The Story: Chapter Seventeen

The Kingdoms’ Fall

*A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”****8****(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)****9****The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)****10****Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him,* ***and he would have given you living water.”***  John 4:7-10

**We are never without hope because God is never without a plan.**

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=jeremiah+29&version=ESV#fen-ESV-19647b)*] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.* Jeremiah 29:11

It appears as though the plan is falling apart:

1. God creates a relationship based upon **grace**.
2. People abolish the relationship **forsaking** God and **choosing** an independent plan.

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| **God Initiated** | **Man Rejected** |
| * Adam & Eve
* Noah
* Abraham
* Moses
* Judges
* Kings
* Prophets
 | * Trust a snake – chose their plan
* Tower of Babel – chose their plan
* Son Ishmael – chose their plan
* Israelites – chose their plan
* Israelites – chose their plan
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1. The Judgment of God
	1. *Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.* ***12****Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord,* ***13****for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me,****the fountain of living waters****, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.* *(The Story*, p. 238; Jeremiah 2:11-13)
	2. *The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.****16****But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy.* (*The Story*, p. 241; 2 Chronicles 36:15-16)
	3. God is **just.**
	4. God is **patient**.
	5. God is **merciful**.
2. The Law of God
	1. Never a means for **entering** into a relationship with God.
	2. Reveals the **idolatry** of choosing one’s own plan.
	3. Intended to **tether** the hearts of God’s people to Him.
	4. Shows God’s people **how** to follow His plan.
3. The grace of God
	1. Case Study: Manasseh (*The Story*, p. 231-232)
		1. **Evil** King.
		2. **Longest** reign.
		3. Incredible **damage**.
		4. **Deathbed** conversion.
	2. Always received by **faith**.
	3. *For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. ”For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.* (Romans 4:3 & 13)
4. The compassion of God
	1. God keeps sending messengers:
		1. Ezekiel (*The Story* p. 236)
		2. Jeremiah (*The Story* p. 237)
	2. God is **loving** and **faithful**.
	3. *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:* ***22****The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=lamentations+3&version=ESV#fen-ESV-20377b)*] his mercies never come to an end;****23****they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.****24****“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”*

(*The Story* p. 244; Lamentations 3:21-23)