

THE STORY
The Beginning of the End
Chapter 16 January 15, 2024
2 Kings 17-19 Isaiah 53
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How do we decipher the truth?
There is certainly a life that God blesses.

The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. 2 Chronicles 36:15 NIV

God warns us out of His compassion but there comes a point where He has had enough and He brings consequence to our actions.

NORTHERN KINGDOM FALLS

For the Lord has rejected his people, the descendants of Jacob, because they have filled their land with practices from the East and with sorcerers, as the Philistines do. They have made alliances with pagans. Isaiah 2:6 NLT

There are ways God will try and get your attention.

1. He will give us scripture at just the right time.

It is no accident you are here today.

2. We learn through examples of those around us.

The Southern Kingdom sees what happened and they can learn to turn to God.

Hezekiah removed all of the idols from the land.
He tore down all the high places of worship to idols
He obeyed God
He did things God's way

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. 2 Chronicles 32:7 NIV

The king of the Assyrians' message is "No god of any nation has been able to save those people and your God will fail also."

What can we do?

King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this. 2 Chronicles 32:20 NIV

And the Lord sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the commanders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons, his own flesh and blood, cut him down with the sword. 2 Chronicles 32:21 NIV

WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?

Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the Lord's wrath did not come on them during the days of Hezekiah. 2 Chronicles 32:26 NIV

COMMITMENT TO PURITY

He purified God's people, the Temple and did not allow idolatry or idol worship.

2 Chronicles 29:3-6; 15-16

What is in your temple that needs to be removed?

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9 NIV

COMMITMENT TO PRAYER

When we recognize how dependent and how desperate we are then we pray

I call us to purity
I call us to prayer

Isaiah prophecies' began to tell the story of God's redemption through Jesus 700 years before His coming. That is where our hope lies.