

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 42

“Complete Removal”

Study: 2 Kings 23:4-20, 2 Chr 34:3-6, 33

Reading: 1 Kings 12:25-13:10, Matthew 5:29-30

Memory: Isaiah 40:4

What Does the Bible Say?

After reading the Book of the Law and making a covenant to obey what was written in the book, Josiah ordered that all the items that were used to worship false gods were to be removed from the temple. (2 Chronicles says that in the 12th year of his reign he began to purge Judah of the idols, but 2 Kings gives the ideas that he did this in the 18th year after reading the Law. Most likely, he started in the 12th year, but accelerated the process after the reading of the law.) He had the idols burned outside Jerusalem and eventually took some of the ashes to Bethel (we will read about why later). He not only removed the idols, but in accordance with Old Testament Law he ordered that the leaders of these false religions be killed. He burned the bones of these leaders on their own altars before breaking the altars down. He also took the ashes from the idols that were removed from the temple and burned them until they were fine dust. He then spread the ashes on the graves of the people who had been killed for choosing to worship false gods rather than the God of Israel (2 Ki 23:4-7, 2 Chr 34:3-5, 33).

This cleansing was not only done in Jerusalem, but Josiah ordered that the idols all over Judah be removed. He even had his men go into areas that were once part of the territory of Israel (Samaria) and had those idols and altars destroyed. Another thing that Josiah destroyed were the high places and altars in the land that people used to worship God. The priests who offered these offerings were spared since they were worshiping God, though this type of worship was prohibited in the law. These priests were not permitted to work in the temple in Jerusalem, but they were allowed to eat and live with the other priests (2 Ki 23:8-9, 2 Chr 34:6-7, 33).

One thing Josiah made sure to do was to completely destroy the area called Topeth in the Valley of Hinnom where child sacrifices had occurred. He also ordered that the horse and chariot figures which had been placed by the entrance of the temple be removed. These along with

many other altars that had been constructed over the years were all broken down (2 Ki 23:10-14).

He also went to Bethel, not only to put the ashes from some of the false gods there, but to destroy the golden calf that Jeroboam had set up many years before. If you recall, right after Israel divided, Jeroboam set up golden calves in Dan and Bethel for Israel to worship God in order to keep the people from traveling to Jerusalem. Any remnant of idol worship was destroyed and in the process of doing this at Bethel, Josiah noticed tombs nearby. He ordered that the bones be brought out of the tombs and burned on the altar to defile the altar. This event, was predicted in 1 Kings 13:2 shortly after Jeroboam constructed the altar. The prophet who predicted this even declared that a king by the name of Josiah would do this act. The bones of this prophet were not desecrated because he was a man of God who predicted what would happen (2 Ki 23:15-18).

Throughout the land of Judah and in several places of Samaria, Josiah completely decimated any idols or altars that were against the law of God. All the priests that assisted the people in worshiping false gods were killed and burned on the altars they used for their worship. After he had destroyed as many signs and symbols of false worship that he could find, he went back to Jerusalem so he could continue to follow the words of the Book of the Law (2 Ki 23:19-20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Kings before Josiah who had led reform often allowed altars and other things that were against the law to continue to exist. Allowing these created temptations for the people and when wicked kings ruled it made it easier for them to fall back into pagan ways. Josiah wanted to clear the whole land of any remnants of false worship and he went to great lengths to remove anything that was against God's law. The actions of Josiah can be a great lesson for you when it comes to repentance and cleansing. It is very easy to remove some parts of sin from your life, but to hold on to other things that you really like. In the Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew 5, Jesus told the people that they should pluck out their eyes or cut off their hands in order to keep them from sinning. I do not believe he meant this literally, but was emphasizing the complete removal of sin in order for purity and holiness to take place.

2 Kings 23

What did Josiah command Hilkiah to do (vs 4)?

What did Josiah do with the priests that had been appointed for false worship (vs 5)?

What was done with many of the idols that were in the temple (vs 6)?

What type of houses had been built in the temple area (vs 7)?

What does this reveal about the wickedness of pagan worship?

Why do you think that much of pagan worship also involved sexual rituals?

How do you see this same type of pagan worship happen today?

What else did Josiah destroy (vs 8)?

What did verse 9 indicate about some priests?

What did Josiah destroy in Topeth (vs 10)?

Why do you think Josiah chose to remove the statues mentioned in verse 11?

What happened to the altars that Josiah's fathers had made (vs 12)?

Where else did Josiah destroy altars and idols (vs 13)?

What did Josiah do with the empty places that were left once the altars were removed (vs 14)?

Why do you think Josiah destroyed the altar at Bethel (vs 15)?

What prophecy came true (vs 16-18)?

Why do you think Josiah enacted his reforms on Samaria (vs 19)?

“Following Instructions”

Study: 2 Kings 23:21-23, 2 Chronicles 35:1-15

Reading: Matthew 5:17-20, 1 John 5:1-5

Memory: Isaiah 40:4

What Does the Bible Say?

Once the land was cleansed of the false idols and those who worshiped them, Josiah ordered the nation strictly follow the rules of the Passover. 2 Kings 23:22 says that the Passover that Josiah led more closely followed the law than any of the other Passovers celebrated by Israel since the period of the judges. This is most likely because Josiah fixated on the law and wanted to follow it exactly. We are not told what the great differences were, but the fact that it was stated means that Josiah went to great lengths to make sure everything was done according to the law (2 Ki 23:21-23).

Part of the carefully planned celebration included the slaughtering of the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month. Josiah had also appointed priests to each office prescribed in the law and encouraged them to carefully follow what the law declared. He also put the Levites in charge of teaching the law to the people. They were instructed to move the ark of the covenant back into the Most Holy place in the Temple. Apparently, one of the previous kings, most likely Manasseh, had moved it out in favor of one of the false gods. It is interesting to note that Josiah told the Levites they didn't need to carry it on their shoulders. Originally the ark had rings and poles were placed through those rings for transportation. It is unclear why Josiah said this and it was recorded, but it can be assumed that he inquired to God about this since he was so meticulous with other details (2 Chr 35:1-3).

The Levites were arranged in order of their ancestors, just as described by David and Solomon. They were each given a role in the process of slaughtering thousands of lambs for the Passover celebration. It is emphasized that they did this in accordance with what was prescribed in the law. In order to make the whole process work, Josiah contributed a great amount of animals that belonged to him so the people would all have enough animals to sacrifice. His officials observed the sacrifice he

made and joined in by giving of themselves and their own possessions to make the Passover a success (2 Chr 35:4-9).

Once everything was prepared they began the process of slaughtering all the animals and sacrificing them. They set aside part of the sacrifices as an offering to give to the priests and Levites as the law required. The writer of Chronicles went into great detail to indicate how parts of the offerings were set aside for the priests and Levites. Most likely this was to be a lesson to future generations about the importance of caring for the spiritual leaders. When the spiritual leaders were provided for by the people, it freed them up to do their duties and also to have time to study the law to know exactly how God wanted it. When they were not being provided for, they had to give less time to serving the Lord and more time to providing for their families (2 Chr 35:10-15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you careful to follow the laws of God? One thing that Josiah did was study the law carefully and have his leaders study it as well. They then sought to apply it with great care. It is important to not only know the law, but to apply it as well. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for knowing ever little bit of the law, but choosing not to live it out in their own lives. There is also an overall emphasis in the New Testament on choosing to obey out of love rather than out of duty to keep every word. To truly obey out of love, you need to know what God's Word says and pay careful attention to obeying it.

One of the areas they made sure to pay attention to was giving a portion of the offerings to the priests and Levites. This was vital for the spiritual success of the nation and is still vital for the spiritual success of churches today. In order for pastors and missionaries to have the time and energy they need to commit to the Word of God and prayer, they need God's people to help provide for their needs.

Thought for the day

2 Chronicles 35

When was the Passover lamb slaughtered (vs 1)?

Who did Josiah appoint and what did he encourage them to do (vs 2)?

What was one of the main jobs of the Levites (vs 3)?

What did Josiah want done with the Ark of the Covenant (vs 3)?

How were the Levites organized (vs 4)?

Why was such care and order needed for the Passover to be kept (vs 5)?

Why was it important that the priests and Levites consecrated themselves (vs 6)?

What did Josiah contribute (vs 7)?

Why do you think this was important?

How did his officials follow his example (vs 8-9)?

Why is the example of a leader so important?

What can be seen about the great organization it took to make the Passover work (vs 10)?

What was part of the Passover celebration (vs 11)?

What did they set aside (vs 12)? Why?

What do verses 13 and 14 emphasize?

Why were singers important to the whole sacrificial process (vs 15)?

What can you learn from this?

“Heart, Soul and Might”

Study: 2 Kings 23:24-27, 2 Chronicles 35:16-19

Reading: Psalm 119:65-96

Memory: Isaiah 40:4

One of things that I love to do the most in life is take my boat out on the area lakes in the summer time. Once I discovered my love for boating in my early 40's, I started to establish my life around being able to take the boat out on nice days. During the summer months, I am always looking at the weather forecast and planning my days around when I can take the boat out on the lake. As I have talked with other people who own boats, I have found that I spend more time out on the lake than almost anyone else I know. (It does help that I can write these devotional books and do a great deal of sermon preparation on the boat. When others go to the office, work site or factory for their work, I go out on my boat to get my work done.)

Today we are going to read about Josiah's great desire to follow God's Word. He changed everything in his life around and set up his kingdom in a way that would allow him to fully follow God's Word.

What Does the Bible Says

Once again, the writer of 2 Chronicles emphasized the greatness of the Passover feast that was celebrated by Josiah. Everything was done exactly as prescribed in the law and this was a result of the meticulous care that Josiah paid to the law. Though he stated it at the beginning of the chapter, the author once again emphasized the fact that this was the greatest Passover celebration since the days of Samuel. This was greater than any of the kings who had reigned in the land of land of Israel, including David and Solomon. We don't fully understand why it was greater except for the emphasis placed on Josiah's love of the law and wanting to follow it fully (2 Chr 35:16-19).

Another great accomplishment for Josiah was removing the mediums and the household idols from the land. It was much easier to see the public displays of false worship and to destroy those idols than it was to remove the things that were in homes and under the cover of darkness.

We are not told exactly how he did this, but it was important to him to not only remove the public evil, but to do what he could to remove any traces of idol worship in the lives of individuals. Though this would have been a difficult step for him and probably stirred up some anger by doing it, Josiah wanted to establish the law as the supreme rule of the land (2 Ki 23:24).

While the author of 2 Chronicles emphasized how great the passover was that Josiah kept, the author of 2 Kings emphasized how he had paid more attention to the law than any other king. He did not just do this as a religious act, but put his whole heart, soul and might into keeping the law the best he knew how (2 Ki 23:25).

Even though Josiah had done all of this, God still did not turn away His wrath from the nation of Judah. After many evil years with Manasseh as king, the anger of God had been provoked and God was determined to bring judgement to Judah. God had delayed this judgement because of Josiah's righteousness and probably would have delayed it longer if righteousness continued to prevail in the land, but it didn't take long after the death of Josiah for the people to fall back into their wicked ways (2 Kings 23:26-27).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you follow God with all of your heart, soul and might? Josiah was praised by both the authors of 2 Chronicles and 2 Kings for his attentiveness to the Word of God and his choice to follow it with all he had. This helps give insight into what God desires of His people. He wants you to approach His Word as more than just a casual book with good ideas. He wants you to view His Word as your source of life and direction. He has given you His Word and preserved it for thousands of years in order for you to know His plan and desire for your life. Choose to make knowing and obeying the Word of God a priority in your life!

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you His Word.*
- * *Ask God to help you keep His Word with all your heart, soul and might.*
- * *Praise God because His Word is perfect.*

2 Chronicles 35

What had Josiah commanded (vs 16)?

How did the people respond (vs 17)?

What was stated about the Passover feast that Josiah instituted (vs 18)?

Why do you think this is emphasized?

What lesson can you learn from this?

When did this great feast take place (vs 19)?

2 Kings 23

What additional three things did Josiah remove from the land (vs 24)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How is Josiah described (vs 25)?

Why is this such a powerful description?

How do you want to be remembered in history?

What did God not do even after the righteousness of Josiah (vs 26)?

What does this show about the wrath of God (vs 26)?

How do you think God can be both a God of love and a God of wrath?

Why was God going to bring judgement to Judah (vs 26)?

What did God say He was going to do (vs 27)?

What had God declared about Jerusalem (vs 27)? Why do you think He was still going to destroy it even though he had declared this about it?

“Mercy & Wrath”

Study: Nahum 1:1-15

Reading: Jude 1-25

Memory: Isaiah 40:4

What Does the Bible Say?

Some prophetic books state who was the king at the time they were written, but Nahum doesn't mention this. Much of Nahum is a prediction of the judgement upon Assyria so we know it was written before Assyria fell to the Babylonians around 612 B.C. From the references in the book it appears to be written during a high period in the Assyrian nation so best estimates are that it was written between 663 B.C. and 612 B.C, sometime during the reign of Manasseh or the early part of the reign of Josiah. Little is known about Nahum other than he was from the city of Elkosh and it is unknown where that city was located (vs 1).

The prophecy begins in a powerful way by describing that God was a God of wrath and vengeance. Though God showed great love, mercy and grace to His people and those who chose to follow Him, He was also a God who would not forget the sins of those who were guilty and failed to turn to Him. To those who rejected Him, He would be like a powerful sandstorm that would sweep over them with nothing to stop Him (vs 2-3).

Verses 4-5 poetically express His great power describing how He had the ability to dry up the sea and withhold rain so that the river beds would be empty. Bashan, which was known for its green plains, and Carmel, which was filled with green trees would be dried up along with the great forests of Lebanon as a result of His Power. The power of God was so great it would have the ability to cause earthquakes and change the forms of the mountains of the earth. All creation was subject to the Creator and



Regions mentioned in Nahum

no one could escape His wrath if they did not turn to Him (vs 4-6).

Though He is a God of great wrath and anger, He is also a God who is good to His children. He has promised to be a stronghold during times of trouble and uses His great power to protect those who look to Him (vs 7).

The same is not true for His enemies. Those who reject God will be pursued by Him until they are destroyed. Though armies and their leaders would make all types of plans as to how they would win, when they went against God's plan, they would always lose. The enemies of God were pictured as worthless thorn bushes, stumbling drunkards and dry fields that could be easily burned up (vs 8-10).

Assyria plotted evil against the land of Israel and God was not going to leave these attacks unpunished. Though Assyria had been great and powerful for many years, this power would not last. They would bother Israel no more because the nation would be destroyed. Their gods which had spread to the many regions they conquered would no longer be worshiped because it would become evident that they were powerless. The great nation of Assyria would soon be destroyed and they would go from an exalted position to one of great shame (vs 11-14).

Isaiah 52:7 says something similar to verse 15 as Isaiah declared the great joy that would be experienced in the deliverance of Israel. This follows the same idea declaring that Judah would experience great joy because they would be able to celebrate in the land without worrying about the Assyrian nation attacking them (vs 15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

This prophecy appears to be written to be a great encouragement for the nation of Judah. Over many years they faced great oppression from Assyria and one day soon God was going to remove that problem. It was also meant to be an encouragement for the people of Judah to choose to seek after God. God shows great mercy and grace to those who call on Him, but shows great wrath towards those who continually reject His laws and think that they are the ones who are in control. This can be an encouragement to you today when it appears at times that evil is winning. God is patient and will act in His own time, but you can rest assured that He will bless those who follow Him and bring great judgement on those who don't.

What is an oracle (vs 1)?

What do you think it means that God is a jealous God (vs 2)?

What does God do to His enemies (vs 2)?

What will God not do for those who are guilty (vs 3)?

Why do you think it is mentioned that God is slow to anger (vs 3)?

What did God have the ability to do to the water and the fertile parts of the land (vs 4)?

Why do you think mountains and hills were mentioned in verse 5?

What questions were asked in verse 6? Why do you think these were asked?

Why is verse 7 such a contrast from the previous and following verses?

What will God do to His adversaries (vs 8)?

What do you think verse 9 means?

What three things were the enemies of God compared to (vs 10)? Why?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who helped direct the nation of Assyria (vs 11)?

What was God going to do (vs 12)? Why?

What was going to be broken (vs 13)? What do you think was meant by this?

What was going to come to an end (vs 14)?

How would this lead to great rejoicing in Israel (vs 15)?

“The Lord of Heaven’s Armies”

Study: Nahum 2:1-13

Reading: Psalm 118:1-29

Memory: Isaiah 40:4

When I first started building an ice rink in my yard, I constantly battled a slope that was over one foot. That meant that when the shallow end would have about one inch of water, the deeper end would have 13 inches of water. That 13 inches produced a great amount of water pressure and on more than one occasion that pressure moved my supports causing all the water that was built up to drain out.

Today, we are going to see how the city of Nineveh would be emptied out like a reservoir that had broken, allowing the water to rush out.

What Does the Bible Say?

Chapter 2 begins with a call for Nineveh to prepare for battle because their enemy was coming to conquer the city. God was going to raise up the Babylonian army to defeat Assyria for the purpose of restoring the majesty of Israel. Assyria had continually attacked the land over the years emptying it of many of its great treasures, but now they themselves would be emptied of their treasures (vs 1-2).

It appears that verse 3 is a picture of what the people of Nineveh could see from the walls. They could see the flash of red that covered the shields of the Babylonians along with the well-equipped army in their scarlet uniforms. The chariots were moving into position in preparation to attack and the men were waving their weapons above their head revealing their eagerness to conquer (vs 3).

The soldiers of Nineveh moved their chariots recklessly through the streets in a rush to prepare for battle. As the king and commanders shouted their orders, the soldiers stumbled over each other to prepare to defend the city. They were in a hurry because the Babylonians were moving swiftly and getting their siege towers in place. The force of the Babylonian army was too strong for the defenses of the city and the gates of the city were ripped open, allowing a flood of enemy soldiers to enter.

The warriors headed toward the palace and it was only a matter of time for the city to surrender to the conquering foes (vs 4-6).

The fate of Nineveh would be sealed. The servant girls would mourn, most likely because they would become open game for the invading soldiers. Residents of the city would be fleeing the city like a leaking reservoir. Many of them would not stop for anything on their way out because they would be running for their lives. Many would lose their lives trying to escape (vs 7-8).

With the soldiers dying and residents fleeing, all the treasures of Nineveh would be open game and the soldiers would plunder all that they could find. The city would be emptied and ruined in a very short time leaving the residents of the city in utter disbelief and fear (vs 9-10).

Nahum asked where their glory was going to be once they were conquered. He compared Nineveh to that of a lions den. The lions lived without fear, feasting on their prey and filling their dens with all the treasures of the enemies they devoured. Once invaded by the Babylonians, this pride was going to quickly disappear (vs 11-12).

Even though God was going to use the Babylonians, He was their enemy and He was the One who would direct the destruction. Their chariots would soon be destroyed and their young men would die. They would never regain the prominence they once had because their destruction would be complete and devastating (vs 13).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Did you catch the reason God gave for destroying Nineveh? It wasn't because of their pride or cruelty. The reason He was bringing judgment upon them was because of the way they treated Israel. When God originally called Abraham to the Promise Land He declared, "I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you." (Gen 12:3). One of the reasons that destruction was going to happen to the Assyrians was because of the way they treated God's chosen people. This is a reminder for you and I to support Israel still today, but it is a greater reminder that God is and always will be working for His children. As a Child of God you have the "Lord of Heaven's Armies" on your side. You don't have to live in fear, but you can live in confidence and find great comfort in the fact that God will always keep His Word.

Who had come up against Nineveh (vs 1)?

What were the soldiers called to do (vs 1)?

Why was God enacting this judgement (vs 2)?

What was red and scarlet (vs 3)? Why do you think this was mentioned?

What does verse 3 picture?

What was happening in the city (vs 4)?

Why were the soldiers in such a hurry (vs 5)?

What do you think verse 6 means?

Who was lamenting (vs 7)? Why?

How was Nineveh compared to a pool (vs 8)?

What would the Babylonians find (vs 9)?

What was there no end to (vs 9)?

What point do you think was being made in verse 9?

What descriptions are given in verse 10?

What was the nation of Assyria compared to (vs 11)?

What had the nation had the ability to do (vs 12)?

What did God declare about Assyria (vs 13)?

Why did God want Assyria to know that He was behind their destruction (vs 13)?

What can you learn about God from this passage?

“The End Is Near”

Study: Nahum 3:1-19

Reading: Philippians 3:12-21. Psalm 1:1-6

Memory: Isaiah 40:4

What Does the Bible Say?

The city of Nineveh was a wicked city. It was a city known for its cruelty and was also known for its great wealth from all of the foreign enemies that Assyria conquered. Their rise in power was not based on morality or good decision making, but was based in evil and cruelty (vs 1).

This once great city was going to pay for its sins as verses 2-3 flash back to what was mentioned in chapter 2. When this swift and powerful attack came from the Babylonians, there would be chaos in the streets as the Assyrian army assembled for battle. As the battle took place, soldiers would rush from one side of the city to the other to strengthen their defenses, stumbling over the dead bodies of residents and soldiers as they went (vs 2-3).

This judgement from God was a result of the great sin they were involved in and the way they led others into that sin. They were compared to a prostitute who lured many men into her bedroom with her charms, only to ruin and destroy their lives. As a result, God was acting against the nation of Assyria. He would publicly expose them, like a person who was forced to be naked in public for all to gawk at. They would also be like a person who was publicly shamed by being forced to be covered with mud and filth. They would be a spectacle for all to see and shake their heads in disgrace because of the destruction. No one would no longer want to have anything to do with the great city once they were completely embarrassed and subjected to public shame (vs 4-7).

The city of Thebes, also known as No Amon, was a great city in southern Egypt along the Nile river. At one time, it was one of the most magnificent cities of the ancient world. That city thought that it was invincible, but that great city fell to the Assyrians in 663 B.C. Thebes had all types of help and support from other regions around it, but it was not powerful enough to stand when God chose to bring judgement. The

once prominent people of the city became exiles and many saw their children killed and their bodies laying all over the streets (vs 8-10).

Many Assyrians would know exactly what was being referenced since it would have only been a few years before that they were the ones who did this to Thebes. God revealed that the Assyrians would suffer the same fate. Their fortresses were compared to fig trees, ready to be plucked. Their cities were pictured as having wide open gates, with nothing to stop the enemy from luring, plundering and destroying (vs 11-13).

Though they could try their best to strengthen their defenses, when God chose to act, there was nothing that could stop Him. They would be devoured, like a field that was standing in front of a swarm of locusts. Though their merchants were spread throughout the world and they were financially successful, their wealth would be eaten up like a beautiful crop would be destroyed by locusts (vs 14-16).

The leaders of the Assyrians were compared to grasshoppers who wouldn't stay around to fight. They would flee and hide to avoid being killed. They were like sleeping shepherds who weren't watching for the wolves. They were not ready to protect the people and as a result the inhabitants of the city would be scattered. There would be no one or no thing that could comfort them. They would be greatly wounded by all of the destruction. Though this would destroy them, others around them would cheer for the fall of the great city of Ninevah (vs 17-19).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you get discouraged when evil appears to be winning? Though God is a patient God, He is also a just God and will punish sin. Sometimes it seems like the evil or wicked people seem to always have the upper hand and the godly get pushed aside. Yes, that does happen, but being on the side of the godly is far better than experiencing the punishment that comes from God. It is easy to get jealous of others who seem to be “living it up” in this life, but you don't know what they are experiencing inside and you don't know when God is going to bring His judgement. Nineveh had experienced great success for many years, but that success was going to run out. They had a “that can't happen to me” mentality, even though the city of Thebes thought that as well. They were treated with the same cruelty they enacted on others.

How was Nineveh described (vs 1)?

What was going to be raging through the city (vs 2-3)?

What were going to be strewn all over the streets (vs 3)?

What was Assyria compared to (vs 4)? Why?

What did God declare about Ninevah (vs 5)?

What picture is given (vs 6)?

What would not happen for Ninevah (vs 7)?

Why is Thebes mentioned (vs 8)?

Who could not help Thebes from being destroyed (vs 9)?

What happened to Thebes (vs 10)?

What was going to happen to Nineveh (vs 11)?

What were the fortresses compared to (vs 12)?

What were their troops compared to (vs 13)? Why?

Why were their human efforts to prepare for battle futile (vs 14)?

What was going to happen (vs 15)?

How does verse 16 describe the condition of Assyria before this destruction ?

What were their leaders compared to (vs 17)? Why?

What does verse 18 reveal about their leaders?

What does verse 19 reveal about the suffering the Assyrians would face?

Memory Verses

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God? 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.