

KINGS BEHAVING BADLY III



2 KINGS 8-25

Between Life and Death

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Study 1

Kings 16-17/Hosea

Week 3

A Haunting Image

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

Hosea gives an insight into the relational impact of idolatry on the Lord through the haunting image of an adulterous wife. Israel is deported because of her marital unfaithfulness.

One of the biggest problems we have in thinking about God is that we move so quickly to abstract ideas or general principles. So what is the problem? Well it's when we do this we forget we are dealing in the Bible with the personal God. It is easy when we hear about judgement coming closer and closer to Israel, because of it's idolatry, that we are only dealing with some sort of 'spiritual' cause and effect and that God is some how personally disconnected from the process. If we are tempted in this direction, the prophet Hosea, presents us with a living picture of how idolatry impacted the relationship between the LORD and Israel and we are left with the clear impression that there is no disconnected cause and effect going on.

In the Bible Study meeting read Hosea 1-3 aloud.

1. How is Hosea's relationship with Gomer an accurate acting out of the LORD's relationship with Israel?

2. Put yourself in Hosea's place. How would you feel being treated by your partner in this way?

Week 4

Prayer Points

Week 1

3. There are two movements in Hosea's relationship with Gomer; rejection/ judgement and reconciliation. Map out this in the first three chapters?

4. How does Hosea's experience tell us about the LORD's pain in judgement?

5. Can you think of a time when you had to leave someone you loved to the consequences of their actions even though it would be hurtful to them and to you?

Week 2

Turn to 2 Kings 16 & 17

Judah 2 Kings 16

7. From our reading of 2 Kings so far why is Judah being invaded (2 Kings 16.1-4)?

8. When Ahaz is in trouble, he doesn't repent and turn to the LORD. Who does he turn to (2 Kings 16.7-19)?

Read 2 Kings 17.1-23

9. Why is Israel sent into Exile?

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on Ezekiel 18.23

Ezekiel 18:23 ²³ Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a prayer to God thanking the Lord for caring about us so much.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



Identify and area where you need to repent.

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on **1 John 1.8**

1 John 1:8 ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer asking the Lord to show you your sinful ways and then enabling you to give them up.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



How is this story of 2 Kings and Hosea helpful in guiding us as to how we deal with people who hurt and disappoint us?

Study 2

2 Kings 18-21

Every Cloud has a Silver Lining

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

We know that the kingdom of Judah will follow Israel into exile but there are still one or two good kings to come and Hezekiah is one of the best.

In our culture there is a big debate about nature versus nurture. In the story of the kings of Judah we are constantly surprised; bad kings produce good kings and good kings produce really bad kings. Good king Hezekiah is the son of one of the worst kings of Israel and he is the father of the worst king of Israel. But if the truth be told even the good kings, by now, can be a mixed bag.

1. In 2 Kings 18.1-12 How is this a really promising start to Hezekiah's reign?

2. Read 2 Kings 18.13-18 Is this an act of trust in the LORD?

3. Read 2 Kings 18.19-35 How does the field commander of the Assyrians misrepresent the reforms instituted by Hezekiah?

4. Read 2 Kings 19.1-4 How does Hezekiah define the problem rightly?

6. Is Judah or her king acknowledging what the real problem is?

Israel has gone into exile, Judah has gone into exile. The Temple is destroyed and burnt, there are no sacrifices, no king and the people are far away from the land.

7. Read Isaiah 40. What message does Isaiah give to a people apparently devoid of hope?

Jump forward approx. 617 years.

Rome the Super power

8. What is the experience of Judah living under the rule of the Romans?

9. Why is Rome in control of Judah?

10. Read Luke 3.1-14. What is significant about the way that John's ministry is announced in the gospel?

11. In rejecting Jesus, the one John pointed to, is Judea acknowledging what the real problem is?

Study 3 2 Kings 23.31-25.30/Isaiah 40-66

Under Judgment Longing for Renewal

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

Judah goes into exile—she couldn't change the trajectory of death. Isaiah let's us know that the best is yet to come.

Judah is near the end and is in the death throws, engaging in the dangerous game of playing off one super power against the other and all the while ignoring the Lord.

Egypt the Southern Super power

Read 2 Kings 23.29-37

1. What is the experience of Judah living under the rule of Pharaoh?

2. Why is Egypt in control of Judah?

3. Is Judah or her king acknowledging what the real problem is?

Babylon the Northern Super power

Read 2 Kings 24 & 25

4. What is the experience of Judah living under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar?

5. Why is Babylon in control of Judah?

5. Read 2 Kings 19.5-7; 20-34 Isaiah is clear as to what the real issue is and what is about to happen. What are they?

Hezekiah is thankful to the LORD and responds with a prayer of thanks and praise and the Lord answers his prayer in 2 Kings 19.35-37

Read 2 Kings 20 Hezekiah's new lease on life doesn't bring him any more glory—his great concern for his own life is not matched by his concern for the health and life of the kingdom of Judah after him.

6. Read 2 Kings 21.1-18 How is Hezekiah's son, Manasseh the straw that breaks the camel's back of the Lord's patience?

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on Psalm 13 as an apt expression of frustration about Israel's dogged sinfulness.

^{NIV} **Psalm 13:1** For the director of music. A psalm of David. How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? ³ Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; ⁴ my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. ⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. ⁶ I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me.

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer thanking the Lord that Jesus has come.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



Can you make an improvement in you home or workplace this coming week?

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on Hebrew 12.1-3

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer asking God give you the strength to not give up.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



Pray for the kids in our congregation that they will be followers of Jesus and reject foolish ways.

Study 3

Kings 22-23.30

You have Kept The Best Till Last

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

Josiah is the best king Judah ever had up till this point, even better than David. Josiah love the LORD with all his heart, soul and strength.

We are nearing the end of the tragic story of 2 Kings. Some of you may well be thinking, 'Thank the Lord', but there is one last great story—the rule of king Josiah—it is as if the Lord has saved the best till last.

1. Read the summary statements of Josiah's reign 2 Kings 22.2;23.25. Jus how good a king is Josiah?

2. Read 2 Kings 22.3-20 What is it that really shapes Josiah as a good king?

3. What does this tell us about how God's people lose their way?

4. What message does Josiah get from Huldah 2 kings 22.15-20?

5. Read 2 Kings 23 Josiah does three things. What are they?

23.1-3

23.4-20

23.21-24

6. How does Josiah show us that even though we know that judgement is coming on this world, that doesn't meant we should give up or disengage from trying to make this world the best it could be?