

“The Story” Study – 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Isaiah

Class 9: Chapters 16-17

Chapter 16: The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel)

1. DVD – Session 16
2. Chapter 16 Highlights: This chapter includes the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel and a major threat against the southern kingdom of Judah!
 - a. The northern kingdom of Israel:
 - i. What was going on? “The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: ‘Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees’ ... yet ‘they would not listen...’” (220).
 - ii. Therefore, since “the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God” (219), He used Assyria, *the world power at that time*, bring an end to the northern kingdom – to sharply call them to repent, and to show the southern kingdom what could happen to them if they followed in the ways of the northern kingdom by worshiping false gods.
 - iii. Application:
 1. We do not earn God’s blessings; He gives them because of who He is, not because of what we do. However, when we turn away from Him, He ends the blessings because He loves us; He calls us to repent, to return to Him, to receive His forgiveness anew, and rejoice in His blessings!
 2. So let us never drift or walk away from knowing, worshiping, and honoring Him!
 - b. The southern kingdom of Judah: During the time of Hezekiah and Isaiah:
 - i. Hezekiah was one of only five good kings; “He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD” (220), so “the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook” (221).
 - ii. The king of Assyria, the world power, made a huge challenge to Hezekiah and the people of the southern kingdom. Through his representatives he told of the many nations he has conquered, how their gods were no match for his might; therefore, he said that the LORD in whom they were trusting would also be no match! He also made that known to the common people in their own language; he wanted them to be terrified and surrender. But Hezekiah trusted and prayed, and the LORD heard; then “That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp” (224).
 - iii. Isaiah was the “greatest of the writing prophets” (224). His commissioning is recorded in *Isaiah 6*, while *Isaiah 53* is the greatest chapter of the OT in describing the work of our Suffering Servant to take away the sin of the world!

Chapter 17: The Kingdom's Fall

1. DVD – Session 17
2. Chapter 17 Highlights: This chapter includes the kings of Judah from Manasseh, *the son of Hezekiah*, to Zedekiah, *the final king when Judah fell to the Babylonians*.
 - a. Manasseh:
 - i. Even though his father was a good king, Manasseh “*did evil in the eyes of the LORD... He sacrificed his own son in the fire. Practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists.... Moreover, Manasseh also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end*” (231-232).
 - ii. Amazingly “*The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God... the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea*” (232).
 - b. Amon, Manasseh’s son, also did evil in the eyes of the LORD.
 - c. Josiah, Amon’s son, amazingly, was one of the five good kings.
 - d. Jehoahaz, Josiah’s son, “*was a pathetic king, lasting only three months. Next came Jehoiakim, who was no better*” (233).
 - e. Jehoiachin also did evil in the eyes of the LORD. It was during his reign that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, first came to Jerusalem to carry people into exile; then, on the second occasion, Ezekiel, a young priest, was taken to Babylon.
 - f. Ezekiel: The LORD used him to bring the Word of the LORD to the people in Babylon.
 - g. Jeremiah: The LORD raised him up to bring His Word to the people still living in Jerusalem, but his message was unwanted, thus rejected: See pages 241-242 for the people’s rejection, God’s anger, and, yet, God’s mercy!
 - h. Finally Jerusalem and the temple were burned to the ground!
 - i. Pages 243-245 contain a portion of the book of Lamentations, written down by Jeremiah.
 - j. Even though the people were so rebellious, the LORD would eventually restore them; see the dry bones reading at the end of the chapter from Ezekiel 37. The LORD had to restore them in order to finally bring the Promised Savior!
3. Assignment: Read chapters 18-19, we will meet on Thursday, May 19 at 7:30.