



8

The Coming Ruler

Key Theme

- God's plan of redemption was in place before time.

Key Passages

- Micah 5:2, 5:4; Matthew 2:1–2; Genesis 49:8; Revelation 5:5; John 1:1–2, 10:11; Micah 7:18–19; 1 Peter 2:24

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Connect the prophecy in Micah to the person of Jesus.
- Explain how God deals with our sin.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet using the letter clues. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a partner or to the teacher using only the letter clues.



Activity 1: The Coming Ruler Class Notes

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Students will fill out The Coming Ruler Class Notes as you study the lesson. Pass out the class notes before you begin to teach.



Studying God's Word

page 5

God had always planned that He would send a Savior to redeem fallen man. This plan is seen throughout the Old Testament and included Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to be born a man, live, die, and rise again so that all who would believe in Him would be saved.



Activity 2: Micah Concentration

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Students will review the lesson by playing a form of concentration as they match questions and answers together.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



THE COMING RULER CLASS NOTES

- Print, collate, and staple one The Coming Ruler Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- The Coming Ruler Class Notes for each student
- The Coming Ruler Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



MICAH CONCENTRATION

- Print and cut the 20 Micah Concentration Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. If you have a large class you may want more than 1 set. Students will be matching questions with answers.
- Print the Micah Concentration Cards Answer Key from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Micah Concentration Cards (20 total)
- Micah Concentration Cards Answer Key



Memory Verse

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

The gospel—the good news of the redemption of sinners through the promised Messiah—is woven like a scarlet thread throughout the Bible, like an arrow pointing to something wonderful that would surely come to fulfillment. As we look at the prophet Micah, we will see that he was one of the prophets of God who had the privilege of announcing the coming Messiah.

Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah, ministering to both Israel to the north and Judah to the south. He preached in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. His message concerned what he saw regarding Samaria and Jerusalem (Micah 1:1). He prophesied from around 760 to 710 BC. His proclamations and warnings were being sounded as Samaria fell to the Assyrians to the north in 721 BC.

Although Micah pronounced judgment on the people for their mistreatment of the poor (Micah 2:2), for false teachers (Micah 2:6), and for idolatry, he also spoke with hope of a light that would shine brightly into the future—a time when people would walk in the name of the Lord God forever and ever (Micah 4:5). His message of the future included revelations of the Messiah, the Savior—who He was and how He would be identified.

Let's look specifically at Micah 5:2. We see four characteristics here regarding the coming Messiah. First, the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Second, the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah. Third, the Messiah would be eternal. And fourth, in Micah 5:4, the Messiah would act as a shepherd who would feed His flock. These prophecies were all fulfilled, and God confirmed the fulfillment of them in other parts of Scripture.

The first part of the prophecy, that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, is confirmed in several places in the New Testament writings. We read that Joseph went up from Nazareth with Mary, his betrothed wife who was with child, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (Luke 2:4–5). Luke also recorded that the angels brought good tidings to the shepherds that a Savior was born in the city of David—Bethlehem (Luke 2:10–12). So 700 years after Micah foretold the Messiah's birthplace, the Savior was born in Bethlehem.

The second thing Micah told about the Messiah (Micah 5:2) was that He would be from the tribe of Judah. We'll go back in the Old Testament to see one confirmation of this prophecy. When Jacob blessed his sons and grandsons, the connection between this

coming Ruler and the tribe of Judah was made. Jacob spoke of the scepter—a sign of kingship—not departing from Judah until Shiloh comes, the Ruler who will bring peace (Genesis 49:8–10). The author of Hebrews declared that the Lord arose from Judah (Hebrews 7:14). Looking forward to the book of Revelation, we read that Jesus the Messiah is referred to as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David (Revelation 5:5). And finally, both genealogies of Christ show that He was from the tribe of Judah (Matthew 1:1–17; Luke 3:23–38).

The third characteristic described by Micah is the Messiah's eternity—His “goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” Micah, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, revealed that the Messiah was and is eternal. This is surely a difficult concept to grasp. Jesus, as part of the Trinity, did not begin to exist when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He existed in triune communion with the Father and the Spirit before the universe was created—before there was time. The Apostle John opens his Gospel with confirmation of this truth about the Messiah. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God” (John 1:1–2). Micah understood that the Messiah would be from everlasting to everlasting.

Fourthly, Micah described the Messiah as a shepherd who would “stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord” (Micah 5:4). The shepherd imagery of God and Jesus is found throughout Scripture (Psalm 23). And Jesus even referred to Himself as the “good shepherd” who gave His life for His sheep (John 10:11).

All of these characteristics of Jesus the Messiah are wonderful, and the Bible's confirmation of them gives us the assurance that Jesus Christ is the one prophesied by Micah.

One final truth from Micah about the Messiah is truly remarkable and very personal. Micah proclaimed that God would pardon iniquity and pass over the transgressions of His children. He would not retain His anger forever. He delights in mercy. God would have compassion on His children and cast all their sins into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:18–20). How would this be accomplished? Only through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross. Peter described this in the New Testament when he said that Christ “bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness” (1 Peter 2:24).

While Micah was looking forward to this Messiah and prophesying of Him by the power of God, we are able to look back and observe His finished work on the Cross—salvation and forgiveness for all who will

repent, turn from their sins, and trust in this precious Messiah, Savior, Jesus Christ.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As we consider the role of the prophet, we often come across the word “predict.” What comes to mind when you hear that someone made a prediction? Maybe you have made a prediction about who would win a contest or about when it would rain. What was that prediction based on? Would it be accurate to say that Micah made a prediction about the birthplace of Christ?

If we look up the word *predict* in Webster’s Dictionary we find: “to declare or indicate in advance; *especially*: foretell on the basis of observation, experience, or scientific reason.” The root of the word simply means “say before,” but the common usage today would align itself more with foretelling based on an observation or experience, like forecasting the weather.

While Micah’s statement about the birthplace of Christ was a prediction in the first sense of the definition above (declaring in advance), it cannot be explained by the second definition (“foretell on the basis of observation, experience, or scientific reason”). This is because Micah was not analyzing patterns or basing his prophecy on his personal experiences and knowledge of the Messiah. He wasn’t thinking that Jesus would *probably* be born in Bethlehem in Judah. No. It was the omniscient God who cannot lie who told Micah what was going to happen. Micah was merely passing the true Word of God along. The fulfillment of what Micah said was sure, not just probable. This was not a message from a weatherman, but from the God who controls

the weather. And this surety is true of ALL the prophecies we find in Scripture.

Be aware that many modern Bible translations use a form of the word *predict* when talking about the sure proclamations of God. While this is not technically wrong according to the definition above, the wording can be misleading to many hearers if it is not carefully defined and explained as a sure foretelling of God’s Word and His plan.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Sovereign Lord, who am I that you would save me? Who am I that you would reveal yourself to me? I never cease to be in awe of your ways! You loved me before the creation of the world. And you already had a plan in place to provide a way to save me from the punishment I deserve. Thank you for Jesus. This lesson brings me delight as I consider the continuity of Scripture. I am reminded that it’s your Word. It’s not a collection of the writings of men. You’ve preserved your Word through the ages, so that we would be able to know you and your plan of salvation. To you alone be the glory! Help me to be your vessel as I teach these truths to the precious children in my class. May each one receive your Word with joy and understanding.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



The Coming Ruler Class Notes

MATERIALS

- The Coming Ruler Class Notes
- The Coming Ruler Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see that Jesus fulfilled many of the prophecies made in the Old Testament.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to the History of Israel Poster. Last time we heard a little about Isaiah. He prophesied to the southern kingdom of Judah. We learned how Isaiah encouraged one of the good kings of Judah—Hezekiah. There was another prophet, Micah, prophesying for God at the same time as Isaiah. Micah went to both Israel and Judah. He, too, spoke the words that God gave him. He warned the people of judgment to come if they would not repent, but he also gave them a message of hope and joy from God.

- Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

Micah's message told the people about Jesus—the Savior—the long-awaited Messiah who was to come. He spoke long before Jesus was born. We're going to start with Micah 5. Turn there.

? Is Micah in the Old or New Testament? *Old Testament.*

We'll be looking at verses in the Old and the New Testament today. To make it a little easier, all the Scriptures are on your class notes. We will be reading and comparing the verses on your notes.

Refer to the Roles of the Prophets Poster. Before we begin reading, I want to remind you that one of the Roles of the Prophets was to tell about the coming Messiah.

? Who is the Messiah? *Jesus.*

Yes. And Micah spoke about Jesus coming. Look on your class notes. Will someone read Micah 5:2 and 5:4 for me? Listen carefully to the text. There are four different prophecies about Jesus in these two verses. Let's see if we can find all four of them. *Assign students to read verses.*

Micah 5:2, 5:4

EXAMINE THE WORD

Those two verses have a lot to say to us today. Let's examine them carefully by answering some questions about them.

Observe the Text

? First, look at Micah 5:2. Who is Micah referring to when he says, "the one to be Ruler in Israel?" Who is that? *Allow discussion. The Messiah, Jesus Christ.*

? What city is mentioned at the very beginning of the verse? *The city Bethlehem Ephrathah.*

Matthew 2:1-2

Does that town sound familiar—Bethlehem? Find Matthew 2:1-2 on your class notes. Will someone read those verses? *Assign a reader.*

? Who was born in Bethlehem of Judea? *Jesus.*

Refer to the History of Israel Poster. Micah lived and prophesied nearly 700 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. And yet Micah said that out of the small town of Bethlehem the one to be Ruler in Israel would be born. So do you see? Micah made the prophecy that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. And Matthew confirmed it when he recorded the life of Jesus. On your class notes circle the word "Bethlehem" in Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1 and draw a line connecting both of the words.

? Now, look again in Micah 5:2. What tribe of Abraham does this verse mention? *Judah.*

Judah was a small tribe, yet Micah said that from the tribe of Judah the Savior, Jesus, would come!

Now look at Genesis 49:8 on your class notes. Let's read that! *Assign a reader.*

- ? What tribe is mentioned in this verse? *Allow discussion. Judah.*
- ? And look at Genesis 49:8? What does that verse say about Judah? *You are he whom your brothers shall praise.*

Genesis 49:8 is talking about someone from the tribe of Judah who shall be praised. This will be a special person who will conquer His enemies and others will bow down to Him. Again, this is a prophecy about Jesus—from the tribe of Judah!

- ? Genesis is the very first book of the Bible. What is the very last book? *Revelation.*
- ? That's right. We are going to read from the last book of the Bible. Will someone read Revelation 5:5 on your class notes? *Assign a reader.*
- ? Who is this verse about? It is someone from one of the tribes of Abraham. Who will open the scroll? *The Lion of the tribe of Judah!*

Again! The mention of someone great from the tribe of Judah. Again, this is speaking about Jesus Christ, the Messiah! Micah's prophecy from 700 years ago is confirmed in Genesis and Revelation! Circle the word Judah in Micah 5:2, Genesis 49:8, and Revelation 5:5. Draw a line connecting those three references. This was a prophecy that was fulfilled.

- ? Micah said something else about Jesus. Go back to Micah 5:2. It says "whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." What does he mean by that? *Allow discussion.*

It means that the Messiah, Jesus, will be eternal—with no beginning and no end. He is from of old—from everlasting. He was forever and is forever and will be forever!

- ? Now look at John 1:1–2. Will someone read that? *Assign a reader.*
- ? What was in the beginning with God? *The Word.*
- ? Who is the Word? Does anyone know? *Jesus Christ.*

Yes. Jesus is the Word. This says the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- ? Someone re-read John 1:1–2 again. This time use the word "Jesus" in place of the "Word" every time. *Have a volunteer read John 1:1–2 again.*

Do you see? Jesus was in the beginning. Jesus was with God. And Jesus was God. We know that God has always been. God has no beginning and no end. And Jesus is God. Jesus has no beginning and no end. Jesus is eternal! And that's what Micah told us when he said His goings forth were from of old—from everlasting!

Take a look at Micah 5:2 and John 1:1–2. Circle and connect the words that tell us that Jesus is eternal. Circle “from everlasting” in Micah 5:2. Circle “in the beginning” in John 1:1–2. Draw a line connecting the two phrases.

Micah said that the Messiah would be eternal! He said it more than 700 years before Jesus was even born.

? Now, one more prophecy that Micah gave that came true in Jesus. Look in Micah 5:4 again. What does the first part say about Jesus? *He will feed His flock.*

? So what would someone who feeds his flock be? *A shepherd.*

Right. Micah is saying that Jesus would be a shepherd. Now we’ll go to the New Testament to John 10:11. Let’s compare Micah 5:2 to John 10:11. It’s also on your class notes. *Choose a student to read the verse.*

? What does Jesus call Himself in this verse? *The good shepherd.*

Jesus was not an actual shepherd. However, He used that description for Himself and so did Micah. He described Himself as a shepherd because the people would understand what He meant. A shepherd was someone who took good care of his sheep. Sheep are completely dependent on their shepherd. They can easily be attacked—but the shepherd protects them.

Micah described the coming Messiah as a shepherd who would feed His flock. And more than 700 years later, the Messiah Himself used the same word to describe Himself. Jesus is the good shepherd. Look on your class notes and circle “feed His flock” in Micah 5:4 and “good shepherd” in John 10:11. Draw a line to connect the two phrases.

Discover the Truth

Hundreds of years before the Messiah came to earth, Micah told the people about Him—it was Jesus Christ. He would come to save sinners. Look back to your class notes. Based on what we have just read, let’s answer #1–4. What did Micah know about Jesus 700 years before Jesus was even born?

? Someone read #1. How will you complete it? *Bethlehem.*

? And #2? *Assign a reader. Judah.*

? And #3? *Assign a reader. Eternity.*

? And #4? *Assign a reader. Shepherd.*

Micah said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, would come from the tribe of Judah, would be a Ruler for all eternity, and would act as a shepherd does with his flock—protecting and caring for His people. All of these things came true in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one Micah talked about in Micah 5.



READ THE WORD

These are wonderful prophecies about Jesus. But there is one more thing Micah told the people that must have given them much hope and joy. Look at Micah 7:18–19 on page 2 of your class notes. Someone read that.
Assign a reader. Read the verses.

Micah 7:18–19

EXAMINE THE WORD

This is a beautiful description of God. We need to look at it closely by asking a few questions, so we can understand it better.

Observe the Text

We're going to start by making a list of the things this says about God and what He planned to do for His people.

- ? This verse says, "Who is a God like you?" That's a very good question! What does God do for His people according to this verse? Micah 7:18 lists three things God does. What are they? *God will pardon iniquity (sin); He will not be angry forever; He delights in mercy.*
- ? Look at #5 on your class notes. Based on Micah 7:18, what is 5A? *Pardoning.*
- ? What is 5B? *Angry.*
- ? What is 5C? *Mercy.*
- ? That's good news. And Micah 7:19 adds two more things. What does it say God will do? *God will have compassion on us (mercy); He will cast our sins away.*
- ? Look at #6 on your class notes. How will you complete 6A? *Compassion.*
- ? And 6B? *Sins.*

Discover the Truth

Micah knew that one day God would provide a way to forgive our sins. God delights in mercy. God would show compassion by providing a way for our sins to be cast away. And God will not be angry forever. Let's read from God's Word how He did that for us. This is in the New Testament. We will read 1 Peter 2:24. It is on your class notes. *Assign a reader.*

1 Peter 2:24

- ? This is written about Jesus. What does it say Jesus did? *Bore our sins in His own body.*
- ? What does that mean? *Allow discussion.*

It means that Jesus could take the punishment for sinners once for all because He was perfect. He took the sins on Himself, on His own body, when He died on the Cross so that all who believed would be forgiven in Jesus Christ. This is who Micah told the people about—the mercy,

forgiveness, and compassion of a heavenly Father who would redeem sinners forever by the suffering of His own Son.

? Will someone read #7? How will you complete it? Assign a reader. Jesus's.



Micah Concentration

MATERIALS

- Micah Concentration Cards
- Micah Concentration Cards Answer Key

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out the cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. If you have a large class, you may want to divide the class into teams. Make a complete set of 20 cards for each team. Lay the cards face down on the table, floor, desk, etc. Students will take turns turning over the cards and trying to find the proper match. The idea is to match the questions with the right answer. Take time to read the cards—especially when the proper match is made. An answer key has been provided for you on the Resource DVD-ROM.

This will be a fun way to review today's lesson. We are going to play Micah

Concentration. Some of these cards have questions, and some have answers. There is one answer for every question.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

I am just amazed at all the prophecies in God's Word that have been fulfilled in Jesus. Aren't you? *Yes!*

We shouldn't take them for granted! God used His prophets like Micah to announce many details about the coming Messiah before Jesus was even born. God's plan of redemption was in place before the creation of the world!



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

How great is our God! How great is His Word! How great is His plan of redemption through Jesus. The Lord gave the prophet Micah prophecies about the Messiah Jesus to share with the people in the southern kingdom of Judah 700 years before Jesus was born. Micah said that He would be born in Bethlehem and that He would be from the tribe of Judah. Those prophecies were all true! We read verses in the books of Genesis, John, and Revelation that say Jesus is just who Micah said He would be. Micah lived before Jesus, but he proclaimed that the Messiah was eternal and that He would love His people like a shepherd loves his sheep.

Micah also gave a prophecy about something else that was very important. He said that the Messiah would provide a way for us to be forgiven from our sins. And we know that Jesus bore the penalty of our sin so that we could be forgiven.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

As we looked all through the Bible today—from Genesis to Micah to Matthew to John to 1 Peter to Revelation, we saw that all the Bible writers agree with each other.

Stop and think about this. All of those books were written at different times by different people. Yet, we see how they all said the same things about Jesus, the Messiah. Like our Scarlet Thread Poster reminds us, God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ was in place before the creation of the world. And today we had a chance to see this plan woven through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. *Refer to Scarlet Thread Poster.*

This shouldn't surprise us because we know that all Scripture is God-breathed, inspired by God, and written by men God chose to record His Words. By the power of the Holy Spirit these men wrote the truth so that all generations would know.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God because He is sovereign and He planned what was best for us even before the creation of the world.
- Thank God that He provided a way to forgive our sins through Jesus.
- Ask God to give us an opportunity this week to tell someone about Jesus and the forgiveness He offers.

