

## ***"The Fall of the Kingdom"***

*Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (December 1, 2013)*

Introduction: We have been following **The Story**—the seamless love story of God. We are learning the Bible together and seeing how it applies to our everyday lives. In **The Story** we come to chapter 17 or **II Kings 21**. God made promises to Abraham and Moses that He would show His love to all people and call them back to Himself. To David, God promised to bring the Messiah. Even though God's people fail to obey, and the kingdom split into two smaller, weaker nations, God will fulfill His unconditional promises. The northern kingdom, Israel, went into exile to Assyria in 722 B.C. What happened to the southern kingdom of Judah? Turn to **II Kings 21:1** and let's study together.....

Discussion:

### **I. God Witnesses Judah's Good & Bad Kings**

- A. The lowest spot might come with Manasseh.  
**II Kings 21:1-18, II Chronicles 36:15-16**
- B. The highest spot might come with Josiah.  
**II Kings 22-23**
- C. Things come to a head.  
**Ezekiel 36:23**

### **II. God Raises Up the Babylonians**

- A. The people are conquered.
- B. The city of Jerusalem falls.
- C. The judgment of God.

### **III. God Calls Jeremiah the Prophet**

- A. The time of Jeremiah's call.  
**Jeremiah 1:4-5, Ephesians 2:10**
- B. The hesitancy in Jeremiah's reception.  
**Jeremiah 1:9-10, Matthew 29:18-20**
- C. The passion in Jeremiah's ministry.  
**Lamentations 3:21-23**

Conclusion: Right now you may feel the walls are coming down. You may see your kingdom falling apart. You have two choices. Learn from your mistakes or become bitter and angry about your circumstances. Will you accept God's call for your life? Will you follow His direction? Will you let Him finish your story? Who wouldn't like a happy ending? God can make it happen!