2 Kings 17 (The Setting):
- 209 years had passed since the kingdoms were divided.
- God’s patience had finally run out with the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- Israel had been exceedingly wicked this whole time.
- No Godly kings in 209 years!

2 Kings 17:13-15
13 The Lord warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: “Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your fathers to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.” 14 But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the Lord their God. 15 They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the Lord had ordered them, “Do not do as they do,” and they did the things the Lord had forbidden them to do.

2 Kings 17:18
Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence.

2 Kings 17:20
So the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left.

2 Kings 17:23b
So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there.

God honors the faithful, but removes His blessing from the unfaithful.

God’s holiness can only tolerate rebellion against His will for so long.
God punished Israel the same way He once used them to punish the wickedness of the Canaanites.
In 722 B.C. the Assyrian empire conquered and exiled the Northern Kingdom of Israel. They would never return.
The 10 tribes of Israel exiled by the Assyrians became known as “The Lost Tribes of Israel”.

God honors the faithful, but removes His blessing from the unfaithful.
It's a dangerous thing to test the patience of our holy God by living in open rebellion against Him. This truth applies to both nations and individuals. America is nearly 237 years old—How long will God's patience last? Personally—Where do we need to repent and seek forgiveness? God honors the faithful, but removes his blessing from the unfaithful.

2 Kings 18-19 (The Setting):
- The Southern Kingdom of Judah was being led by King Hezekiah.
- Hezekiah ruled Judah for 29 years.
- Hezekiah was one of the 5 Godly Kings.
2 Kings 18:3-7- He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord... And the Lord was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook.
God honored and blessed Hezekiah & the people of Judah for their faithfulness.
2 Kings 18:7b- He (Hezekiah) rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

2 Kings 18:19- "On what are you basing this confidence of yours... On whom are you depending that you rebel against me?"
2 Kings 18:29-30- "Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you from my hand. Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, 'The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'"
2 Kings 18:35- "How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"

2 Kings 19:22-23- "Who is it you have ridiculed and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel! By your messengers you have ridiculed the Lord."
2 Kings 19:27-28- "But I know where you are and when you come and go and how you rage against me. Because you rage against me and because your insolence has reached my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came."

2 Kings 19:32-36- "That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there."
Psalm 2:1- "Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?"
Romans 8:31- "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
Proverbs 3:5-6
5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Deuteronomy 31:8
The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

What about God’s promise to King David?
If God takes out Judah we’ve got two big problems:
1) We don’t get a Messiah
2) We have a God who breaks His promises
God always keeps His promises!
Isaiah 14 & 49: God promised that He would ultimately bring His people home. Judah would be restored.

How does this section of The Story apply to our lives today?
Who is the King of my life?
Is the rallying cry of my life, “No King but King Jesus?”