



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; John 10:11; Revelation 1:5, 5:5

Objective

Students will be able to:

- Connect the prophecy in Micah to the person of Jesus.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will use the signs posted on the walls to complete their Memory Verse Review Sheets. They will match the numbers on their sheets with the numbers on the signs and fill in the missing words. They will then read and/or recite the verse to the class or to each other.



Activity 1: The Coming Ruler Class Notes

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

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 from the dead so that all who would believe in Him would be saved.



Activity 2: Names of Jesus Game

Students will review the lesson by doing different movements while saying the names of Jesus that are used in Micah's prophecies.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheets from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Print and cut out the eight Memory Verse Review Signs from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Tape the Memory Verse Review Signs to the walls around the room.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student
- Eight Memory Verse Review Signs
- Masking tape



THE COMING RULER CLASS NOTES

- Print 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



NAMES OF JESUS GAME

- Print, preferably on cardstock, and cut out 1–3 sets of the eight Name Cards and eight Action Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Keep Name Cards separate from Action Cards.
- Keep the Teacher Game Directions for your use.

- Name Cards
- Actions Cards
- Teacher Game Directions



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.

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God’s Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete their Memory Verse Review Sheets by matching the numbers on their sheets with the same numbers on the wall signs and filling in the missing words on the sheet. They will then read and/or recite the verse to the class or to each other.

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 for each student
- 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 the class notes as we study the Bible today. Do not work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill in the blanks.

After filling out each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we study today and fill in our class notes, we will see that Jesus was the one Micah told the people about more than 700 years BEFORE Jesus was born.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

- ? Before we start our lesson, who can tell me the names of the prophets we have been talking about? Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters for Lessons 2, 3, 5, and 7. Amos, Hosea, Nahum, Isaiah.

➤ 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.

➤ Refer to the Roles of the Prophets Poster.

Micah 5:2, 5:4

➤ Re-read the portions of the verse as you ask the questions.

➤ Re-read the appropriate verses as you answer and complete the class notes.

? God used prophets in the Old Testament to speak for Him. What else did the prophets do? *If the students can't read the poster, read it for them to briefly review the roles.*

Refer to the History of Israel Poster and Lesson 7 Lesson Theme Poster. Last time we talked about Isaiah. He told good King Hezekiah that Judah would be safe from the Assyrian army. Well, Micah, like Isaiah, was another prophet of God. Micah lived at the same time as Isaiah. And God used both of them to speak His Words at the same time in history. We are going to talk about Micah today. God sent Micah to both Israel and Judah. Micah warned the people that they would be judged if they did not turn from their sins. But Micah didn't just bring bad news of judgment, he also brought some very good news—news that brought hope to the people. News that told the people about Jesus, the coming Messiah.

Let's see what Micah had to say about Jesus, the Messiah. I am going to read from the book called Micah. It is in the Old Testament. I'll read just two verses, Micah 5:2 and 5:4. Listen carefully! *Read Micah 5:2, 5:4.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? This verse started off talking about a city. I think you should have recognized it. What city was it? *Re-read that portion of Micah 5:2 if necessary. Bethlehem.*

? Bethlehem was also known as Ephrathah. What did this verse tell us about Bethlehem? What size was the city? *Micah 5:2. Little.*

? And who would come out of Bethlehem? *Micah 5:2. The ruler in Israel.*

The ruler would come out of Bethlehem, from the tribe of Judah, and rule in Israel!

? Micah 5:4 said that someone would stand and feed His flock. Now who could that refer to? What type of person would feed a flock? *Allow discussion.*

In Bible times, this often referred to a shepherd. A shepherd would feed and care for his flocks. So Micah was saying something about a shepherd.

Micah was trying to tell the people something about someone in particular. We know now that the person Micah was talking about was Jesus, the Messiah. Look at your class notes. Use the words at the bottom of the page for help.

? How will you answer #1? *Micah 5:2. Ruler. Will someone read that for me? Assign a reader.*

? And which word finishes #2? *Micah 5:2. Born. Will someone read that for me? Assign a reader.*

- ? And how about #3? Where was this person Micah was talking about from? *Micah 5:2. Judah. Will someone read that for me? Assign a reader.*
- ? And the last one, #4. What did Micah say this person would be like? *Micah 5:4. A shepherd. Will someone read that for me? Assign a reader.*

Micah was telling the people about someone who would come in the future. Look at your class notes again, and we will review. 1) Micah said there would be a *ruler* in Israel. 2) He would be *born* in the little town of Bethlehem. 3) This ruler would be from *Judah*. 4) He would be a *shepherd* who feeds His flock.

Discover the Truth

- ? Who was God's prophet Micah talking about? *Allow discussion. Jesus.*

Refer to the History of Israel Poster to point out the times of Micah and Jesus's birth. It was Jesus. But how can we be sure? How do we know that Micah was talking about Jesus? Well, we know because the Bible tells us. You see, Micah said these things about Jesus 700 years before Jesus was born! But then later, many years later, after Jesus was born, God had other men write things down about Jesus. And they wrote down the same things that Micah had written.



READ THE WORD

- ? Let's do a little more studying from God's Word. Let's go back to #1 on your class notes. Can someone read that? *Assign a reader. Jesus would be a ruler in Israel.*

So Micah said Jesus would be the ruler over Israel. And He actually is the ruler of Israel, and much more. Listen as I read from Revelation 1:5. This is the last book in the Bible, and the writer is talking about Jesus. Listen now and tell me who Jesus is the ruler over. *Read Revelation 1:5 emphasizing "ruler over the kings of the earth."*

Revelation 1:5

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who is Jesus the ruler over? *The kings of the earth.*

Micah was right! Jesus is the ruler over all the kings of the earth, and that includes Israel because Israel is on the earth, right?

- ? So, look at #5 on your class notes. How will you finish that sentence? Look at the bottom of your class notes to find the right word. *Ruler. And who can read that for us? Assign a reader.*

Well, I think you know who Micah was talking about, right? But let me read something else from the Bible. It is always good to look right in the Bible to find answers. This is in Matthew 2:1. *Read Matthew 2:1 emphasizing "Jesus" and "Bethlehem."*

Matthew 2:1

- ? Who is this verse about? *Jesus.*
- ? Where was He born? Look back at #2. *In Bethlehem.*
- ? Now look at #6 on your class notes. What word will finish this sentence?
Born. Great and who can read that for us? Assign a reader.

Refer to the History of Israel Poster. That's right. Remember, Micah lived and told of Jesus about 700 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. And Micah knew then that the ruler of Israel would come from the little town of Bethlehem. The Bible is true. The one Micah spoke of was Jesus! God spoke through Micah so the people would know one day Jesus would come.

There is more! I'm going to read Revelation 5:5. That is in the very back of the Bible. It was written by the Apostle John. And John wrote this about Jesus. Listen to what John wrote about Jesus. *Read Revelation 5:5 emphasizing "Lion" and "Judah."*

Revelation 5:5

- ? What did John call Jesus? It was an animal! *A lion.*
- ? What animal is the king of the jungle? *A lion.*
- ? And who is the ruler over ALL the kings of the earth? Look at #5 on your class notes. What does that say? *Jesus is the ruler over all kings of the earth.*

Just like the lion is the king of the jungle, Jesus is the king over all the earth. That is why He sometimes is called a lion. Because He is the King of kings!

- ? And what tribe was this lion from? Listen again as I read. *Re-read Revelation 5:5 if necessary. The tribe of Judah.*
- ? OK. So someone read #7 for me. What word will you put in there to complete that? *Assign a reader. Judah.*
- ? Remember, Micah said that Jesus would come from the tribe of Judah. See #3 on your class notes? Who can read that again for me? *Assign a reader. Jesus would be from Judah.*

Micah said that the ruler would come from Judah. And the Apostle John said that the ruler was from the tribe of Judah. Again, God's Word shows us that what Micah said so long ago was true about Jesus!

Refer to the map on Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster. Judah was a nation in Israel. It was the southern nation. But Judah was also one of the twelve tribes of Jacob. And Micah said that out of Bethlehem, out of Judah, would come the ruler of Israel.

- ? Who can read #4 again on your class notes? *Assign a reader. Jesus would be a shepherd who feeds His flock.*

We read that in Micah 5:4. Micah said that the coming ruler of Israel would be a shepherd. Well, listen carefully to something Jesus said about Himself. It is in John 10:11. *Read John 10:11.*

John 10:11

- ? Did you hear that? What did Jesus call Himself? *The good shepherd.*
- ? That's right. Jesus is the good shepherd. Look at #8 on your class notes. How will you finish that? *Shepherd.* And will someone read it? *Assign a reader.*
- ? And what does the good shepherd do for His sheep? *Re-read John 10:11. Give His life.*

Discover the Truth

Jesus said He was the good shepherd. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep—sinners like you and me. Jesus did that for all sinners who are really sorry for their sins and want to stop sinning. He did it for sinners who believe in Him, trust in Him, and accept the gift of forgiveness He gives us through His death on the Cross.

And hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth, Micah told the people about the Messiah, the Savior. Micah said Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, would come from the tribe of Judah, would be a ruler forever and ever, and would act like a good shepherd—protecting and caring for His people. All of these things came true in Jesus Christ. The Bible is true. We can trust it. God does not lie! The things that Micah said would happen did happen. The Bible is an amazing book. It tells of our amazing God and Savior, Jesus Christ!



Names of Jesus Game

MATERIALS

- Names Cards
- Actions Cards
- Teacher Game Directions

INSTRUCTIONS

Follow the game instructions from the Teacher Game Directions document on the Resource DVD-ROM.

This will be a fun way to review some of the names of Jesus we find in the Bible. One of you from each team will choose one action card and one name card. Take the cards back to your team, read the cards

out loud, and lead your team in doing the movements and saying the names of Jesus that are on the cards. We'll go back and forth between teams so everyone can play. Let's get into teams. Ready? *Begin to play.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Bible has a lot to say about Jesus! He is called by many names. But He is the same Jesus. He is fully man and fully God! God used His prophets, like Micah, to tell about Jesus and how He would come to earth to save His people from their sins!





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God is great, and so is His Word! He had a plan from the very beginning to take away our sins through Jesus. The Lord gave the prophet Micah prophecies about Jesus to share with the people in Judah 700 years before Jesus was born. Micah said that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, He would be from the tribe of Judah, and He would be a good shepherd. Those prophecies were all true! We looked in the Bible and saw that everything Micah said about Jesus was true. Jesus came 700 years later and did just what Micah said He would.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

We looked all through the Bible today—from Micah to Matthew to John to Revelation. Isn't it neat to see that all the Bible writers agree with each other? *Yes!*

Stop and think about this. All of those books were written at different times by different people. And yet they all say the same things about Jesus, the Messiah.

This shouldn't surprise us because we know that all Scripture is God-breathed, inspired by God, and written by men whom God chose. By the power of the Holy Spirit, these men wrote the truth so that everyone would know the good news of Jesus Christ. The Bible is true! We can trust it.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children 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

- Thank God for His one true Word.
- Pray that we would all know His Word better.
- Thank God that He made a way to forgive our sins through Jesus.