

WEEK 27 — ASSYRIA THREATENS JERUSALEM

Date: roughly 730-681 BC, with emphasis on the events of 702-701 BC

The Story: God has judged Israel for its wickedness and unfaithfulness; he has given it over to the Assyrians, who destroyed it. Will the same happen to Judah? For some twenty years, Isaiah and Micah call on Judah to turn back to God and be saved from Israel's fate. Then, in 701 BC, Assyria mounts a major assault on Judah, devastating the nation and besieging Jerusalem. What will Judah's King Hezekiah do? Will he turn away from God, as the kings of Israel and some of his own ancestors did? Or will he turn the nation back to God?

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

JULY 3 2 CHRONICLES 31 • ISAIAH 30-31

Today's reading continues the story of Hezekiah's reforms in Judah as he restores the full service of the temple, refreshing the organization of the priests and Levites who serve there. Meanwhile, Isaiah prophesies more warnings to Judah, calling the people to repent and so arouse God's compassion (Isaiah 30:15-18). Of particular importance is Isaiah's warning not to rely on Egypt for rescue from Assyria, but to rely on God, who will himself deliver Jerusalem (30:31, 31:1, 31:5-8).

Date: about 715 BC (or soon thereafter, Isaiah 30-31)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Chronicles 31 • Isaiah 30-31

Kids' Reading*: 2 Chronicles 31

JULY 4 MICAH 1-4

Today's reading opens Micah's prophecies, which date to the about the same time as Isaiah. Micah first foretells the destruction of Israel's capital, Samaria (1:6), then predicts the same judgment for Judah, because its sins are similar to those of Samaria (1:9). Micah 2-3 specifies many of the people's sins. Micah 4, though, speaks hope: faith will again flourish in Jerusalem.

Date: probably sometime between 722 and 701 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Micah 1-2 • Micah 4

Kids' Reading*: Isaiah 30:6-18 • Micah 2

JULY 5 MICAH 5-7

Today's reading begins with a prophecy of a godly ruler arising from Bethlehem, who will thwart the Assyrian invaders and deliver God's people. Hezekiah fulfills this prophecy later—but in a grander sense, Jesus becomes the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy (see the quotation of Micah 5:2 in Matthew 2:6). In Micah 6, God takes his people to court and finds them guilty. In chapter 7, the book ends with lament over the sin and judgment of God's people, followed by praise to God for his mercy when he forgives his people.

Date: probably sometime between 722 and 701 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Micah 5-7

Kids' Reading*: Micah 4:1-8 • Micah 5

JULY 6 ISAIAH 15-16 • ISAIAH 18-20

Today's reading features "a prophecy against Moab" foretelling Moab's destruction within three years because of its aggression and arrogance (15:1, 16:4-6, 16:14). As God disciplines his own people, so he also judges the nations around them. Prophecies against Cush and Egypt follow: both will face discipline from God (18:5, 19:4); but one day both will worship the Lord (18:7, 19:21).

Date: sometime between 730 and 708 BC (Isaiah 20 is from probably about 712-709 BC)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Isaiah 15-16 • Isaiah 18-19

Kids' Reading*: Micah 7:8-20

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

JULY 7

ISAIAH 21-22 • ISAIAH 32

Today's reading shares prophecies concerning Babylon, Edom ("Dumah" in 21:11), Arabia, and Jerusalem.

Babylon and its gods will fall; Edom faces more darkness yet to come; Arabia will suffer military defeat and its people will become fugitives. Jerusalem's leaders have been unfaithful to their people, abandoning their positions (22:3), partying when they should have been weeping (22:1-14), increasing their own position instead of serving their people (22:15-19); therefore God will punish them. Even Jerusalem's women are complacent in the face of approaching destruction (32:9-14). Yet God still has plans to bless his people one day with a righteous king and the outpouring of his Spirit (32:1, 32:15).

Date: about 716-701 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Isaiah 21:1-10 • Isaiah 22 • Isaiah 32

Kids' Reading*: Isaiah 32 • Isaiah 35

JULY 8

ISAIAH 33-35

Today's reading spins away from Isaiah's frequent prophecies of judgment and orients us around prophecies of God's kindness to his people. These are hopeful prophecies: though there are sinners in Zion, the highways are deserted, and arrogant foreigners oppress the people of Judah (33:7-19), God will arise and save his people, forgiving their sins. He will punish the nations that have harmed them, restore his people, and renew their joy.

Date: probably around 702 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Isaiah 33-35

Kids' Reading*: 2 Kings 18:1-26 • 2 Kings 19:1-8

JULY 9

2 KINGS 18:9 to 19:37

Today's reading opens the first of three accounts of the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem in 701 BC, during the reign of Hezekiah in Judah, plus stories of Hezekiah's encounters with Babylonian envoys and of his illness that nearly took his life (these accounts cover 2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chronicles 32, and Isaiah 36-39). Watch for different bits of information in these accounts as they share slightly different perspectives on the same events. In these stories the faith of Hezekiah and Judah is tested. Will they trust in God in the face of grave danger? Or will God give Judah over to the Assyrians, as he did with Israel?

Date: 725-722 BC (2 Kings 18:9-12) • about 701 BC (2 Kings 18:13 to 19:36) • about 681 BC (2 Kings 19:37)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Kings 18:17 to 19:37

Kids' Reading*: 2 Kings 19:9-37

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

2K 18:13 (V), 21 (T), 25 (V)

2K 19:3 (T), 7-9 (V), 17 (V), 35-37 (V)

Is chapter 15 (T)

Is 16:3-4 (T), 6-14 (T)

Is 19:1-17 (T), 22 (T)

Is 20:1 (V), 2-4 (N), 4 (V)

Is 21:1-10 (T), 2 (V), 14-17 (V)

Is 22:2-5 (V), 1-14 (T), 17-18 (T)

Is 30:26-28 (T), 30-33 (T)

Is 31:8-9 (V)

Is 32:10-14 (T)

Is 33:12 (T)

Is 34:8-13 (T)

Mic 1:6 (T), 7(S, T), 8 (N), 12 (T)

15-16 (T)

Mic 2:2-4 (T), 8-11 (T, V)

Mic 3:10-12 (T, V)

Mic 4:9-13 (T)

Mic 5:1 (V), 5-15 (T, V)

Mic 6:10-16 (V)

Mic 7:1-6 (T), 2 (V), 5 (S), 10 (T), 16-17 (T)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

Is 30:22 (S)

Is 34:2-7 (T, V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

2K 18:27 (T)

Mic 3:2-3 (V)

Mic 6:7 (V)

C = Circumcision

N = Nudity

S = Sexuality

T = Dark/Sensitive Themes

V = Violence