

“In the last days, the mountain of the Lord’s house will be the highest of all—the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. People from many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob’s God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths.” For the Lord’s teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem.” Micah 4:1-2 NLT

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Micah’s prophecy captures the finality of peace, of unity of gathering to worship God and to learn. Over the years folks have referred to “mountaintop” experiences. These are moments away from the mundane routines of places and people. Our brain loves patterns because it’s basically lazy. It’s always finding shortcuts and faster pathways to conserve energy for the big stuff, like heartbeats and breathing 😊. But still, it condenses and compresses information much like a computer algorithm that finds similarities and throws out the rest. In other words, our brain QUILTS recording redundant info. Have you ever walked down your street, but can’t remember what you saw? Because your brain figured out the pattern from point A to point B and threw out the rest. Changing our environment puts our brain on alert to learn new information. We are far more open to new sights, sounds and ideas because we’ve never experienced it before. The “mountaintop” experience is real and so incredibly valuable. Micah is saying that in the future we will be going to God’s house (heaven) and our brains will be perfect to continually see, hear, smell and feel new experiences of worship and learning that will never be ruts or redundant pathways! It will be a perfect learning environment for eternity! And best of all, God will be, once again, be walking with us in the cool of the evening.

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Dad,
With all the things going on in our world right now, it is so delightful to think about a time when going home, going to your house, gathering together with others to worship and learn sounds so good. This waiting is when the power of HOPE comes in handy. We wait and we hope. The tension is knowing that heaven is real and it is coming, but not quite yet. I’m good with that. Of course, I want that peace of your presence now, but I know it’s pitted against the joy of being human, on earth, in a time of extremes - extreme chaos and joys. This time is unique and treasured because of that.

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rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root