

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

II KINGS 18

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II Kings 18 opens describing the desperate situation in the Northern Kingdom of Israel under the reign of King Hoshea. God had warned Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, that his great sin would bring judgment on the house of Israel, but he did not listen. Jeroboam made a golden calf in the north at the ancient city of Dan and in the south, near Jerusalem, at the sacred city of Bethel. He set up a rival system of worship that mocked and counterfeited the worship of the true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel). God in His great mercy gave the Northern Kingdom from 931 B.C. at the death of Solomon, to 722 B.C. to repent. Over 200 years, God pleaded with His beloved people to turn from the golden calf worship and later from the false gods called the Baalim, which had been introduced into Israel by the wicked queen, Jezebel, the wife of Ahab. Israel could not bring herself to break away, so the judgment of God fell upon them by means of the Assyrians, whose capital was Nineveh (modern day Mosul in Iraq). The Northern Kingdom fell after three years of Assyrian siege, in 722 B.C.

The Assyrians had a different method of conquering people than the Babylonians, who would destroy and take captive the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The Assyrians would take a city, a nation, and would scatter them and mix them with the populations from other conquered

territories. They would leave a portion of the population, usually of a lower class, and bring in others from distant places who had a different culture, gods, language, so there was less likelihood of alliances being forged that would threaten Assyria, at least in the short term.

Israel was decimated. It is estimated that only about a tenth of the Israelites remained, the rest were scattered throughout the Assyrian Kingdom. This why you hear about the "lost ten tribes of Israel" but, there is no such thing. God knows where every Jewish person is on the face of the earth. Biblical and historical records show that many of the Jews from the ten tribes to the north migrated south, even fled south to Jerusalem to avoid the coming storm of Assyrians. So many refugees came that godly King Hezekiah had to build a wall around the western hill of Jerusalem very quickly and double the size of the city. The wall he built around the city is called the "Broad Wall" (II Chronicles 32:1-8) to this day and remnants of that wall has been discovered and is visible to anyone who visits Jerusalem today.

Prayer and Action Steps

God is sovereign. God is merciful. God is gracious beyond anything anyone can imagine. But God will punish sin and demands repentance of nations and individuals.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
