

Kingdom Focus

A Vision of the Kingdom from the Minor Prophets

by John Obelenus

Nearly all the minor prophets talk about the Kingdom of God. They bring lots of detail and clarity to our vision of the Kingdom. God has placed some of these men in specific situations to communicate by illustration to Israel. For example, He gave Hosea instruction to marry a prostitute to illustrate Israel's relationship with God. Even so, He instructs Hosea to care for this woman—to show His care for Israel. God then speaks of what He is going to do.

Hosea 2:16-20

"It will come about in that day," declares the LORD, "That you will call Me Ishi And will no longer call Me Baali.

For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, So that they will be mentioned by their names no more.

In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky And the creeping things

of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety.

I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion, And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD."

"Ishi" (verse 16) means husband. God will bring back His people even though they have committed adultery against God by worshipping Baal and other gods. He will covenant with them for peace and safety. He will have compassion on His people that they will know Him. In Christianity, we hear a lot about the "marriage of the Lamb" (Revelation 19). Jesus spoke a good number of parables about marriage and wedding feasts (Matthew 22; Luke 12 and 14). This is where it begins—in the prophets. Everything in the New Testament is founded on revelation from the Old Testament. God wants to provide for His people.

Joel 2:17-27

Let the priests, the LORD'S ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD will be zealous for His land And will have pity on His people.

The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied *in full* with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations.

But I will remove the northern *army* far from you, And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land, And its vanguard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea. And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up, For it has done great things.

Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the LORD has done great things.

Do not fear, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full.

So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for *your* vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before.

The threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil.

Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the

stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame.

Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame."

This passage telling of God's provision is in the context of His sending His army to rid Jerusalem of its enemies. I understand this chapter to be the second coming of Christ depicted in Zechariah 14:1-4, and Revelation 19:11-16—the very day of the LORD (Joel 2:1). God will vindicate His people in that day! He will bestow blessings on them and provide for their every need. The last will be made first in the Kingdom. Those who were trodden down will be lifted up. Those who trod down the people of God will be judged. The Kingdom age is likened to the golden era of Israel, which was the time of King David. Yet, the Kingdom will surpass even our wildest dreams.

Amos 9:11-15

"In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, And wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins And rebuild it as in the days of old;

That they may possess the remnant of Edom And all the nations who are called by My name," Declares the LORD who does this.

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine And all the hills will be dissolved.

Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit.

I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

More planting will be done when "the plowman will overtake the reaper" than harvesting! An abundance of food will be provided; no one will be lacking. There will be a time to live in peace. The land will be returned to its rightful owners. God's people will be brought out of captivity and into the "captivity" of Israel. God will recapture His people. They will be free in their homeland.

Obadiah 1:17,21

But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, And it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will

possess their possessions.

The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the LORD'S.

God's people who have had possessions taken from them will have them returned (Matthew 19:29). God will finally have His Kingdom in righteousness! Those who would not be ruled over will be judged (Luke 19:27). Those who would be ruled over (unbelievers at the time of the second coming) will live as mortals in the Kingdom—under the rule of Christ and the saints.

Micah 4:1-7

And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it.

Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war.

Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make *them* afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

Though all the peoples walk Each in the name of his god, As for us, we will walk In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

"In that day," declares the LORD, "I will assemble the lame And gather the outcasts, Even those whom I have afflicted.

I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever."

God's Kingdom and rule are coming! May we all seek to please the King, whether now in his absence or then in His presence (II Corinthians 5:9). Let us be humble towards the King and repent. We must be meek so we accept the commands of the King. God's heart is poured out for us. Let us have this attitude in these dark days.

Micah 7:7-9

But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.

Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me.

I will bear the indignation
of the LORD Because I
have sinned against Him,
Until He pleads my case
and executes justice for
me. He will bring me out
to the light, *And* I will see
His righteousness.