

Scripture Summer School

Jessie 5

Future



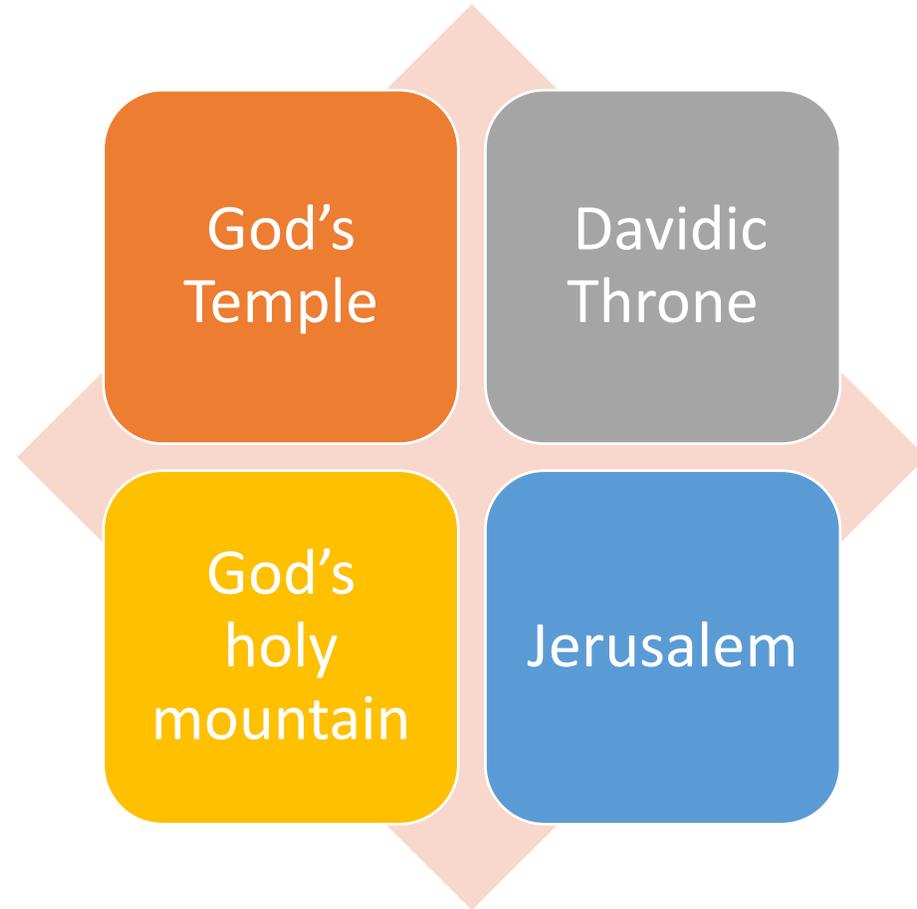


“In days to come ...”

Visions of the glorious future



Zion Symbolism



“In days to come ...”

Isaiah 2:2-5

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
³ Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Micah 4:1-5

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
² and many nations shall come and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
³ He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between **strong nations far away**;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;
⁴ **but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,**
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
⁵ For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
forever and ever.



Poetry - parallelism

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established
and shall be raised
as the highest of
above
the mountains,
the hills;

all the nations
Many peoples
shall stream to it.
shall come
and say,

'Come, let us go up
to the mountain
to the house
of the LORD,
of the God of Jacob

that he may teach us
and that we may walk
his ways
in his paths.'

For out of Zion
and the word of the LORD
shall go forth
instruction,
from Jerusalem.

He shall judge
and shall arbitrate
between the nations,
for many peoples;

they shall beat
their swords
and their spears
into ploughshares,
into pruning-hooks;

nation
neither shall they
shall not lift up sword against nation,
learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!



Zion

- God's place
- Mythological centre of the world
- Spatially symbolised
- Magnet for the peoples and nations
 - Force of attraction
 - Not 'proselytism'
- Source of God's lifegiving word
 - The word *goes out*

*In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of
the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the
hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
² and many nations shall come
and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain
of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his
paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth
instruction,
and the word of the LORD from
Jerusalem.*



Universal king

- God's direct rule
- Done through the vision that is entailed in Torah
- Peace
- Multicultural Harmony
- End of military production and stockpiling
- Investment in food production

*For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
³ He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;*



A neighbourly economy

- An economy of 'enough'
- No one is accumulating vast amounts by exploiting or disenfranchising others.
- No monopoly or concentration of wealth in the hands of a few.
- Contentment with what each has means the neighbour is safe. No more need of war.

*neither shall they learn war
any more;
⁴ but they shall all sit under
their own vines and under
their own fig trees,
and no one shall make
them afraid;*

(Micah 4)



A vision for 'now'

Let us live now in light of that vision!

- Universal
- In God's presence
- God's wisdom sought and found
- Peace-making
- Multicultural harmony
- From warfare to food production
- An economy of 'enough'

*O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!*

*For all the peoples walk,
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of
the LORD our God
forever and ever.*



The peaceable kingdom

Isaiah 11:6-9

- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the
asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the
adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the
LORD
as the waters cover the sea.



Edward Hicks, Puritan



∞ Who brings about this future?

“Not that I believe in progress. I do not see things getting better. Some things do get better; more, it seems, get worse. I merely report these flickers of light in the darkness so that we are clear that the darkness has not and cannot overcome them. We are not part of a movement that is inexorably bringing in a better society. We only have these occasional moments of grace and must trust the final outcome. Not that God intervenes only occasionally—God is the constant pressure for transformation in every situation. But God needs our response. These moments of grace, then, are epiphanies of the true meaning of the universe, theophanies that manifest God in the burning bushes of human affairs.”

Walter Wink “Standing on the Rock of the Impossible,”
Church and Society (1995): 3-9, here p9.



To think about ...

What element of the 'glorious future' resonates with me most strongly?

What practical step could we take *now* in the light of that future?

