



bethelchurch

equippinghour

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together

GOD'S JUDGMENT AND MERCY ON ISRAEL AND JUDAH-

An Equipping Hour Class on 2 Kings 16-23-

January 4- March 1, 2026 9:00 a.m.

2nd Kings is an historical book that is relevant to us today because it shows the consequences of idolatry but also God's loving concern for his chosen people. The kings of Israel and Judah who fall short in their obedience to God's covenant prepare us to see our need for the true King Jesus Christ. Pastor Bloesch will connect the storyline of 2 Kings to Christ and explore its applications for Christians today.

January 4- 2 Kings 16:1-20- Unfaithful King Ahaz: His Temple Innovations

Instead of trusting in Yahweh, Ahaz depends on the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser for protection from his enemies, stripping the temple of its precious metals to pay him a bribe. Ahaz voluntarily submits to the Assyrian yoke, alters the temple and promotes idolatry in the high places- grievous sins that are an abomination to the Lord. If he had been willing to trust God with his kingdom, he and his people could have been secure, but instead suffer his judgment.

January 11- 2 Kings 17:1-23- The Fall of Israel: God's Punishment for Its Idolatry

This chapter describes the Assyrian storm and Israel's fall into exile. Back in 1 Kings 14, Ahijah told Jeroboam that the Lord would "uproot" Israel and "scatter them beyond the Euphrates." But the Lord proves to be gracious and compassionate, delaying judgment. He continues to display his grace by saving Israel from various enemies through Elisha. But the Israelites despise God's Word, resist his warnings and pursue idolatry. So Yahweh punishes them by sending them into exile. Instead of being grateful to Him for redeeming them out of Egypt, they looked to other gods.

January 18- 2 Kings 17:24-41- The False Religion of Samaria: Syncretism

While Israel is exiled, other peoples fill the land. Assyria's king brings them from near and far to dwell there. These people worshiped other gods alongside Yahweh. This syncretism displeased God- mixed worship isn't acceptable worship. This chapter calls us to examine our hearts: worshiping God plus other gods doesn't glorify Him but leads to an unfaithful life.

January 25- no class- Mission Marketplace

February 1- 2 Kings 18: 1-37- Faithful King Hezekiah: His Temptation to Compromise

This is a time of relief for Judah as a faithful new king ascends the throne, taking after his father David, a man after God's own heart. But like David, he faces his "Goliath" in Assyrian King Sennacherib, who like Goliath boasts about himself and taunts Yahweh. Hezekiah caves in to him and gives him silver and gold from the temple. We're reminded that even the most faithful have periods in which they cave in to pressure, but ultimately experience God's grace.

Feb. 8- 2 Kings 19:1-37- Faithful King Hezekiah: His Prayer for Jerusalem's Deliverance

Sennacherib decides gold isn't enough, so he sends his army to Jerusalem and tries to persuade Hezekiah to surrender. Both this time he seeks help from Yahweh through Isaiah. The first time he emptied the temple of wealth, but now he goes into the temple to seek God's help. He responds to his fear and doubt with faithful prayer and the Lord reverses a hopeless situation, defending the city for His name's sake.

February 15- 2 Kings 20:1-21- Faithful King Hezekiah: His Deliverance from Illness

Hezekiah is sick and is told he will die. Will he not live to enjoy the victory over Assyria? This chapter serves as another case study on faith and prayer. Once again Hezekiah takes his trouble to God in prayer. In response, Isaiah returns to give him a revised word- God has heard and will heal the king, giving him 15 more years. God doesn't always heal when we pray, but sometimes he does! Hezekiah gives us a good example of crying out to God when we're sick.

February 22- 2 Kings 21:1-26- Wicked King Manasseh: His Abominations and Repentance

Following the noble reign of Hezekiah, we witness the faithless reign of Manasseh. He led the nation into idolatry despite having a faithful father. We will break down his idolatry by examining the perversions he pursued, the privileges he forsook, the disaster he brought and the surprising legacy he left, as revealed in 2 Chronicles 33.

March 1- 2 Kings 22:1- 23:30- Good King Josiah: His Reformation and Renewal of the

Covenant Judgment was coming to Judah, but it was delayed due to the stellar leadership of King Josiah. Despite reigning after the dark spiritual days of Manasseh, Josiah leads the people into a time of reformation. Once again we see how God often uses unlikely people, the grandson of Manasseh in this case, in an unlikely time, to lead a time of spiritual renewal.

God in his grace gave this generation a godly leader. He faithfully sets out to follow Yahweh, giving us a marvelous example of obedience to God's Word.