, but the particular symbols depict the very days in which we are now living. We are thankful to God that the “winds” are held back till God’s harvest work is completed — until all worthy of the heavenly calling are found and sealed by His spirit in both heart and mind.

Another outstanding Scripture is found in Hebrews 12, where the Apostle Paul contrasts the inauguration of the Law Covenant in Moses’ day with the institution

of the New Covenant at the end of the Gospel Age and leading into the Kingdom. From verse 18 the passage agrees with Haggai and Revelation 7. He is telling us as Christians that we are not looking back to the commotion on Mount Sinai, but forward to the wonderful Kingdom of Christ. "Ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken unto them any more . . . But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God." This is what we are approaching as God's people of the Gospel Age. "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant." We are looking forward to the time when Jesus will be the Mediator of the New Covenant in the Kingdom time. "And to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel." Abel's blood called for vengeance. This

blood of sprinkling will speak blessing. God will provide for forgiveness and blessing in this wonderful time when Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant. "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: whose voice then shook the earth (God's voice shook the earth in the time of Moses): yet now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven." The religious heavens will be shaken right down so they will be dissolved. "This word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made (man-made), that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." — Heb.12:18,19,22-27. Any good things God will not shake to pieces. He will shake down all those things which are of man's systems, man's organizations, man's society. They will be so shaken to be absolutely removed to make way for the Kingdom, when there will be no more wars and suffering, distress and perplexity, but a new order, a new heavens and earth wherein

dwelleth righteousness. We see from this Scripture that all things of this present evil world will be so manifested as being man-made, so undesirable in the extreme time of trouble that mankind will desire to learn war no more. Even now people who once gloried in war are almost revolting at the thought of war. Wars must cease, God says so.

So mankind will desire to learn war no more when God takes over and brings down the present order that has not been in the slightest successful, because God has allowed mankind their own choice and to learn the hard way. They will not desire to taste the sour grape again, but will have the opportunity to learn righteousness, as declared in Isa.26:9 — “When thy (God’s) judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.”

In Acts 17:31 we read the assurance from the Apostle Paul — “God hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” We all know who that Man is — Jesus, the risen Christ, who will administer

this wonderful Kingdom. Mankind will have the opportunity of learning righteousness under the wonderful rulership of our dear Lord on high.

How definite and assuring are the words of Psalm 46:9. The Psalmist was used of God to tell of this time when God “maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.” All the instruments of war will be absolutely destroyed when God takes command in the time of bringing mankind into line in preparation for the blessings of the Kingdom to follow. When we think of the various chariots of war today, and know that they will all be destroyed from the face of the earth, how thankful we are that God has so arranged His plan as to bring real and lasting peace to redeemed humanity.

As the words of God’s command in verse 10 of Psa.46 are obeyed — “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exaited in the earth” — the hushed human family will find themselves in a new order, when they are stilled

from the troubled times in which they have been involved. God's time of peace on earth, goodwill to men, will then have been inaugurated.

However, will mankind really be happy when all wars have ceased, if their loved ones are still growing old and passing away in death, as has been the case since the death penalty was inflicted on our first parents in the Garden of Eden? We cannot think that anyone would be happy under those conditions. But God's wonderful Kingdom will provide that people will not grow old. They are not going to die at all when they are obedient to the laws of Christ's Kingdom. Some people say, That is too good to be true. But the Bible from the beginning to end tells us that death will be done away with, and wars will cease. People will be happy when they live to the praise of God. There would not have been any death if mankind had been obedient in the Garden of Eden. But man disobeyed God, and the penalty was death — "Dying thou shalt die." God sent Jesus not only to wipe away warfare; He is going to wipe away death from all the earth. That is

the message of the Gospel — good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people — Luke 2:10. That is the message of God's Word from beginning to end, because Christ tasted death for every person — every man, woman and child who has ever lived will have a resurrection from the dead. People will not even say they are sick, at that time.

Isaiah 33:20-22,24 tells us about this great time. "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us." Verse 24 — "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." There will be no more sickness, suffering, pain or death, and no more warfare. That is the message of the Bible. It has not been understood down the centuries of

the Gospel Age. The idea has been that when people pass away the reasonably good go to heaven. People who are not reasonably good will go to hell. There are Christian churches which surprisingly enough still teach the doctrine of hell fire, which is not taught in the Bible. Jesus went to the Bible hell to redeem everybody out of the Bible hell. Rev.1:18 says — “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” He is going to open up the prison house of death and bring everybody out of the Bible hell, back to the restored earth again — that is, those who have not been the Lord’s special followers of the Gospel Age for the heavenly Kingdom. Isn’t that a Plan we would expect from a God who so loved the world as to send Jesus to be the Redeemer of all mankind?

Turning to the New Testament we have the assurance that the Old Testament patriarchs will be resurrected on the earth when wars are no more. Our Lord gave us a picture of that in Luke 13. The Lord had many who opposed Him at His first advent, even the religionists of His day. He taught in Luke

13:28,29 of a time when the prophets will be back on the earth, and those who opposed Him will be cast out until they obey the laws of the Kingdom. "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God." Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be in authority then. They were not invited to go to heaven. They will be running earth's affairs. That time is not yet; but when the Kingdom comes, they will be raised up to be "princes in all the earth" — Psa.45:16. The people will be under those "princes" as tutors, to be taught the laws of the Kingdom, that they may learn to do righteously. God will judge them in righteousness, and they will progress back to perfection and will not die. There will be no more wars; they will have ceased at the beginning of the Kingdom Age. Mankind will have a thousand years to attain perfection on the earth. Christ and His Church will be the new heavens. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in

all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” — Isa.11:9.

Isaiah 35 tells us about the “times of restitution of all things” when everything will be restored to the condition which would have been if mankind had been obedient. Verse 1 — “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” There will be full and plenty for every human being who has ever lived. When some people hear of the resurrection they say — There won’t be room on the earth. But God knows about every human being who has ever lived, and He says they will come back and live happily. Verse 5 — “The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.” People have eyes now which do not see, and ears which do not hear the message of the Lord. From verse 6 — “Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of dragons, where

each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there” — a highway for people to walk back to perfection — “and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it” — it will be for the unclean; as they walk along they will become clean — “No lion shall be there” — Satan will be restrained — “nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads.” Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all, for every human being. The ransomed of the Lord will return from the land of the enemy — “they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

The Prophet Isaiah has presented a wonderful message from God. It is for us, for everybody who can receive it, everybody who has enough interest and zeal to desire to know about it. We need to do something ourselves. We have to use our minds and hearts, our best powers. God does not force His truth on anyone. He will not do that even

in the Kingdom Age. With Satan bound at that time it will be so easy to do the right thing. It is difficult now, but God is stronger than the evil one. He will help us to become more and more at-one with Him, to understand His wonderful will and purpose, His Plan. Irrespective of world conditions, God is keeping His people. Any one of the small troubles in this world can develop into a big trouble overnight, and when God's time comes nothing will hold back the "winds". But eventually — "the ransomed of the Lord shall return with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads."

We realize also that God is taking out a people for His name from humanity, now, during this Gospel Age. He has been doing this ever since our Lord's first advent. Two thousand years have been set aside for selecting the Bride of Christ. God knows each one to call. Jesus said, in John 6:44 — "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." If we feel the drawing of God in our hearts we must respond, tell the Lord how we love Him and His Word, accepting the fact that Christ

tasted death for every man, and learn more about God's Plan. But no one will know until God draws them. Then God will teach us from His Word, that we may grasp what He requires of us. We should follow in Jesus' steps, presenting ourselves to God. All told, these are comparatively few, a little flock. "To you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven" — Matt.13:11 — but to the multitude it was not given, because they were not of the right material. What a privilege, to know the Lord now!

Returning to Hebrews 12, we had previously quoted to verse 27, that shaking time of both the symbolic heavens and earth. We shall note verse 27 again, and then verse 28 — "And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." God's Kingdom cannot be moved; it will endure forever.

The opening verses of Psalm 46 have a very comforting message for us in connection

with the breaking down of the present world order, as follows — “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.” There we have briefly outlined the wiping away of this present order of things on earth; but those who are trusting fully in God will not fear, even though the mountains (kingdoms) be carried into the midst of the sea, the restless masses of humanity. “Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof” — the same symbols used in Haggai and in the Lord’s own message. Right after that time there will be no more wars, no more suffering and death because the time will be due for the setting up of God’s Kingdom. In the meantime, verses 4 and 5 apply — “There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most high.” The streams of truth and the blessings of God’s spirit in the hearts of His people, are to keep them through all trials and tribulations. “God is in the midst of her; she shall not be

moved: God shall help her, and that right early” — at the dawning of her morning. The Psalm goes on to refer to the heathen raging, the kingdoms being moved, the earth melting at the voice of the Lord. But “The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.” Then verses 9 and 10 — “He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still (humanity), and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord’s people need the comfort of the Scriptures and the Lord’s spirit that they may be kept during this distress of nations with perplexity. Turning to Psalm 91:1,2 we read “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.” We remember Job said — “Thou he slay me, yet will I trust him” — Job 13:15. He knew that what God permitted He could well overrule for good. So those

who dwell in the secret place of the most High are rejoicing in the deliverance that will come to all the obedient, and ultimately for all the families of the earth.

The Christian's conduct during these times in which we are living is most important. The Apostle Paul in 2 Cor.10:3-5 tells us of our responsibilities and privileges in these days — "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh." We are not to become involved in worldly affairs of any kind. The Christian must be separate from the world and its affairs. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" — subduing our own wrong aspirations etc., "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." The Christian rules himself by God's spirit, so his weapons are not carnal, but mighty through God. They are weapons to control his own life, and to be of help to others. Then verse 6 — "Having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." When the obedience, or service, of God's people is

completed, God will be ready to avenge all disobedience in the world. He will take charge, and control the waywardness of humanity, and bring about the elimination of earthly governments, to make a clean foundation for the wonderful Kingdom, for which our Lord asked us to pray — “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven” — Matt.6:10.

The Lord’s people should realize that they must keep clear of the turmoil consequent on the passing of the present world order, politically, or any kind of strife. In other words, they should not get in the way of Jehovah’s chariots. Jehovah’s work is to pull down this present world order; we do not want to get in the way of God’s work. When Israel were coming out of Egypt they came to the Red Sea. The Egyptians were behind them, and the Red Sea before them. Moses gave the message from the Lord — “Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” — Exod.14:13,14. The Lord

fought for them, and Israel went through the Red Sea on dry land. That is a picture. We also may stand still and see the salvation of God. God is going to complete this wonderful Plan of clearing away all of earth's authority and power. We rejoice in that. He will make wars to cease unto the ends of the earth, and bring about the salvation of every human being that they might live lastingly by obedience. Those faithful unto death now, who walk in the steps of the Master, will be associated in that wonderful work with Christ, bringing back humanity in the resurrection day and blessing them that they may rejoice in the grand inheritance of those who desire to live to God's praise for all time. So we praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

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