

Let us begin with the eighteenth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Today we will begin with 2 Kings chapter 16. / In 16:1-4, it speaks of the sins Ahaz committed. / King Ahaz was one of the most wicked kings in the entire history of Judah.

/He was not like David; he walked in depravity. / He followed the paths of the kings of Israel. / He worshipped the foreign idol Molech and he burned his children before it.

/Instead of giving sacrifices in the temple, he made sacrifices in the high places. / He also worshipped various gods on the hills and under every green tree.

/In verses 5-6, the king of Aram and the king of Israel ally together and invade Judah. / This is because God's wrath was upon King Ahaz who turned away from the ways of the LORD.

/Hence, God led the armies of Aram (present day Syria) and Israel to take Elath and besiege and surround Jerusalem. /This was God's plan to humble Judah.

/In verses 7-9, King Ahaz asks the king of Assyria for help. / King Ahaz did not repent when the enemies invaded him. / Instead, he relied on the king of Assyria and sent all the silver and gold that were in the temple of the LORD to Tiglath-pileser, the king of Assyria.

/He was not supposed to give them to a foreigner, but he did, and not only that but he asked for his help. / If the people went before God in humility and repentance, and cried out in the midst of sufferings, God would have shown compassion on them and helped them.

/They committed the sin of abandoning the LORD because they relied on the foreign king. / The king of Assyria helped Israel and attacked Damascus, the capital of Aram, and killed Rezin.

/The king of Assyria seemed to be some help for a while, but in reality, it was no good. / This is because Ahaz became a servant of the king of Assyria. / Judah voluntarily became the servant of Assyria.

/Anyone who relies on the things of the world and not God, is bound to become its servant and captive.

/In verses 10-16, King Ahaz remakes the altar he saw in Damascus and makes sacrifices on it. / The king of Assyria also conquered Damascus. / When Ahaz went to Damascus to meet the king of Assyria, he saw the altar on which the sacrifices for idols were made.

/The altar for the idols looked grand and magnificent in the eyes of King Ahaz.

/It seemed even greater than the God of Israel. / Ahaz was seduced by its appearance. / Hence, he copied the design, its form and shape, and then sent it to the priest Uriah.

/He ordered the priest to make the same altar in Jerusalem. / The same thing happens nowadays, where believers compare the things of the church and the world with each other. / It is the same as believers worshipping God in the ways of the world, since the ways of the world seem better than the ways of the church.

/No matter how luxurious and grand worldly things may appear, God is not pleased with them and there is no life in them. / Believers who follow them are bound to perish.

/The priest Uriah obeyed the order and made the same altar before Ahaz returned from Damascus. / Uriah the priest should have been the one to correct the king when he did things he shouldn't have.

/However, he kept silent like a mute and joined in the evil the king committed. / King Ahaz returned from Damascus and sacrificed and burnt offerings on the altar.

/King Ahaz moved the bronze altar, which was in front of the temple of the LORD, to the north side of the altar he made. / He also destroyed the utensils in the temple and shut the entrances of the temple.

/He sought the wrath of God by building high places in each city of Judah and by offering sacrifices to other gods. / Even in today's time, if believers bow down in repentance and call out to God in times of punishment, they will live.

/Yet, if they continue to rely on the world and continue to live by the ways of the world, destruction will be upon them. / King Ahaz sacrificed many offerings and threw blood on them. / This was not God's command.

/It was despicable in the eyes of the LORD because it was a copy of the altar for idols. /The true altar was the bronze altar, which Solomon made by following God's command. /By moving the altar to another place, he disobeyed the LORD.

/Because the priest blindly obeyed and joined the king, the entire country came to ruins. / If he spoke right words to the king and gave biblical teachings, the king might have done right.

/In verses 17-18, Ahaz moves the utensils in the temple. / He moved the utensils as he wished and changed the arrangement of the temple. / All of them were originally placed according to God's command.

/When he moved them with a humanly mindset, he directly ignored God and his word. / The Sabbath canopy was a resting area for priests who helped out in the temple.

/By moving it to another location, he disturbed the priests from helping out on the Sabbath. / He made it go around the house of the LORD because he wanted to show the king of Assyria that he did not deem God important.

/In verses 19-20, Ahaz dies and Hezekiah succeeds him as king. / This king, who defiled the temple and tainted himself with despicable acts, died. / Then his son Hezekiah succeeded him as king.

/In 17:1-6, northern Israel is destroyed, and the people are exiled to faraway places. / Hoshea became the king of Israel during the twelfth year of Ahaz's reign in Judah. / He plotted against Pekah on the fourth year of Ahaz's reign. He killed Pekah and sat on the throne.

/In chapter 17, we can read that Hoshea became king on the twelfth year of Ahaz's reign. / Seeing this, we can presume that he battled against Pekah for eight years. / King Hoshea did not commit as much evil as the previous kings of Israel.

/He let the people freely visit and go to the temple in Jerusalem, which was located in Judah. / Shalmaneser the king of Assyria invaded him. / He surrendered and promised to pay tribute to the king of Assyria.

/Yet afterward, Hoshea rebelled against the king of Assyria and asked the king of Egypt for help. / The king of Assyria then found out about this and put him in prison, and besieged Samaria.

/In the ninth year after he became king, the king of Assyria captured Samaria. / This completely destroyed Israel. / After the king captured the Israelites, he placed them in various places such as Halath, Habor, Gosan, and in other cities of Medes.

/They never returned to Israel. / The king of Assyria sent foreigners in Samaria to other places. / The king of Assyria attacked Israel because of Hoshea's rebellion.

/In 721 B.C., northern Israel completely perished, and this was the ninth year of Hoshea's reign. He was the nineteenth king in line. / As for southern Judah, the kingdom was destroyed in 586 B.C. by Babylon during the reign of Zedekiah.

/In verses 7-23, the sins that northern Israel committed are spoken of. / The first sin that brought destruction was the sin of forgetting the grace of God. /God delivered them from the hands of Pharaoh of Egypt, but they abandoned God and worshipped foreign idols.

/The second sin was that they abandoned the grace of God and built high places and the Asherah pole, and burned incense to these idols. / The third sin was that they disobeyed the covenant and laws of God, who made his commandments known to the people by sending prophets and seers.

/They neither listened to God's word nor kept the covenant, and instead walked in the ways of foreigners and worshiped idols. / The fourth sin was that they made images of calves for themselves and worshipped them.

/Israel made golden calves in Bethel and Dan, worshipping them as God. / The fifth sin was that they worshipped the sky, sun, moon, and stars. / The sixth sin was that they worshipped Baal.

/The seventh sin was that they burned their sons and daughters. / This practice of worship was done among the Ammonites, who burned their children for their god Molech.

/The eighth sin was that they used divinations and omens. / Here in verse 18, it says that none

was left but only the tribe of Judah. / This means that Judah was not destroyed when Israel, which worshipped golden calves, was destroyed.

/Yet, the next verse, verse 19, says that the sins of Israel spread to Judah, and it destroyed Judah as well. / Judah also did not keep the commandments of God and followed the ways of Israel, and hence, God judged Judah just as he judged Israel.

/The most serious sin Israel committed was the sin of making golden calves and worshipping them as God, which was started by Jeroboam. / God drove the people out from their homes and let them be captured by Assyria, never to return again. All this happened because of that sin.

/In verses 24-28, one of the priests is sent to Samaria to teach the people who came to live there how to worship the LORD. / The king of Assyria captured the Israelites and brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Havah, and Sepharvaim into the land of Samaria, making them live in the cities.

/Thus, from that moment on, Israel was inhabited by various tribes. /Because the people from various places did not fear the LORD, God sent lions to the land and some of them were killed.

/Even though they were foreigners, because they were living in the land of Canaan that God promised Abraham, they were to serve God.

/The Assyrian king sent one of the priests to Samaria and Bethel to teach the people to serve God. / The king of Assyria did this for religious harmony. / This shows how meticulous and firm Assyria's immigration policy was.

/In verses 29-41, people in Samaria idolize the LORD and worship him along with their idols. / They worshipped both the LORD and their gods.

/The remaining Israelites and foreigners who came to live in Israel made the country a country of mixed people and religion. / People who were brought to Samaria worshipped God along with the gods they worshipped in their land, and they did not keep the decrees and laws of God.

/God warned them several times. / He told them to worship him only, not together with their gods and idols. God told them that he would eternally bless them if they obeyed his decrees and laws.

/Yet, they did not listen to God, but worshipped both God and idols, and this went on for generations. / From that point on, the Age of Silence, which lasted for 700 years, began. It lasted until the birth of Jesus Christ.

/In 18:1-8, we read about the faith of King Hezekiah and his reign. / This king was a good king next to David. His father Ahaz committed great sins.

/Yet, he did not take after his father but ruled Judah with faith. / He became a good king because he followed the example of his mother, not his father.

/David also faithfully obeyed the commands of God and sought him with all his heart. He was the only king who did right before the LORD. / King Hezekiah had the faith of David, and God was pleased with him.

/God is pleased with us when we obey his commands and when we serve him with all our hearts, souls, and strength. / God is pleased when we do right in the eyes of the LORD.

/There were two kinds of high places. / One was for worshipping God. / The other was for worshipping idols. / In 2 Chronicles 6:6, God told the people to offer sacrifices in Jerusalem, the place God had chosen.

/Yet, the people of Judah built high places and worshipped God and idols there. / Hezekiah destroyed all these idols and high places. / He also destroyed the bronze serpent Moses made.

/The Israelites lived in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt, and God made a snake bite them for their complaints against God and Moses. / When Moses prayed, God spoke to him.

/God said that whoever looked at the bronze serpent Moses made would live, which was hung on a pole. / However, the people in that time thought it was worthy and offered sacrifices before it.

/They worshipped in this way for 700 years, and this shows that it had already become an idol among them.

/Hence, Hezekiah shattered the bronze serpent, and called it Nehushtan. / It means pieces of bronze. / It was only a few pieces of bronze, so it was not right to worship it.

/No matter how necessary it was and how worthy it was in the way it was used, it was not to be idolized before God. / The same case was for the body of Moses, which God sent an angel to get rid of for fear that it would become an object of idolatry to the Israelites.

/Therefore, we must get rid of everything that could become our idol. / It is right to build up and cherish the tradition that is about the truth. / Yet, to add divine attributes to a dead body or an object is wrong.

/In the same way, the staff of Moses was once a staff of God's power, but it became like any other staff today. / Hezekiah trusted God. / He trusted the sovereignty of God with all his heart and received his strength from him.

/Hezekiah walked with God to anywhere God led him, and he obeyed God. / He faithfully kept the commands of Moses. / Thus, God was with him and gave him prosperity wherever he went.

/His father Ahaz surrendered before the king of Assyria and paid tribute to him. / However, Hezekiah trusted God only and did not serve the king of Assyria.

/In verse 8, it says that he struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city. / He conquered the entire land of the Philistines.

/He was able to claim victories in war against strong enemies because he trusted the LORD only and went out to fight with faith.

/In verses 9-12, Israel is destroyed. / It was completely destroyed by Assyria in the ninth year of Hoshea's reign. / This was recorded to contrast the cause of prosperity in Judah with the cause of destruction in Israel.

/In verses 13-16, the king of Assyria invades Judah. / The Assyrian king Sennacherib invaded Judah and took several cities, and this was on the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign. / This happened because he did not use his faith and was becoming weak.

/Hezekiah was scared because of their invasion, so he accepted the requests of the Assyrian king and gave him lots of gold and silver. / When Hezekiah consulted and walked with God, he was bold and prosperous.

/However, as years passed, Hezekiah's complete trust in the LORD was getting weak. / He should have opposed the king of Assyria by continuing to trust in God.

/Instead, Hezekiah surrendered, and gave 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold to the king of Assyria. / The gold and silver were from the treasuries of the temple and royal palace.

/In verses 17-27, Rabshakeh mocks God and Israel. / The gold and silver did not last long, for the Assyrian king invaded Judah once again. / He sent three commanders and a great army, and they came to Jerusalem.

/The last time they invaded, King Hezekiah resorted to human ways to make peace with the king of Assyria, and yet they came again. / God allowed Assyria to invade again in order to restore Hezekiah's faith.

/Shebna the secretary was Hezekiah's official. / Although he worked faithfully during Assyria's attack, the prophet Isaiah rebuked him for being evil because he left the ways of God.

/Rabshakeh insulted Judah to great degrees. / He says in verse 20, "Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me?"

/He also said that relying on Egypt was like trusting the broken reed of a staff. / He said that trusting Egypt would bring harm.

/He also mocked Judah, saying that trusting God was futile. / He also spoke words that

frustrated Hezekiah and the people.

/Rabshakeh said, “But if you say to me, ‘We trust in the LORD our God,’ is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, ‘You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem.’”/He said this so that the people would think they were wrong. He tried to tempt them to believe it wrong.

/Rabshakeh also said that there was no rider even if he gave two thousand horses. / He said that God became angry because Hezekiah destroyed the high places and altars, and that God told Hezekiah to attack Judah.

/Rabshakeh used the name of God and tried to mislead the people to surrender. / Even in today’s time, Satan misuses the words of God when it tries to tempt us.

/It makes the good things look like bad things, and it discourages us by attacking our weakest spots. / In verse 26, the officials of Hezekiah ask Rabshakeh to speak in Aramaic.

/However, he refused to do so, and he spoke louder in the language of Judah. / Rabshakeh did this to mislead the people with his words and stir up distrust for Hezekiah.

/In verses 28-35, Rabshakeh tempts Israel. / He cited the name of the LORD to win over the people, but they did not listen to him. / When they ignored him, he said evil things that were in his heart.

/First, he ignored the prophecy of the prophet Isaiah. / According to Isaiah 31:4, Isaiah prophesied that God would help the people, and Jerusalem would not be destroyed.

/Second, he tempted the people by saying that whoever surrendered to Assyria would be led to the land filled with grain and wine. / This was Satan’s scheme to make the people leave God’s promise.

/Third, Rabshakeh did not believe in the power of God. / No nation was saved from the attacks of Assyria, and according to him, not even the LORD would be able to save Jerusalem. / Rabshakeh tried to dissuade them from God’s promise, and intimidated them at the same time.

/In verses 36-37, the people trust God and keep silent to Rabshakeh's remarks. / The people obeyed King Hezekiah. / In the same way, God delivers us when we obey our leaders well.

/The officials of King Hezekiah heard his words and they tore their robes, and they told the king everything that had happened.

/With this we will conclude the eighteenth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Thank you.