

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 16 – THE BEGINNING OF THE END (OF THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL)

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God's grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God's expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

Key Events: The fall of the Northern kingdom of Israel, the reign of Hezekiah king of Judah, Assyria threatens Judah, the prophet Isaiah

DIGGING IN

- 1) Pages 219-220 outline the downfall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Why did God send the Northern Kingdom into captivity? Compare God's actions against Israel to Moses' warning in Deuteronomy 28:45-50. Should the destruction of Israel have come as a surprise?
- 2) King Hezekiah of Judah was a rarity: he was faithful to the LORD. At the same time he experienced great difficulties as a king. Does obedience to God guarantee prosperity and a life free from suffering? Think of a time in your own life when this was important to remember.
- 3) When commander of the Assyria army came to Jerusalem he asked Hezekiah, "On what are you basing this confidence of yours?" Where did Hezekiah's confidence come from? pg 221-222

