

Christmas Presence | Micah 5:1-4

December 20, 2020

Context: This is the third of three oracles where the prophet Micah moves from a situation involving present distress to future deliverance—and this one stresses the surprising way God will bring about that deliverance.

God's deliverance is

Surprises in this passage:

1. God's perspective on _____ (2)
 - Trust God to do a great work through _____.
 - _____ and boast in God alone.
2. The true members of God's family—not just Israel but _____ (3)
 - Thank God for the privilege of _____.
3. The same person is both _____ (2, 4).
 - Surrender to Christ's _____ and rest in his _____.

Ultimate decision (Matthew 2): Will you _____ Jesus Christ?

Discussion Questions:

1. Which surprise in the passage encourages you right now in your walk and ministry?
2. Can you give any biblical examples of God's perspective on humility and greatness, or how He works through small things?
3. Considering the four application points, can you name a specific way you can apply this text to your life this week?



Questions for Parents to use with their children:

- 1. Take a moment and have each person name one thing that is significantly small (or seemingly insignificant) but has a major impact.**

Example: Staple. Key.

- 2. Read Micah 5:2. Name two things that stand out in the verse?**

Answer: Bethlehem was small among the clans of Judah. (As a side note, Ephrathah was the name of the district that the town of Bethlehem was located. It was the least likely place that a ruler over Israel would arise. A second thing that stands out is that a ruler over all of Israel would arise from Bethlehem. This ruler would be the Messiah or Anointed one who would rescue Israel from their enemies.

- 3. Micah 5:2 was a prophecy. Have someone guess what a prophecy is?**

Answer: A prophecy was a message inspired by God. It was a revelation from God to the people.

- 4. Who do you think this prophecy points to in the church? Read Matthew 2:6 to find the answer.**

Answer: Jesus!!

- 5. How can we apply this verse to our lives during the Christmas season?**

Answer: This verse makes us rethink what God really values. He values humility. What he thinks is great is often different than what we think is great. Trust that God can do great works through small things. Bethlehem was not the city anyone expected to produce a future ruler of Israel. But God arranged everything perfectly to make this happen. Surrender to Christ's rule. He wants to be your king.