

The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and God's People

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

As you read, take note of the cast of characters. Write a short descriptive to help you remember.

Write any notes or questions you have.

Review the questions on page 480 in your book to prepare for discussion in class.

What mistake did Israel make that Judah did not, and led to Israel's fall to the Assyrian empire?

Why did Hezekiah experience so many difficulties? Does obedience to God guarantee prosperity?

When Hezekiah received an intimidating letter from his enemies, he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. When have you reacted to an attack or urgent problem with a similar attitude?

How does Isaiah describe the Lord's death in Isaiah 53 (found on page 228 in The Story) According to Isaiah, who is punishing Jesus and why (in this prophecy)?

How could God be merciful to the people in light of their actions toward him?

Has God shown mercy to you?

How does the decisive and complete judgment of Israel square with the goodness of God? How does it challenge modern attitudes about God?

Isaiah foretold the rise and fall of nations. Is God still in control of world events in our day?

Like no other prophet, Isaiah spoke of a future when not only Israel, but all people would join together to worship Jesus in Jerusalem. These people would be set free from oppression. God who brought the people punishment and sent them into exile would be the one to bring them back home! God will do more than free them from exile, but also provide a servant to free them from the weight of sin. The prophet Isaiah gives the clearest description of the prophesied Messiah.

- The coming of the Messiah (40:3-5)
- The virgin birth (7:14)
- That the Messiah would minister in Galilee (9:1-2)
- Of the Messiah's deity and eternal throne (9:6-7)
- Of the Messiah's suffering (53)
- That the Messiah would die with sinners (53:9)
- That the Messiah would be buried in a rich man's tomb (53:9)
- That the Messiah's rule would be both mighty and gentle (40:10-11)
- That the Messiah would be a righteous king (32:1-8; 61:1-3)
- That the Messiah would be just and kind (42:3-4, 7)
- That the Messiah would rule over not only Israel but over the Gentiles as well (2:2-3; 42:1, 6; 49:6; 55:4-5; 60:3-5)
- That the Messiah would have great influence (49:7, 23)
- That idols would disappear (2:18)
- That under the Messiah's rule, there would be no more war (2:4; 65:25)
- That death would be destroyed (25:8; 26:19)
- That God's people would receive a new name (62:2; 65:15)
- That there would be a new heaven and new earth (65:17; 66:22)
- That the righteous and wicked would be eternally separated (66:15, 22-24)

No surprise—Isaiah is the most quoted source in the New Testament.