

Oxford Baptist Church – Pastor Robin W. Pifer

January 22, 2017 - The Story Series

Chapter 16– The Beginning of the End (Kingdom of Israel).

Read “The Story” Chapter 16 (2 Kings 17-19; Isaiah 3; 6:1-8; 49; 53)

God established his relationship with Israel through a Covenant.

Two Types of Covenant in Scripture – 1) Unconditional 2) Conditional
Conditions of the Mosaic Covenant – Deut 28-30

- Blessings for Obedience – Deut 28:1-2
- Consequences or Curses for Disobedience – Deut 28:15

2 Kings 18-20 – King Hezekiah and the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord is Patient – 2 Kings 17:11b – 15; 18:10-12

- 200 years – 20 Wicked Kings in Israel – Northern Kingdom
- We mistake the Lord’s patience for permissiveness.
- We mistake the Lord’s patience for the Lord not paying attention. 2 Kings 17:9; Luke 12:3
- We mistake the Lord’s patience for his non-existence. Romans 6:23. God will deal with our sin. 2 Peter 3: 9-10; Romans 2:25
- God will discipline his people and punish the sin of the wicked. 2Cor 5:21 – The Cross of Jesus takes our sin.

“If you are a believer, God does not punish you, because all your sin was paid for on the cross. God doesn't have to punish you, because Jesus took that punishment. God does not punish Christians for their sins. But he does discipline them. There's a big difference between punishment and sin. The purpose of punishment is to inflict penalty. The purpose of discipline is to promote growth. The focus of punishment is on the past — what you've done wrong. The focus of discipline is on the future — what you can be. The attitude behind punishment is anger. The attitude behind discipline is love.”
Rick Warren

The Lord is Holy – Isaiah 6:1-8; 1Peter 1:14-18

The Lord is Faithful – 2Kings 18:17-37; 19:3-8

- Hezekiah’s crisis with the Assyrians.
- Hezekiah prays, cries out and God answers.
- Hezekiah rebels against evil. 2Kings 18:5-7
- Hold back the discipline and judgement of the Lord.

The Lord is Gracious - 2Kings 18:13-16; 2Kings 20

- Hezekiah tries in his own strength.
- Hezekiah’s Illness and mistake with the Babylonians. 2Kings 20
- We must be delivered or saved by faith.
- No earthly King is perfect or sufficient. Only Jesus – Isaiah 53
- The Lord wants to Restore his people – Isaiah 49
- “No King but Jesus” – He is Lord of Lord and King of Kings.



THE STORY
For Life Groups

1. Why are there blessings for obedience and consequences or curses for disobedience? How have you experienced this in your life?
2. Discuss the notes about the Lord’s Patience. How can we misinterpret the Lord’s patience?
3. Read and discuss the quote from Rick Warren.
4. What stands out to you about the encounter the prophet Isaiah has with the Lord’s Holiness in Isaiah 6:1-8.
5. How does 1 Peter 1:14-18 enhance your understanding of pursuing practical holiness in your daily life? Why is this important for your spiritual growth and witness?
6. How does the Lord show grace to Hezekiah? Why is no earthly King or Queen perfect?
7. As you read through Isaiah we find on many occasions his prophecies point to Jesus Christ. Why is Jesus Christ the perfect King? How does his grace impact our lives?