

describe the regathering of Israel, which will occur just before the period described in the vision in verses 1 to 4, or during the very first part of this period. Verse 8 reads as follows: "And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion: the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem."

This description ends with a reminiscence of the fact that David began as a little shepherd and became the mighty king. The "tower of the flock" reminds us of David's shepherd days, while the phrase, "the strong hold of the daughter of Zion" refers to the place where David had his center of power. It would be natural to expect that the passage would now go on to tell us more about the coming king. We can hardly expect to have a wonderful kingdom of righteousness, peace, and happiness without a king who will reign and whose wisdom and power will establish it. Yet the coming of the king is barely touched upon in this passage. It is not until 5:2-4 that we learn more detail about the king.

Before we reach the description of the king, however, we come to the third main section of the vision - a section which gives us assurance and comfort for the long period before the promise actually arrives.

III. God's Assurance of His Continuing Oversight and of the Certainty of the Carrying Out of His Plan — 4:9-25a

I wish we had time to look at this section in detail, but all that we will be able to do will be barely to glance at its main headings. It is a very interesting section, which cannot be properly understood unless its relation to what precedes is first observed. Micah has given his wonderful picture of the great time of happiness that the Lord has promised. Now he uses a very unique method to give the people of God assurance that it is really coming.

The section divides into three parts, each of which gives a picture of a time of discouragement and difficulty that is ahead. In each case, Micah proceeds to