

BIG WORD: 2 Kings

Homework for Chapters 17—20

Discussion Dates: 21 November 2013 (in house)
and 22 November 2013 (online)

DAY ONE: Overview

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God's Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 2 Kings 17—20.

If possible, read all five chapters in one sitting. Make notes of any details that stick out to you, questions that rise and/or personal insights God gives you while you read.

DAY TWO: Hoshea and the Fall of Israel

READ 2 Kings 17.

Who was Hoshea?

How long did he reign?

What legacy did he leave?

Why did Assyria attack Israel?

How long was the war between Israel and Assyria?

What was the final result of this war? Who won and what were the consequences for the losing nation?

The majority of chapter 17 (vv. 7—23) detail the catalyst for all of this drama. What was the root cause?

What, if anything, stands out to you most in this explanation? Take note of any key verses you'd like to highlight during our discussion.

As the dust settles and people re-inhabit Samaria, some unusual obstacles arise. What are they? Why did they come? (*Hint: 17:24—26*)

What solution does the king propose?

Did his plan work?

What do you think about story? What purpose does it serve?

DAY THREE: Hezekiah becomes king in Judah

READ 2 Kings 18:1—12 and 2 Chronicles 29—31.

Who was Hezekiah?

How old was he when he became king?

Considering Hezekiah's father, what would you expect from this new king?

How long did Hezekiah reign?

2 Chronicles provides far greater detail about Hezekiah's life and reign than what we find in 2 Kings. We could accurately summarize his kingship in one word: **REFORM**.

List three ways or areas in which Hezekiah implemented reform in the nation of Judah.

1.

2.

3.

Why are these significant actions?

What does this tell us about Hezekiah and the nation of Judah during his reign?

Within the realm of reform, we notice two priorities for Hezekiah: **Purity** and **Unity**. He strives for a clean temple and a unified worship. How might we apply these to our lives today in our quest for distinction?

Consider these passages from the New Testament:

- 1 Corinthians 3:16—17
- 1 Corinthians 6:19—20
- 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1
- Ephesians 4:1—6

How can purity and unity improve the health and function of the Church?

How can we promote these in our circles of influence?

DAY FOUR: Confrontations with Sennacherib

The Bible offers three accounts of this part of Judah's history.

READ

- 2 Kings 18:13—19:13
- 2 Chronicles 32:1—19
- Isaiah 36

Who was Sennacherib?

Why did he attack Judah?

What was Hezekiah's first response?

What do you think of this? Was it a wise move or not? Why?

What does this tell you about Hezekiah's faith?

Describe the tactics of Sennacherib. How did he gain footing in this battle?

What does this tell you about the people's faith?

When Hezekiah received the news, how did he respond?

From whom did he seek help?

DAY FIVE: Hezekiah's Prayer and Intercession with Isaiah

Again the Bible offers three accounts of this part of Judah's history.

READ

- 2 Kings 19:14—37
- 2 Chronicles 32:20—23
- Isaiah 37

What was the basis or main theme of Hezekiah's prayer?

What response did he receive?

What reason did God give for this decision? What motivated His actions on behalf of Judah?

What became of Sennacherib?

Compare the three accounts. What is distinct about each (authors, content, tone)?

- 2 Kings
- 2 Chronicles
- Isaiah

DAY SIX: Hezekiah's Illness and the Babylonian Envoys

The trilogy of accounts continues.

READ

- 2 Kings 20
- 2 Chronicles 32:24—33
- Isaiah 38—39

When Hezekiah became ill, Isaiah delivered to him a message. What did the first message say?

How did Hezekiah respond?

What message did Isaiah deliver to him next?

What encouragement can we find in the words of the Lord to Hezekiah?

Hezekiah asked for a sign, an assurance that this word was true. What were his options? What sign did he request?

The book of Isaiah gives us a writing from Hezekiah. What truths do you find there?

After all of this, Hezekiah's pride returns, as evidenced by his dealings with the Babylonians. What mistakes does he make?

What consequences are promised to Hezekiah and the nation of Judah?

DAY SEVEN: God's Character

It is impossible to overstate God's character. He is today what He was yesterday and He was 3000 years ago. He will be the same tomorrow. The themes we've seen in these books may feel redundant. They are. But this only emphasizes the critical truths held therein:

What consistent themes have we seen about God's character?

What consistent themes have we seen about human nature?

What consistent themes have we seen about idolatry and pride?

READ Isaiah 40.

These verses elaborate on and highlight the character of God we've seen so evident throughout our study of Israel and Judah's history. What portion of this chapter stands out to you most? Write it here as a first step toward memorization.