

## The Beginning of the End

May 18, 2025 – Chapter Sixteen  
Adult Bible Class

### Chapter 16: Postcards from the Edge

#### 1. God wants to use you in His plans, but He doesn't \_\_\_\_\_.

*The LORD has rejected the people of Israel because they have made alliances with foreigners from the East who practice magic and divination, just like the Philistines. Israel has vast treasures of silver and gold and many horses and chariots. The land is filled with idols. The people bow down and worship these things they have made. So now everyone will be humbled and brought low. The LORD cannot simply ignore their sins! Crawl into caves in the rocks. Hide from the terror of the LORD and the glory of his majesty. The day is coming when your pride will be brought low and the LORD alone will be exalted. In that day the LORD Almighty will punish the proud, bringing them down to the dust.*

Isaiah 2:6-12

#### 2. Your enemies will always lure you toward the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

Matthew 7:13-14

*Don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention.*

Matthew 7:13-14, MSG

*Some trust in their war chariots and others in their horses, but we trust in the power of the Lord our God.*

Psalms 20:7

#### 3. What moves the hand of God: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*In the very first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah reopened the doors of the Temple of the LORD and repaired them. He summoned the priests and Levites to meet him at the courtyard east of the Temple. He said to them, "Listen to me, you Levites! Purify yourselves, and purify the Temple of the LORD, the God of your ancestors. Remove all the defiled things from the sanctuary. Our ancestors were unfaithful and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD our God. They abandoned the LORD and his Temple; they turned their backs on him. These men called together their fellow Levites, and they purified themselves. Then they began to purify the Temple of the LORD, just as the king had commanded. They were careful to follow all the LORD's instructions in their work. The priests went into the sanctuary of the Temple of the LORD to cleanse it, and they took out to the Temple courtyard all the defiled things they found.*

2 Chronicles 29:3ff

4. Despite this miracle, Judah was still taken into \_\_\_\_\_.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ against God

*Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand."*

Isaiah 1:2-3

b. Empty \_\_\_\_\_

*"The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths, and convocations— I cannot bear your evil assemblies. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them."*

Isaiah 1:11, 13

c. \_\_\_\_\_ injustice

*See how the faithful city has become a harlot! She once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her — but now murderers! Your rulers are rebels, companions of thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts. They do not defend the cause of the fatherless; the widow's case does not come before them.*

Isaiah 1:21, 23

5. We have much to learn about \_\_\_\_\_ as people of God.

## Today's Equipping Point

***Become people of God that show \_\_\_\_\_ mercy.***

## Discussion Questions

1. Where have you been tempted to take the easy road?
2. What do you need to purify?
3. What's the difference between unconditional mercy and enabling someone's misbehavior?



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