



1

What have you learned this week?

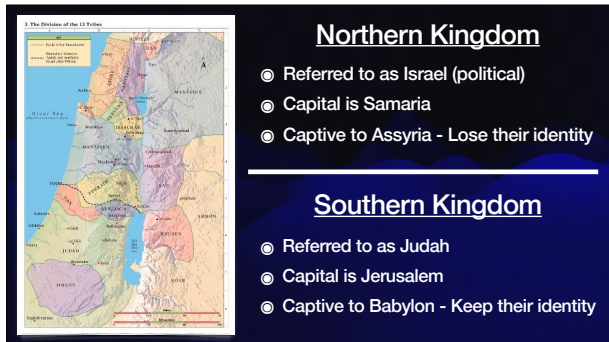
Before we talk about topics lets go do a little bit of background review.



2

Image taken from *Come Follow Me, Thoughts to Keep in Mind* "Jesus Will Say to All Israel, 'Come Home'". <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/come-follow-me-for-individuals-and-families-old-testament-2022/29-thoughts?lang=eng>

Read *Thoughts to Keep in Mind* "Jesus Will Say to All Israel, 'Come Home'" from the 2022 Old Testament Come Follow Me Manual



3

At this point in the scriptures the Israelites have divided into two kingdoms (happens when Solomon dies)

### The Northern Kingdom

Is made up of 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel so it is often referred to as the kingdom of Israel because that is where most of Israel is.

Ephraim is the main tribe with in these 10 tribes, so sometimes this kingdom is also referred to as the Kingdom of Ephraim.

The capital is Samaria - which is where Samaritans come from later on in the Bible

It is the biggest geographical area

The Northern Kingdom never has good/righteous kings (from the perspective of the redactors) one reason for this could be because the story is written from the southern kingdom perspective and they felt all worship should be done in Jerusalem.

The Kings in the Northern Kingdom change rapidly. They are not a very stable kingdom.

They lose their identity after being taken captive into Assyria

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### The Southern Kingdom

This kingdom is named after its head tribe, the tribe of Judah.

Jerusalem is the capital of Judah so sometimes they are referred to as the Kingdom of Judah.

The other tribe is Benjamin

The people are later referred to as the Jews

In the Southern Kingdom we have the Davidic line of Kings. Most of the kings are wicked, but there are a few that are good.

The Kings change less frequently than the Northern Kingdom. It's more stable.

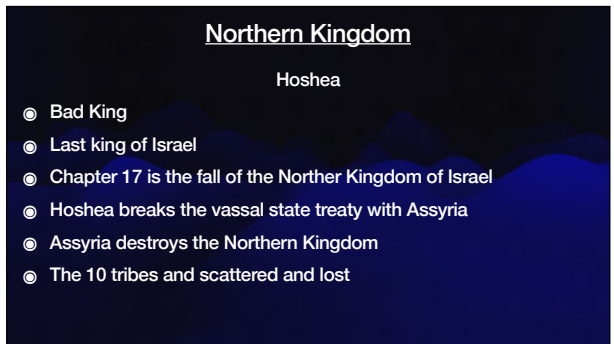
The southern kingdom hangs on to their identity through their captivity to Babylon.

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 27: 1 Kings 17-19 with*

Dr. Camille Fronk Olson.

Image from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bible-maps/map-3?lang=eng>

4



Northern Kingdom

Hoshea

- Bad King
- Last king of Israel
- Chapter 17 is the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Hoshea breaks the vassal state treaty with Assyria
- Assyria destroys the Northern Kingdom
- The 10 tribes and scattered and lost

We talk about a lot of people and events in these verses, so here is a break down

### Northern Kingdom/Kingdom of Israel

#### Chapter 17

Hoshea is the last king of the northern kingdom. Chapter 17 deals with the fall of the Northern Kingdom. The Southern Kingdom lasts another 100 years or so.

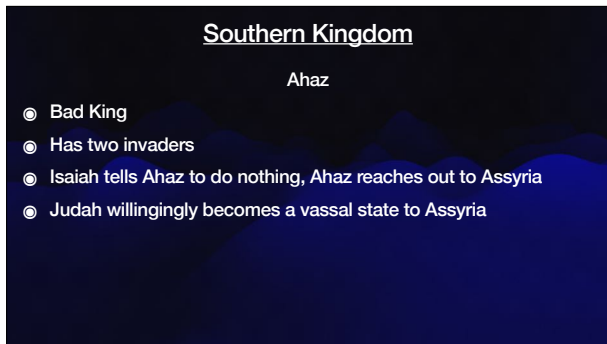
Assyria wants to conquer small kingdoms and then make them vassal states so they pay taxes. As long as the kingdoms they take over do that they won't be destroyed. This happened to the Northern Kingdom and when Hoshea takes over he goes against the treaty, so Assyria goes to war, captures the people and relocates the people all over the country. The Assyrians bring people into the fallen Northern Kingdom and they marry the Israelites and mix not only people but religions and beliefs. The Israelites lose their identity and become the Lost Tribes of Israel.

Keep in mind this history is written by the southern kingdom who has bitter

feelings towards the northern kingdom

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*

5



Southern Kingdom

Ahaz

- Bad King
- Has two invaders
- Isaiah tells Ahaz to do nothing, Ahaz reaches out to Assyria
- Judah willingly becomes a vassal state to Assyria

### Southern Kingdom/Kingdom of Jerusalem

#### Background Before The Chapters in Our Reading

Hezekiah's Father was a bad king named Ahaz. He chooses to not help the neighboring kingdoms against Assyria, so if the coalition loses or wins, it works out for him. This makes the coalition angry so they decide to fight Ahaz and get a new king that will work with them. This means Judah has two invaders, Assyria and the coalition. Isaiah tells Ahaz that he should do nothing and all will work out well. But Ahaz doesn't listen, instead he sends letters to Syria to say take these guys out, and willingly becomes a vassal state.

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*

## Southern Kingdom

Hezekiah

- Good King
- Like David in that he did not worship idols
- Purges idols and other bad things
- Breaks vassal state contract with Assyria
- Seeks Isaiah's guidance

6

## Southern Kingdom/Kingdom of Jerusalem

### Chapter 18

Hezekiah is good like David in that he didn't worship idols. He purges the bad things. He trusted the Lord. Hezekiah breaks the vassal state contract with Assyria, possibly because the kingdom is being bled dry in taxes and there is a change of kings in Assyria.

### Chapter 20

Hezekiah is sick and prays to live longer. So the lord hears him and extends his life.

The Babylonians hear he is sick and they send gifts and letters and show up in Jerusalem. Hezekiah harkens to them, which appears to be a mistake. Babylon is a minor kingdom at this point. In 100 years they get stronger.

Isaiah comes to Hezekiah and asks who are they and what did you show them. Isaiah then makes a prediction that the Babylonians are going to take all of your stuff and take your sons.

Isaiah is alive during this time in the southern kingdom. This is why Isaiah talks about these events so much. He is living through them.

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*

Southern Kingdom

Manasseh

- Bad King
- He is so bad he set Judah on the path to destruction
- Sacrifices a son to a heathen god
- Reigns 55 years (part in prison)

7

Southern Kingdom/Kingdom of Jerusalem

Chapter 21

Manasseh lives a long time and has a long reign even though he was really bad.

We learn in Chronicles that part of his reign was in prison. He sacrifices his son to a heathen god. In the scriptures he is blamed for starting the fall of Judah.

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*

Southern Kingdom

Amon

- Bad King
- Assassinated
- Father of Josiah

8

Southern Kingdom/Kingdom of Jerusalem

Amon doesn't last too long. He is a bad king who gets assassinated

He is the father of Josiah

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*

Southern Kingdom

Josiah

- 1 Kings 13 - prophesies of Josiah
- Good King
- Worshiped the Lord not the idols
- Repairs the temple
- Consults Huldah the prophetess & gets a prophecy about Judah
- Covenants with the people to follow the Lord
- Destroys all of the bad gods, alters, and priests

9

Southern Kingdom/Kingdom of Jerusalem

Chapter 22

Josiah becomes King at 8 years old because his dad was assassinated

He is a good king

He worships the Lord

He repairs the temple and they find the book of the law or book of the covenant. Josiah rips his clothes after hearing the words in the book because he is distressed. The people have not been doing what they were supposed to and the book of the law lays out the punishment for that.

The book that was found is thought to be either the 5 books of Moses or Deuteronomy

Josiah consults with Huldah the prophetess to find out if it is too late. She says Judah will fall, but the destruction will not happen in his days because Josiah is trying to do what is good. He humbled himself before the lord when he heard the words.

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*



10

### Southern Kingdom/Kingdom of Jerusalem Chapter 23-24

Jehoahaz is made king by the people  
He doesn't last long, pharaoh kills him

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*



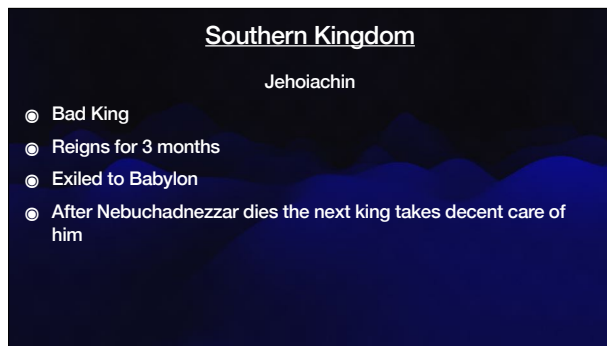
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### Southern Kingdom/Kingdom of Jerusalem

Jehoiakim becomes King as appointed by pharaoh. He is Josiah's son who was previously named Eliakim  
At this point in history, Babylon, once a vassal of Assyria, took down Assyria and is now a major power. They are doing the same things the Assyrians did with vassal states.

Jehoiakim was appointed by Pharaoh. Then Judah becomes a vassal state to Babylon for 3 years. He rebels agains Babylon, and dies as Babylon marches on Judah to retaliate against the breaking of the treaty.

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*



12

### Southern Kingdom/Kingdom of Jerusalem

Jehoiachin (Josiah's grandson) doesn't rule for long. Nebuchadnezzar doesn't destroy him, in. Part because he recognizes that he didn't make the decision to rebel. Instead he is taken captive into Babylon.

The next Babylonian King takes pity on Jehoiachin and releases him from prison. He is still a captive in Babylon, but is treated well. Because of this, it is possible that there is a Davidic heir out there, coming from Jehoiachin's posterity.

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*



13

Southern Kingdom

Zedekiah

- Bad King
- Breaks vassal status with Babylon
- All his posterity is killed before him and he blinded and is taken to Babylon as prisoner

Southern Kingdom/Kingdom of Jerusalem

Chapter 24

Zedekiah (formally named Mattaniah) is Jehoiakim’s brother.

Zedekiah is a bad king.

This is the time that Lehi starts to prophesying

Zedekiah broke the vassal state as well

Nebuchadnezzar retaliates

- Babylon slays all of Zedekiah’s sons before his eyes. In this time in the Bible, killing all the royal family of a defeated country is normal.
  - Fun side note, in the Bible it says all of the sons are killed, but we know in the Book of Mormon that Mulek escapes (see Heleman 8:21).
- Babylon burns the Temple, The palace, all of the houses and breaks down the walls. In other words, Jerusalem is leveled
- Babylon then exiles all the remaining people as captives to Babylon

This is the start of the Babylon captivity in the scriptures.

*Information taken from Follow Him Podcast Episode 29: 2 Kings 17-25 with Dr. Joshua M. Sears.*

14

This Weeks Themes

We can stay true to the Lord during challenging times.	All things are in the Lord’s hands.	The scriptures can turn my heart to the Lord.
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We can stay true to the Lord during challenging times.

15

What is one or more reason why you believe in God and His plan?

We can use Hezekiah to help demonstrate how we can stay true to the Lord in challenging times.

16

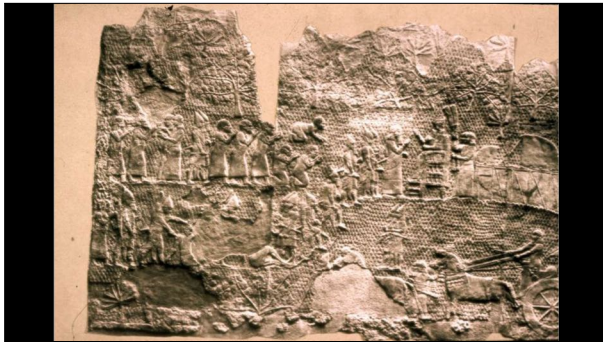
Lets talk a little bit more about Hezekiah

As we talked about earlier Hezekiah had broken the vassal state treaty and now Sennacherib, the new king of Assyria, attacks Judah. He takes all of their fortified cities and military strength. He is the process of taking out the 2nd strongest city, which is called Lachish and sends a group surround Jerusalem. The residents of Jerusalem can see the fires at Lachish.

Sennacherib (sen-ack-crib) is so proud of his taking of Lachish that he has this mural (which can be found in the British museum today). This mural depicts his taking of Lachish and killing, dismembering and destroying the people. This was hanging in Sennacherib's palace.

One of the people sent to surround Jerusalem is The Rabshakeh, or royal steward. He yells to the people in Jerusalem. And he is yelling at them in Hebrew, not Aramaic which is the national diplomacy language of the time.

The Rabshakeh knows enough about Jerusalem and recent events that he can rub salt into their wounds. He is aware that Hezekiah tried to get help from Egypt, and that Hezekiah tore down all the other worship sites. He may



have been aware of Isaiah's prophecy about a foreign country that will destroy Judah. He is trying lots of ways to have the people lose trust in Hezekiah and the Lord.

So imagine yourself as one of these people in Jerusalem. You are watching a stronghold burn, and are probably hearing the horror stories of what Assyria's are doing to the people they defeat, and then you hear this representative Babylon who is closing in on your home.

As I summarize the Rabshakeh's speech in my own words, think about what thoughts and feelings you might have as a citizen in Jerusalem at this time, and what you would do.

Summary of the royal steward's speech:

Who are you trusting so much that you would rebel against us. Are you hoping Egypt will come and save you? Egypt will not come. Are you trusting in the Lord? Why would he help you when Hezekiah torn down all the places of worship other than those in Jerusalem?

If you will pledge yourself to the king of Assyria, then I will give you 2,000 horses - if you can even find enough soldiers to ride them that is.

Haven't I come here to destroy you in response to the prophecies of the destruction of Judah?

Why are you asking me to speak in the language of negotiation? I am here to speak with the people.

Don't let Hezekiah deceive you, he can't save you. Don't let him deceive you with promises that the Lord will save you either. Look at all of these other lands that we conquered. Did their gods save them? No, we wiped them out.

Who among all of the gods of all of the countries that we came up against saved their people? None. No one will save you unless you choose to come out and become one of us. No one.

*Image from the British Museum [https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/W\\_1856-0909-14\\_7](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/W_1856-0909-14_7)*



## How does Hezekiah respond?

17

Now put yourself in Hezekiah's shoes. Remember he made the decision that lead to this war and the deaths of many of the people. He has probably been thinking and praying for his people and asking and needing guidance when enemy's royal steward comes and starts to poke at all his doubts. The steward even sends a letter to Hezekiah with a summary of his speech.

How does Hezekiah Respond?

Let's look at his response.

Note - there are two sections of scripture with two different responses. The first is to the steward at the wall, and the other is to the stewards letter.

2 Kings 19: 1-7

18

There is one verse on each slide

And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord.

2 Kings 19: 1-7

19

And he sent Eliakim, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.

2 Kings 19: 1-7

20

And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.

2 Kings 19: 1-7

21

It may be the Lord thy God will hear all the words of Rab-shakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the Lord thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left.

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2 Kings 19: 1-7

22

So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

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2 Kings 19: 1-7

23

And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master, Thus saith the Lord, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.

2 Kings 19: 1-7

24

Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.

2 Kings 19: 14-19

25

And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord.

Now we will read about Hezekiah's response after he gets the letter.

Again there is a verse on each slide. These verses include a heart felt prayer from Hezekiah that is really insightful.

2 Kings 19: 14-19

26

And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said, O Lord God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

2 Kings 19: 14-19

27

Lord, bow down thine ear, and hear:  
open, Lord, thine eyes, and see: and  
hear the words of Sennacherib, which  
hath sent him to reproach the living  
God.

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2 Kings 19: 14-19

28

Of a truth, Lord, the kings of Assyria  
have destroyed the nations and their  
lands,

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2 Kings 19: 14-19

29

And have cast their gods into the fire:  
for they were no gods, but the work of  
men's hands, wood and stone:  
therefore they have destroyed them.



2 Kings 19: 14-19

30

Now therefore, O Lord our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only.

So basically Hezekiah's response to the steward is to send messengers to the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah says don't worry about it, the lord will cause Sennacherib to hear a rumor which will send him back home and he will die there.

The steward (Rabshakeh) is not done yet, he sends a personal letter with the same info in the speech To Hezekiah. He tells Hezekiah not to trust in the lord.

Hezekiah has to decide who he will trust. What the best choice? How can he save everyone? So he goes to the temple and turns to the Lord and prays. He acknowledges the facts from the steward, and then he puts it into the correct lens, which is that the other countries Gods are not real Gods. He probably feels the weight of his decisions and fully knows the consequences of his choices. He then pleads with the Lord to save them.

Isaiah comes and says that Hezekiah has passed the test. God has heard his prayer. And he gets a longer prophecy. Judah will survive and grow. God will save the city for Hezekiah's sake and David's sake (Remember the Lord promised David that his decedent's will live).

The angel of the Lord then goes out at night and kills thousands of the Assyrians. When the remaining soldiers wake up they see much of the army has died in the night, so the Army flees back home.

Side note, Sennacherib is later killed by his two sons.

31

What can we learn from  
Hezekiah's response?

32

How does your faith in  
Jesus Christ sustain you  
during challenging times?

33



*Therefore They Hushed Their Fears*

(April 2015 Conference Talk)

By Elder David A. Bednar Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

As you read/watch this talk, look for counsel that could sustain you during times of fear or doubt.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2015/04/therefore-they-hushed-their-fears?lang=eng>

The scriptures can turn my heart to the Lord.

34

We are going to skip the second topic and move to the last topic: The scriptures can turn my heart to the Lord.



35

We are going to use the story of Josiah to demonstrate this principal.

Remember, Josiah was righteous and he did a lot to try and help the people turn back to the lord. That included repairing the temple. These repairs lead to finding the book of the law or book of the covenant. When Josiah hears these scriptures he rips his clothes because he is distressed. He recognizes that the people have not been doing what they were supposed to and he fears the punishment that will follow because of that.

Josiah consults with Huldah the prophetess to find out if it is too late to save the people from punishment. She says Judah will fall, but the destruction will not happen in Josiah's days because he is trying to do what is good. He humbled himself before the lord.

Josiah starts to work on reform. He does this by reading the whole book of the Covenant out loud to the people. He then makes a covenant to follow the lord in front of the people and the people follow suit. Josiah also restarts, or make sure, that the people celebrate the passover.

It it interesting to note, that Lehi would be around for all of this.

So this is the story of Josiah. He is moved deeply by these scriptures and uses them to correct his and the peoples path so they are back to following the lord. This leads me to my next question.

*Image from the video in the Come Follow Me Manual - Josiah and the Book of the law*

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/video/2011-03-0040-josiah-and-the-book-of-the-law?lang=eng&alang=eng>

**How would your life be different if you did not have the scriptures?**

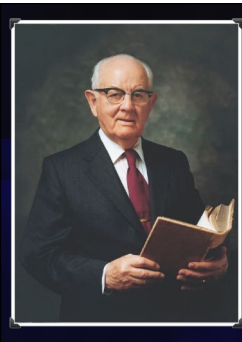
36

I think a lot of important things would be lost. Depending on what is lost our lives could be different. Could you imagine the beatitudes or even something like Lehi's dream being told word of mouth for generations? I bet if we told Lehi's dream in a game of telephone many things would be lost or tweaked and it would be very different from before, especially if we had to recall the "telephone" message days later.

**How have the scriptures helped us come closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ?**

37

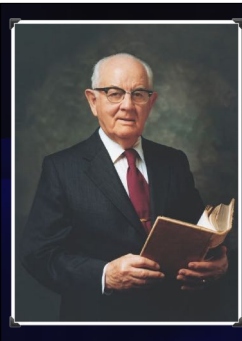
With that in mind, how have the scriptures helped you to come closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ?



“I am convinced that each of us, at some time in our lives, must discover the scriptures for ourselves—and not just discover them once, but rediscover them again and again. ...

38

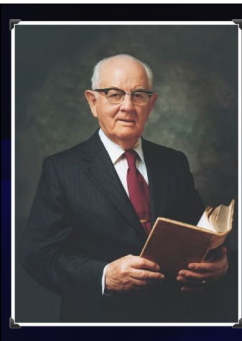
Image from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/spencer-w-kimball-9d7d6a4?lang=eng>



“I feel strongly that we must all of us return to the scriptures just as King Josiah did and let them work mightily within us, impelling us to an unwavering determination to serve the Lord. ...

39

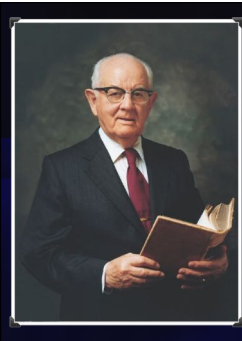
Image from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/spencer-w-kimball-9d7d6a4?lang=eng>



“I find that when I get casual in my relationships with divinity and when it seems that no divine ear is listening and no divine voice is speaking, that I am far, far away. If I immerse myself in the scriptures the distance narrows and the spirituality returns.

40

Image from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/spencer-w-kimball-9d7d6a4?lang=eng>



I find myself loving more intensely those whom I must love with all my heart and mind and strength, and loving them more, I find it easier to abide their counsel”

41

Quote from: Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball [2006], 62–63, 67.

Image from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/spencer-w-kimball-9d7d6a4?lang=eng>

How has a scripture passage or account made a difference in your life?

42

43



Bare Testimony

Image from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/pictures-of-jesus-with-a-child-8fd3614?lang=eng>