Opening

Gathering: Which of God’s promises are most important to people today?

Today’s Focus: God continued to call His people back to Him even after they continued to reject Him.

Key Verses: *The Lord warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and seers: “Turn from your evil ways. Observe My commands” … The Israelites persisted in all the sins … until the Lord removed them from His presence, as He had warned through all His servants the prophets.*

2 Kings 17:13, 22-23

*I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”* Isaiah 6:8

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Ahab’s Evils *(1 Kings 21:20-26)*

Who brought Israel into its worst period of faithlessness?
1 Kings 16:29-33 = Ahab led the people to worship Baal of Sidon

How did God respond to the evils introduced and promoted by Ahab?
1 Kings 21:20-26 = He would wipe out Ahab’s entire family

What king of Israel fulfilled Elijah’s prophesy that Ahab’s evil family would be destroyed?
2 Kings 10:17 = Jehu, A commander of Israel’s army

How faithful was Jehu?
2 Kings 10:28-29 = Cleansed Israel of Baal worship but left Jeroboam’s religion

Jehu’s Dynasty *(2 Kings 10-15)*

Who followed Jehu and how faithful was he? = Punished by oppression by Syria
2 Kings 13:1-3 (1-9) = His son Jehoahaz, Followed sins of Jeroboam

Who came next and how faithful was his reign? = Elisha died during his reign, stories of arrows & bones
2 Kings 13:10-11 (10-25) = His son Jehoash, Continued in sins of Jeroboam

Who came next and how faithful was his reign? = Assyria attacked Aram, Israel regained territory
2 Kings 14:23-24 (23-29) = His son Jeroboam II, Evil in the eyes of the Lord - Jonah sent

Who came next and how faithful was his reign?
2 Kings 15:8-9 = His son Zechariah, Evil in the eyes of the Lord

Why was Jehu blessed with 4 succeeding generations of kings?
2 Kings 10:30 = God’s blessing for fulfilling calling to destroy Ahab’s family & Baalism

Israel’s Last Kings *(2 Kings 15)*

What happened that ended Jehu’s dynasty?
2 Kings 15:10 (10-13) = Zechariah was assassinated & succeeded by Shallum

Who came next and how faithful was his reign?
2 Kings 15:14, 18 (14-22) = Menahem killed Shallum after 1 month, Followed Jeroboam

How did God respond to the continual evils of Israel’s kings?
2 Kings 15:19 = Israel became subject to Assyria

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The Final Days of Israel (2 Kings 15-17)

Who came next and how faithful was his reign?
2 Kings 15:23-24 (25-28) = Pekahiah, Menahem's son, Evil in the eyes of the Lord
Why did Pekahiah reign only 2 years and who followed him?
2 Kings 15:25, 28 = Assassinated by Pekah, Evil in the eyes of the Lord
How did God respond to these continued evils?
2 Kings 15:29 = Large areas taken by Assyria, people deported
Who came next and how faithful was his reign?
2 Kings 15:30; 17:2 = Hoshea assassinated Pekah, Evil in the eyes of the Lord
How did God respond?
2 Kings 17:5-6 (3-6) = Assyria conquered rest of Israel and deported all Israelites

God's Judgment on His People (2 Kings 17:7-23)

What did God require of the kings of His people?
1 Kings 11:37-38 = Walk in My ways & follow My statutes and I will bless you
In summary, how faithful were the kings of Israel, the northern kingdom?
2 Kings 17:21-22 (7-23) = They persisted in the sins of Jeroboam
How faithful was Judah, the southern kingdom?
2 Kings 17:19 = Judah followed the practices Israel had introduced
Did God give up on the people immediately after Jeroboam turned them away?
2 Kings 17:13-14 = No, He sent prophets to Israel & Judah to turn them back to Him

The Prophet's Message (Isaiah 1)

What did God do for the southern nation of Judah as the northern nation of Israel crumbled?
Isaiah 1:1 = Sent the prophet Isaiah
How does Isaiah begin his ministry?
Isaiah 1:2-4 = States the problem: God's kids have rebelled & turned their backs on Him
Did God want His people to become more religious?
Isaiah 1:11-14 = He detests their meaningless worship rituals for the sake of religion
What did God want?
Isaiah 1:16-17 = Live in righteousness, not evil
But what about their guilt of past evils? Was it too late to be accepted by God?
Isaiah 1:18 = God will forgive them

What would happen if the people returned to God?
Isaiah 1:19 = Be blessed - You will eat the best from the land
What would happen if the people didn't return to God?
Isaiah 1:20 = Be punished - You will be devoured by the sword

The Prophet Foretells God's Judgment on Israel (Isaiah 6:8)

How did God call Isaiah and how did Isaiah accept his call?
Isaiah 6:1, 8 = God asked Whom shall I send? Isaiah said Here am I. Send me!
What prophesy did Isaiah give against Israel and Aram? = Shiloah is pool in Jerusalem
Isaiah 8:5-7 (see 7:1) = God would raise up Assyria against them

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The Prophet Foretells God’s Judgment on Judah  (*Isaiah 3:8-9*)

What prophecy did Isaiah have for Judah?
*Isaiah 3:8-9* = *They have brought disaster on themselves*

Would this judgment permanently eliminate God’s chosen people?
*Isaiah 1:25-26* = There was hope in restoration & return to righteousness & faithfulness

Six Specific Promises of Hope

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The Coming of a Messiah Out Of David’s Seed  (*Isaiah 11*)

Where do we first learn that a messiah would come from Judah?
*Genesis 49:1, 10* = Jacob included prophecy in blessing for Judah

What promise did God make to David that included the promised messiah?
*2 Samuel 7:16* = That his dynasty would last forever

How did the prophet remind the Jews that David’s kingdom would never end?
*Isaiah 9:6-7* = A messiah would come and reign forever

What kind of messiah would the Jews expect?
*Isaiah 11:1-5* = A righteous and faithful king like David

What would this messiah do for the nation?
*Isaiah 11:10, 12 (10-16)* = A king who would restore the great and respected nation of Israel

Why did Jesus tell his disciples not to tell others who he was?
*Luke 23:2 (Matthew 16:20)* = They’d have gotten the wrong idea of His purpose

Did the disciples have a good grasp on Jesus’ mission?
*Acts 1:6* = They still didn’t understand after Jesus’ death and resurrection

The Birth of a New Era  (*Isaiah 32*)

What kind of new era did the prophet promise?
*Isaiah 32:1-4* = Righteous rule would bring wisdom and understanding

What atmosphere would be characteristic of this new era?
*Isaiah 32:16-18* = Peace and righteousness would prevail

The Restoration of Paradise  (*Isaiah 51*)

How would paradise be restored?
*Isaiah 51:3* = In the Lord’s compassion, Israel’s deserts will be like Eden

How peaceful will this paradise be?
*Isaiah 11:6-9* = The wolf will live with the lamb ...
The Exaltation of Mount Zion *(Isaiah 2)*

What was Mount Zion?
Psalm 2:6 (2 Chronicles 33:15) = Zion was a hill in Jerusalem where the temple was built

How would Mount Zion be exalted?
Isaiah 2:2-4 = People from all over would come to Jerusalem (Zion) to learn of God

Why would non-Jews want to learn of God and His ways?
Isaiah 49:6 = The messiah would bring salvation to all people on earth

How did Jesus clarify the nature of this new kingdom?
John 18:36 = *My kingdom is not of this world*
John 4:21-23 = God doesn't confine Himself to an earthly temple
Matthew 28:19-20 = The church must go out and bring God's message to the world

The Return of a Remnant *(Isaiah 10)*

What would happen to the survivors of the house of Jacob?
Isaiah 10:20-22 = A select remnant of the exiles would rely on the Lord and would return

The Suffering Servant *(Isaiah 53)*

What role of God's calling had the Jews forgotten?
Isaiah 41:8-9 = God called the Jews to be His servant

How would God's new servant suffer for the sake of others?
Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11 = Life as a guilt offering, carry our sins, justify many

Isaiah's Four Servant Songs
- Isaiah 42:1-7 = Here is my servant, my chosen, he will establish justice on earth
- Isaiah 49:1-6 = It isn't enough to restore Israel, also save the whole world
- Isaiah 50:4-9 = Offer my back to be beaten, my cheeks to pull out my beard
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12 = He was despised, rejected, bore our sins, suffered to save many

Did Isaiah and the other prophets fully understand what God told them to say?
1 Peter 1:10-12 = No. They and angels have longed to understand

Closing Prayer

**Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How have I stood up for the Lord when I have been in the company of unbelievers?
   *(1 Kings 22:1-8; 2 Kings 9-10; Matthew 10; Acts 4:1-21; Philippians 1:12-14)*
2. How have I assassinated others in my eagerness to get or achieve something?
   *(2 Kings 15:10, 14, 25, 30; Matthew 5:21-22, 38-48; James 5:1-6; 1 John 3:11-24)*
3. Do I recognize, listen and heed the messages that God sends to me through others?
   *(2 Kings 17:13-14; Isaiah 1; Matthew 13:11-17; 23:29-39; 1 John 4:4-6)*
4. Do I recognize and respond to the call God gives me to take His message to others?
   *(Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 5:20-21a; Ephesians 3:1-13; 2 Timothy 4:2-5)*
5. What promises has God made that are personally important to me and my faith?
   *(Genesis 12:1-3; Joshua 23:14; Isaiah 11, 32, 51, 2, 10, 53; 2 Peter 3:9-13)*