

They Did Not Believe



“Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that **did not believe in the LORD their God.**” (2 Kings 17:13-14)

Not trusting in God’s words brought captivity for the Jews during the time of the kings. Both the northern and the southern tribes ended up being uprooted from their land. They were forcefully led into captivity by Assyria and Babylonia. Why did they undergo such severe hardship? They did not believe in the LORD their God. God says they hardened their necks. That is, they were rebellious toward God. Unbelief was their greatest trespasses. They simply did not believe God’s words. Instead, they believed in the pagan idols of their surrounding godless nations.

God does not want us to be unbelieving but believing. Thomas once doubted Christ’s resurrection. Our Lord wanted him to have faith: “Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and **be not faithless, but believing** (John 20:27) As a result of our Lord’s words, Thomas believed: “And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God.**”(John 20:28)

Which one are we? Are we faithless along with others who do not believe in the Lord? Or, are we believing and able to say about Jesus Christ, “My Lord and my God!”

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James Utter

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