

Destin Church of Christ

July 9, 2023

Chapter 16: The Beginning of the End
2 Kings 17 – 19; Isaiah 3; 6; 13 – 14; 49; 53

(Lesson 16 is the middle-lesson (15 prior and 15 remaining).)

Introduction:

If a football team is behind by three touchdowns at the two-minute warning, even committed fans will slide out of their seats and head to the parking lot to try to beat the traffic. But, when a game is close and the outcome is still up for grabs, people stay glued to their seats. No one knows how it will end.

At a certain point, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was in such bad shape, so rebellious, that there was no way they were going to turn around. Even the Southern Kingdom of Judah hit a point where things looked hopeless. But sometimes a team can rally ... even when it looks like there is no chance of a comeback!

Lesson Breakdown: Outline:

- The Fall of Israel (2 Kings 17)
- Taking a Stand (2 Kings 18-19)
- A Prophet Called Out (Isaiah 6)
- The Very Bad News (Isaiah 13)
- The Very Good News (Isaiah 14, 49, 53)

Plot Points:

- At last, God's patience with Israel is spent, and the northern kingdom falls to the Assyrian Empire, never to rise again.
- Judah illustrates what happens when God's people allow him to be their ally. Even the mightiest empires fall back before him!
- In Isaiah's prophecy, we see the clearest witness to the coming Messiah.

As you watch the video for Session 16, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ God's prophets spoke to the northern kingdom for 208 years.
- ✓ Hezekiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.
- ✓ Isaiah told Hezekiah that God has got your back.
- ✓ "Then you will know that I am the Lord."
- ✓ No king but King Jesus.

UNDERSTAND THE STORY:

I. 2 Kings 17:

Hoshea rules Israel for 9 years and disobeys God. (pg. 219) [2 Kings 17:1-2]

The king of Assyria invaded and settled the land because the Israelites sinned against the LORD. (pg. 219) [2 Kings 17:3-7]

The reason for Israel's demise is its disobedience, and its rejection of repeated warnings. (pg. 220) [2 Kings 17:11b-13]

They doubted God and stiffened their necks like their fathers. (pg. 220) [2 Kings 17:14]

(NIB) [2 Kings 17:15-17]

So, the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there. (pg. 220) [2 Kings 17:23b]

The LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left. (pg. 220) [2 Kings 17:18]

II. 2 Kings 18:

Hezekiah rules Judah, and obeys God, removing the high places and destroying the bronze serpent of Moses which was worshipped idolatrously. (pg. 220) [2 Kings 18:1-4]

The LORD was with him and he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. (pg. 221) [2 Kings 18:7]

Hezekiah defies Assyria and subdues the Philistines. (NIB) [2 Kings 18:8-10]

Assyria takes Israel captive, taking the fortified cities of Judah. (NIB) [2 Kings 18:11-13]

The king of Assyria sent his Commander in Chief, the Chief Officer, and the Chief of Staff or Governor, along with a large army, to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They stopped at the aqueduct on the road to the Washerman's Field, where Eliakim son of

Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went out to them. (pg. 221) [2 Kings 18:17-18]

Hezekiah tries to buy peace from the Assyrians, but Assyria threatens, nonetheless. (pg. 221) [2 Kings 18:19-25]

Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah told Rabshakeh to speak in Aramaic, so everyone wouldn't understand. (NIB) [2 Kings 18:26]

But Rabshekah delivered an insulting speech in Hebrew ((pg. 221) [2 Kings 18:28]), about defying the Assyrians, trusting in the Lord, and trusting in the Egyptians. (pg. 222) [2 Kings 18:31-33]

Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah go and tell Hezekiah what the Rabshakeh had said. (NIB) [2 Kings 18:37]

III. 2 Kings 19:

Hezekiah consults Isaiah, who speaks words of assurance on behalf of God to Hezekiah. (pg. 222) [2 Kings 19:2]

Isaiah, speaking for God, assures Hezekiah that Sennacherib will be defeated, and killed in his own land. (pg. 222) [2 Kings 19:5-7]

Sennacherib received a report that the army of Tirhakah, the king of Cush (the upper Nile region), was marching out to fight against him, so he again sends messengers to Hezekiah. His message made fun of Hezekiah's god. (pg. 222) [2 Kings 19:9-13]

Hezekiah receives the message, goes to the temple and prays. (pg. 223) [2 Kings 19:15-19]

Isaiah prophesies that Sennacherib will fall. (pg. 223) [2 Kings 19:20-28]

The LORD assures Hezekiah, via Isaiah, that Sennacherib will not enter Jerusalem and he (God) will defend and save the city. (pg. 224) [2 Kings 19:32-34]

An angel kills 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. (pg. 224) [2 Kings 19:35-36]

Sennacherib returns home and is killed by his sons while worshipping in a pagan temple. (pg. 224) [2 Kings 19:37]

Isaiah began his work in Jerusalem in 740 BC. A prophetic vocation that would span nearly 60 years. (pg. 224)

IV. Isaiah 3: (pgs. 225-226) [Isaiah 3:1-3, 8-9, 12b-13]

Isaiah 3 gives a picture of the end of a society characterized by human self-sufficiency and self-centeredness.

The government collapses, resulting in a shortage of basic necessities such as food and water. (pg. 225) [Isaiah 3:1-3]

The people arrogantly declare themselves to be independent of God. They boast of their new-found moral freedom and are proud of their immoral acts. (pg. 226) [Isaiah 3:8-9]

V. Isaiah 6: (pgs. 224-225) [Isaiah 6:1-8]

Isaiah has gone to some length to describe Judah's spiritual and moral corruption before he mentions God's call to him to be a prophet. His reason for doing this seems to be that he wants his readers to see why God called him.

1. In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah had a vision. What did Isaiah see? (pg. 224) [Isaiah 6:1]
2. What stood above the Lord? (pg. 224) [Isaiah 6:2]
3. What sounds and sights accompanied the voice of the one who cried out? (pg. 225) [Isaiah 6:4]

Seeing the vision of the Lord seated on a throne, Isaiah cries out: "Woe is me ...," saying that he "was a man of unclean lips ..." (pg. 225) [Isaiah 6:5]

A seraphim took a live coal and touched Isaiah's mouth, telling him that his sins were purged. (pg. 225) [Isaiah 6:6-7]

Isaiah heard the Lord say: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?". Isaiah responds: "Here am I! Send me." (pgs. 224-225) [Isaiah 6:8]

Page 225: [Isaiah 6:9-13]

VI. Isaiah 13: (pg. 226) [Isaiah 13:4-5]

Although a combined army of Medes and Persians overthrew Babylon, God was the one who moved them to do it.

The prophet pictures the scene as the Medo-Persian army gets ready for battle, with soldiers shouting, signalling, organizing themselves and preparing their weapons. (pg. 226) [Isaiah 13:4-5]

VII. Isaiah 14: (pgs. 226-227) [Isaiah 14:1-5]

A further reason for the overthrow of Babylon is now revealed. God wants to break the power of Babylon, so that the captive Jews can be released and return to their homeland.

4. What will happen to Jacob and Israel during this time? (pg. 226) [Isaiah 14:1]

5. When Babylon falls, against whom shall Israel take a taunt? (pg. 227) [Isaiah 14:3-5]

VIII. Isaiah 49: (pgs. 227-228) [Isaiah 49:8-9a, 13-18, 23c, 26b]

The Servant will comfort God's people by providing restoration and deliverance for the afflicted. (pg. 227) [Isaiah 49:8-13]

All flesh will know that the Lord is Zion's Savior and Redeemer by saving her children from those who would contend with her. (pg. 228) [Isaiah 49:24-26]

IX. Isaiah 53: (pg. 228-230) [Isaiah 53:1-12]

When it comes to the Messiah: (pg. 228) [Isaiah 53:1-3]

- Some would not believe.
- He would have humble beginnings.
- He would be despised and rejected by men.
- He would be a man of sorrows not highly esteemed.

He would suffer because of our sins and for our healing, having the iniquity of us all. (pg. 229) [Isaiah 53:4-6]

6. How would the Messiah submit to such oppression and affliction? (pg. 229) [Isaiah 53:7]

About the coming Messiah, Isaiah said:

A. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him. (pg. 228) [Isaiah 53:2]

B. The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (pg. 229) [Isaiah 53:6]

C. He was led like a lamb to slaughter. (pg. 229) [Isaiah 53:7]

7. Why would He be taken from prison and cut off from the land of the living? (pg. 229) [Isaiah 53:8]

8. With whom would He make His grave? (pg. 229) [Isaiah 53:9]

9. What would the Messiah receive from all this? (pg. 229-230) [Isaiah 53:10-12]

Page 230: [2 Chronicles 32:33; 33:1-2].

We see over and over again in the Bible, Old and New Testaments, that when we put God on the throne of our lives, we put ourselves in the best possible position for success.

Next week we'll look at the stories of the final kings of Judah leading to Jerusalem's eventual fall and exile into Babylon. Take time this week to read chapter 17 of *The Story*.

2 Kings 21; 23 – 25; 2 Chronicles 33; 36; Jeremiah 1 – 2; 4 – 5; 13; 21;
Lamentations 1 – 3; 5; Ezekiel 1 – 2; 6 – 7; 36 – 37