



CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

# BIBLE SURVEY

THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

**JONAH, MICAH  
AND NAHUM**

Week 3



# Preview of Coming Attractions

---

DAY 15

Micah 4:1-5

Whenever a new movie is coming, there is usually a pre-release preview to call attention to it. Have you ever been to a major preview?

1. In a future day, where will all nations want to visit (v. 2), and why?
2. What role will the Lord play among the nations at that time (v. 3)?
3. What will happen to the instruments of war at that time (v. 3)?
4. At this time of the fullness of God's kingdom (pictured in v. 4) will everyone have enough, or will some people go without as they often do today?

1. As you think about the wonderful future God has in store, what do you look forward to the most? Are you more interested in physical blessings or spiritual ones?
2. What part of this present life are you most eager to leave behind?
3. Which statement best describes you: (a) I want to be with God in eternity, but I'm willing to stay here, (b) I want to stay here, but I'm willing to live forever in God's kingdom of heaven.

*"The mountain of the Lord's temple" (v. 1) probably refers to Mount Zion, prophesied to be the place of a new Temple (Eze 40-43, Zec 8:3).*

## **OPENING**

up to the Word

## **DIGGING**

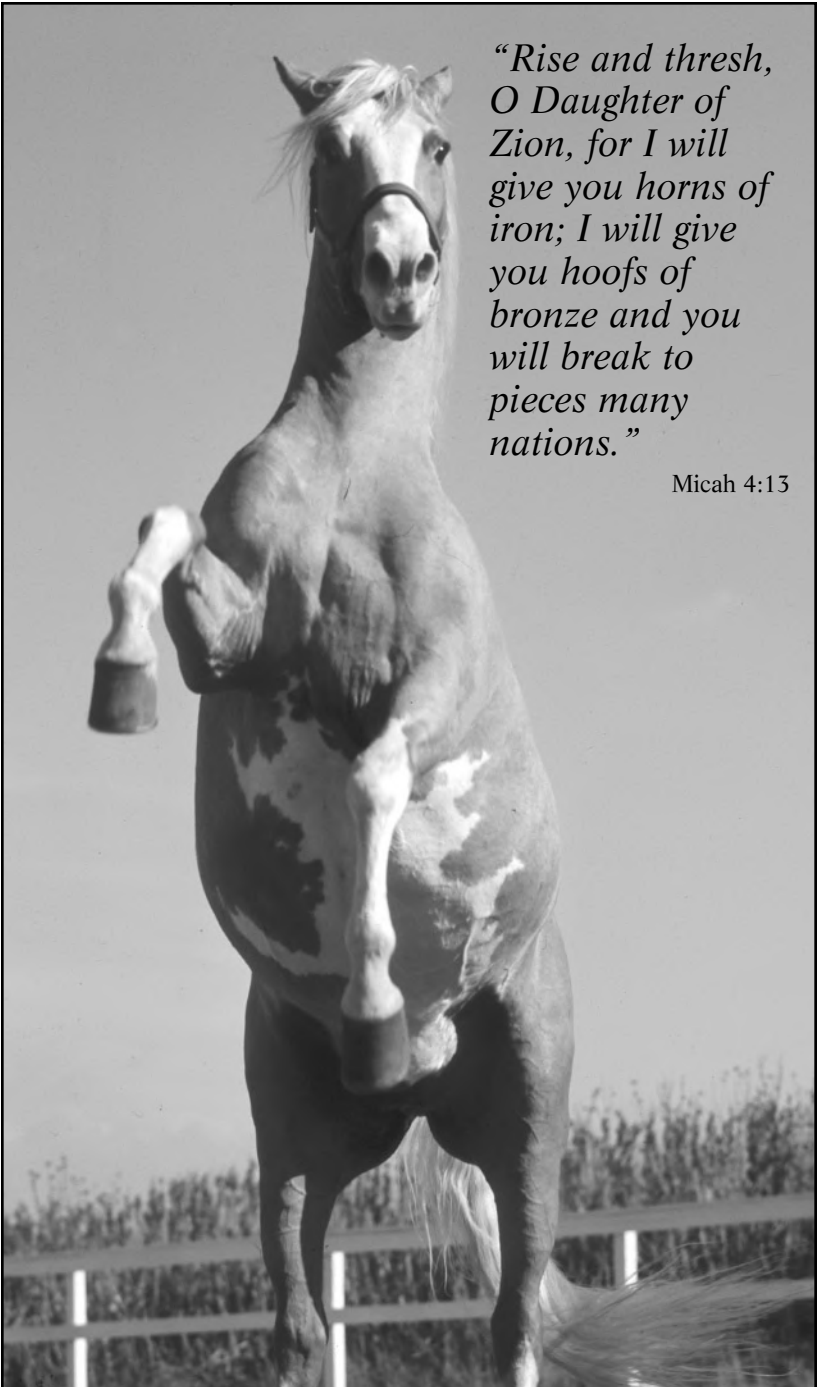
into the Word

## **LIVING**

out the Word

## **WINDOW**

on the Word



*“Rise and thresh,  
O Daughter of  
Zion, for I will  
give you horns of  
iron; I will give  
you hoofs of  
bronze and you  
will break to  
pieces many  
nations.”*

Micah 4:13

# Present Pain, Future Glory

DAY 16

Micah 4:6-13

Can you think of something unpleasant that you had to endure, but from which you later received a benefit?

1. In what way did God plan to reverse the fortunes of Israel (vs. 6-7)?
2. Who was being referred to as “watchtower of the flock” (v. 8)?
3. Though Israel would receive glory in some future day, where was she headed at that time (v. 10)?
4. In spite of the fact that Israel was soon to be invaded and conquered by foreign nations, what would her role be in the future (v. 13)?

1. Even though we fail God, he is still merciful and still loves us. Can you think of ways that he has blessed you in spite of your failures?
2. When we are going through difficult times, it is hard to see how anything good can come from them. What example from your life could you share with someone to encourage them that there is light at the end of the tunnel?
3. What difficulty are you experiencing today, and what hope do you cling to in this difficulty?

*“O watchtower of the flock” (v. 8). Jerusalem and its people are most likely in view here. In a spiritual sense Jerusalem watches over the nation. “You will go to Babylon” (v. 10) was an amazing prediction at that time, since in Micah’s day Babylon was not the preeminent empire—Assyria was.*

**OPENING**  
up to the Word

**DIGGING**  
into the Word

**LIVING**  
out the Word

**WINDOW**  
on the Word

## Bethlehem's Promise

---

Micah 5:1-5

**OPENING**  
up to the Word

What is the most important promise anyone has ever made to you? Did they keep their promise?

**DIGGING**  
into the Word

1. Who would one day come out of the city of Bethlehem to become the Ruler (v. 2)?
2. What does the phrase “whose origins are from old, from ancient times” (v. 2) mean, and to whom does it refer?
3. How long did Micah prophesy Israel would be abandoned (v. 3)?
4. In what ways would this future Shepherd be Israel's peace (v. 5)?

**LIVING**  
out the Word

1. God fulfilled the promise he gave to Israel in this chapter when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Jesus was prophesied to be Israel's peace. In what way has Jesus become your peace?
2. What are the three most precious promises that God has given to you? Why are they so important to you?

**WINDOW**  
on the Word

**City of troops** (v. 1) describes the condition of Jerusalem when the Babylonians would besiege it with many troops (2Ki 25:1). **Bethlehem Ephrathah** (v. 2) was (and is) about five miles from Jerusalem. Ephrathah, or Ephrath, was either an older name for Bethlehem or the name of one of the areas around the city. **“Whose origins are from of old, from ancient times”** (v. 2). Though Jesus' human birth was in Bethlehem, he existed as God from all eternity (Jn 1:1, Php 2:6).

*“He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.”*

Micah 5:4



## When the Tables Are Turned

---

Micah 5:5-15

**OPENING**  
up to the Word

Sometimes the underdog accomplishes the impossible and defeats the highly favored team. Can you think of an example in sports or life when this has happened?

---

**DIGGING**  
into the Word

**1.** As you read the future description of Israel in verse 8, how does that description differ from the one in which Micah prophesies her destruction at the hands of the Assyrians?

**2.** Although the Messiah will rescue Israel in that future day, he will do some house cleaning in the nation of Israel as well. What will he destroy from among them (vs. 10-14)?

---

**LIVING**  
out the Word

**1.** What are your favorite underdog moments in recent history?

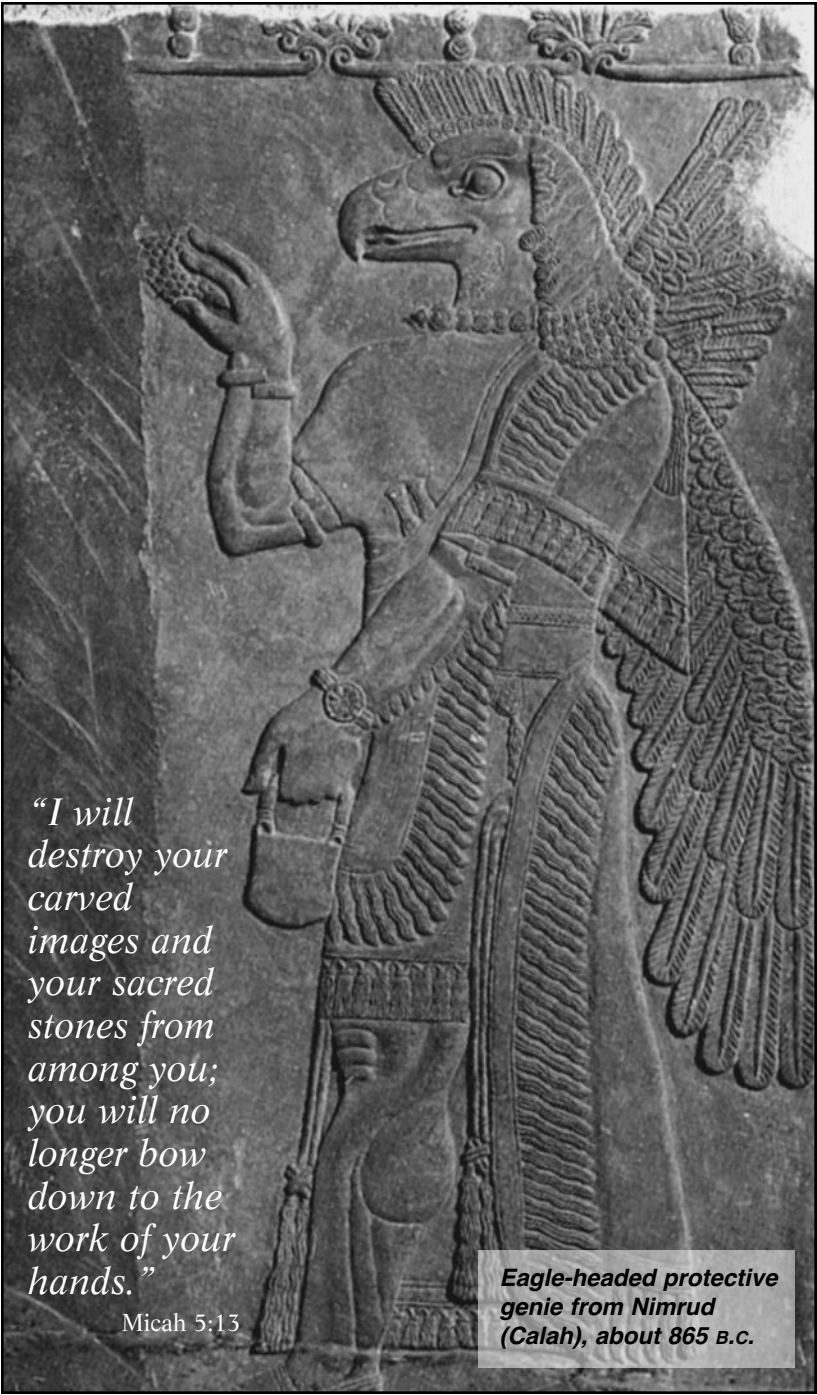
**2.** When you find yourself doing better than even you expected—to what or to whom do you give credit?

---

**WINDOW**  
on the Word

*“Seven shepherds, even eight” (v. 5) refers to an indefinite number of leaders, stressing that God will raise up for Israel an abundance of manpower. **Land of Nimrod** (v. 6) is a reference to Genesis 10:8-9. Nimrod is used here as a synonym for Assyria.*





*“I will  
destroy your  
carved  
images and  
your sacred  
stones from  
among you;  
you will no  
longer bow  
down to the  
work of your  
hands.”*

Micah 5:13

**Eagle-headed protective  
genie from Nimrud  
(Calah), about 865 B.C.**

## Stating the Case

---

Micah 6:1-8

**OPENING**  
up to the Word

Have you ever taken part in a courtroom trial and heard the different parties present their case?

**DIGGING**  
into the Word

1. Why would God encourage Israel to plead her case to the mountains (v. 1)?
2. Why do you think God chose to use the imagery of a court case to illustrate his problem with Israel (v. 2)? Does the imagery of a courtroom perfectly convey the relationship God offers to us by his grace? Why or why not?
3. With what did Micah suggest that Israel might come before the Lord (Mic 6:6-7)?
4. Micah made it very clear what God truly wanted from Israel (v. 8) and all of us. What is that?

**LIVING**  
out the Word

1. Have you ever had to go to trial? What did you have to do?
2. Did you feel you or the person you supported received justice at the trial? Why, or why not?
3. Do you think it is possible for a human court to dispense true justice? Why or why not?

**WINDOW**  
on the Word

***“Plead your case before the mountains”** (v. 1). The term mountains often referred to peoples, and it appears to be used that way here. God is appealing to everyone to investigate the way he treated Israel to see if they could find any fault with him.*

# Unmasking Israel's Scams

---

DAY 20

Micah 6:9-16

Have you ever been the victim or object of a scam?  
What did you lose?

---

1. Of what two dishonest traits were the Israelites guilty (v. 11)?
  2. God's description of the Israelites is (v. 12): (a) encouraging, (b) slightly discouraging, (c) very discouraging.
  3. In what five ways was God going to destroy the Israelites (vs. 14-15)?
  4. In their behavior, Israel had been imitating the evil practices of two of their ancestors, Omri and Ahab (v. 16). In what way do you think they were following their traditions (1Ki 16:21-22:40)?
- 

1. When was the last time you were a victim of someone's dishonesty, and what did that reveal to you about their character?
  2. How had they fooled you regarding their character and intentions?
- 

***"The short ephah"** (v. 10). The ephah was a dry measure equaling about six gallons. The short ephah was a dishonest measurement used to cheat the customers. But God saw what the victims didn't. **Omri and Ahab** (v. 6) were considered the two worst kings in the northern kingdom, because under them idol worship flourished (1Ki 16:21-22:40).*

## **OPENING**

up to the Word

## **DIGGING**

into the Word

## **LIVING**

out the Word

## **WINDOW**

on the Word

## Condemned

---

Micah 7:1-7

**OPENING**  
up to the Word

When a building is in such bad repair that it is unsafe, it is condemned. Have you ever seen a condemned building? What is the only option for such a building?

---

**DIGGING**  
into the Word

1. Things were so bad in Israel that something was not to be found anymore (v. 2). What was missing?
  2. Conditions of morality and spirituality were appalling. How were even the best of men and women described (v. 4)?
  3. Who did Micah warn people against trusting during those days (v.5)?
  4. What was the state of family affairs in Israel (v. 6)?
  5. In contrast to the people, where was Micah's hope (v. 7)?
- 

**LIVING**  
out the Word

1. Are there any areas of thought or deed in your life that might deserve the label *condemned*?
  2. Despite our failures before God and our many weaknesses, what does God promise never to do to his children (Ro 8:1)?
  3. In what way has God taken condemned areas of your mind or heart and restored them?
- 

**WINDOW**  
on the Word

***"The day of your watchmen has come"*** (v. 4). *Watchmen warned the cities of imminent danger. In this case Micah is probably referring to himself and the other faithful prophets of God. Of course, within the new covenant, there is no exact physical parallel to the role of prophetic or judicial watchman.*