

## The Beginning of the End

### Day One – Captivity

**Today's reading:** Page 219 through break on page 222

**This reading covers:** 2 Kings 17-19

**Summary:** Captivity begins as a result of the continued unfaithfulness of God's people.

#### **Consider this:**

Have you noticed that our introductions to the various kings of Israel and Judah usually include a one sentence resume: "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord," as was the case of Hoshea or "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord," as was the case of Hezekiah. If your life was summarized in one sentence, what would it be? Think about your proudest accomplishments. Is God part of them? Idol worship was Israel's downfall. A definition of idolatry is excessive devotion to, or worship of, an object or ideal. What are some false gods people worship today?

**For further reading:** 1 John 2:15-17

#### **Prayer:**

Father God, help me make you the core of my life ~ to always try to do right in your eyes. I ask this in your son's name, Amen.

### Day Two – God's Battle

**Today's reading:** Break on page 222 through break on page 224

**This reading covers:** 2 Kings 19

**Summary:** Hezekiah sees the threat against him, but allows God to fight his battles.

#### **Consider this:**

The king of Assyria blasphemed God (with dire consequences) and taunted the people of Judah about their trust in him. Have you ever been teased or even ridiculed for being a Christian? Think about what it means to live for Christ and how you should respond. Defeat seemed certain for King Hezekiah, but instead of surrendering to the enemy he surrendered himself to God, the only one who could help him. What lessons can we take from Hezekiah as we face life's problems?

**For further reading:** Psalm 25:16-22; Romans 1:16-17; 2 Timothy 4:16-18; 1 Peter 4:12-16

**Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for being my rescuer, the one I know I can always turn to in time of trouble. Help me to never be ashamed of you but that I will always proudly declare your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Day Three – Words to Live By**

**Today's reading:** Break on page 224 through end of chapter

**This reading covers:** Isaiah 3, 6, 14, 49, 53

**Summary:** Through Isaiah, God speaks words of judgment, hope and salvation.

**Consider this:**

The prophet Isaiah spoke to the people of Judah who lived between 740 and 680 BC, but many of his poetic words are as relevant as ever. How did the people of that time react to his words of warning and promise? What can we learn from them today? Underline a verse or two from today's reading that speak to you. Have you ever thought about the fact that God planned for Christ's death as a means of salvation thousands of years before it happened? How does reading the prophecies of Isaiah confirm that truth?

**For further reading:** 2 Peter 1:12-21

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me your words of hope and salvation spoken through the prophet Isaiah. Thank you for the Savior that he announced. In Jesus' name, Amen.