

Lesson 99

God Judges Israel

The northern kingdom is conquered by Assyria.

Studying God's Word

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Introduction

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. When Israel was divided after King Solomon's death, the northern kingdom was called Israel and the southern kingdom was called Judah. We have been learning about some of the prophets and kings of Israel, the northern kingdom.

Slide #3

Slide #4

Refer to Lesson 96 Theme Poster. God called Amos, a shepherd, to deliver a message of judgment to Israel. He warned that an enemy would come against them if they refused to repent of their sins.

What sin against God's laws were the people of Israel committing? Worshipping idols/false gods.

Refer to Lesson 98 Theme Poster. God also sent the prophet Hosea to warn the people. Hosea's love for his wife Gomer and his forgiveness of her unfaithfulness was a

picture of God's love for the people of Israel, who had been unfaithful to him.

But the people would not listen or turn from their wicked ways. After 250 years of patiently waiting and warning, God was going to judge their disobedience. God was angry and needed to show the people that he alone was God. He promised to send an enemy against them, and the time had come. Which enemy would God bring against Israel?

Israel Is Conquered

Pass out the Class Notes.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Turn to 2 Kings 17 in your Bibles. It's one of the books of history in the Old Testament.

Slide #5

2 Kings 17:5-6

Who will read verses 5-6? Assign a reader.
Who invaded the land? King of Assyria.

God sent a powerful enemy, King Shalmaneser of Assyria, to take over the kingdom of Israel and its capital city of Samaria. The king of Israel at this time was Hoshea.

Do you remember hearing about the Assyrians in another lesson? God sent a

prophet to the wicked city of Nineveh in Assyria. Who was that prophet? Jonah.

Refer to #26 on the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Over 100 years before the judgment on Israel, God sent Jonah to warn the people of Nineveh to repent. The people believed Jonah and repented, and God showed them mercy. But Jonah was not happy that God spared their city. God had to show Jonah that his grace and mercy extends to all people, not just the Israelites. Point to #27 on the timeline. God had given the Israelites 250 years to repent, but they refused. This is why God sent the king of Assyria with his powerful army to attack Israel.

What does verse 5 say that the king did to Samaria? He besieged it.

Does anyone know what it means to besiege a city? Allow answers.

To besiege means to try to take over a city by surrounding it. The attacking army would circle around the city and block everyone from going in and coming out. That meant the people inside the city couldn't get food or water from the outside. The army would keep watch, camping out and blocking all supplies, until the people gave up because they were out of food and water. A siege was used to win a war without fighting!

Slide #6

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. See the tents here in the picture? Those are the Assyrians' tents, and their army is camped around the city of Samaria. The Israelite men on the wall have ragged clothing, and they're thin because they can't get new clothes or food.

The Bible tells us that King Shalmaneser of Assyria took the land of Israel and surrounded Samaria. How long did he besiege the city? Three years.

The city of Samaria lasted three years because it had large walls, a water system, and lots of food stored inside. But eventually, the people ran out of supplies and surrendered to the Assyrians.

What happened to them when they surrendered? What did the king do to the Israelites? Carried them away to Assyria and placed them in other cities.

Often during a war in those days, the winning king would force the losing people to leave their homes and live in other countries. That's what King Shalmaneser did. The Assyrians took most of the Israelites away from their land and made them live in cities that were far away. Because the Israelites were scattered, they were less likely to rise up and fight against the king who defeated them.

So, when the Assyrians moved the Israelites out, what do you think happened to those cities in Israel? Allow discussion.

Slide #7

Slide #8

The Assyrian king made his people from Assyria move to Israel along with people from other nations he had conquered. The Assyrians ruled over the northern kingdom of Israel, and foreigners lived there.

You may want to write the map country and city names on the board and draw the circle and arrows for students to copy, or you may use the slides or the answer key to help students visualize the map section.

Look at the map on your Class Notes. Let's illustrate what happened. Find Samaria on your maps and draw a circle around it, showing the siege of the city by the Assyrians. Have students circle Samaria.

Next, draw a large arrow from Israel to Assyria. This represents the Israelites who were taken captive and moved to live in Assyria. Have students draw the arrow.

Now, draw an arrow from Assyria to Israel. This represents the Assyrians and other people who moved to live in Israel. Have students draw the arrow.

Look at #1 on your Class Notes below the map. Who will read that question and give the answer? Choose a reader. Assyrians. Complete #1.

Prepare the materials for Siege Zone. Let's review the battle with a game called Siege Zone! Follow instructions in Siege Zone to play the game with the class. When finished, continue with the lesson.

God Will Judge Sin

God's judgment was severe, removing the Israelites from their land. But why was God angry with his people? We're going to answer that question by studying the verses on the Class Notes. I will assign each group/student one Class Notes question, and you will look up the verse and write the answer in the blank provided. When you've found the answers, we'll review them together. Assign one Class Notes question #2-8 to each group or individual student, depending on your class size. Allow time for students to look up their verses and write answers in the Class Notes.

2 Kings 17:7-23 (selected verses)

Slide #9

Slide #10

Slide #11

Slide #12

Slide #13

Slide #14

Slide #15

Slide #16

Slide #17

Slide #18

Slide #19

Slide #20

Slide #21

Slide #22

Who had the verse for #2 on the Class Notes? Please read that and share your answer. Choose readers. They sinned. Have students complete #2.

Who had #3 on the Class Notes? Read the verse then share your answer. Choose readers. Right. Have students complete #3.

Who had the verse for #4 on the Class Notes? Choose readers. Idols. Have students complete #4.

Who did the Lord send to warn the people for #5? Choose readers. Prophets, seers. Have students complete #5.

A seer is another name for a prophet. God wanted the people to turn from their evil ways and obey his commandments.

But what did the people do in verse 14? Who will read that? Choose readers. Listen. Have students complete #6.

Who had the verse for #7? Please read that. Choose readers. Angry. Have students complete #7.

And what was the Lord's punishment for the people's continued sin? Choose readers. He exiled them from their land. Have students complete #8.

Exile is when you're forced to leave your home, and that's what God did to the Israelites—he removed them from the promised land.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What two attributes of God deal with sin? Holy and just.

God's anger against sin is a holy, righteous anger. God can be angry and not sin because he is holy. Unlike us, he is incapable of sinning. He is the one who determines right from wrong, and every time we turn away from God and his standards, we are sinning. God must punish sin because he is just. Israel no longer feared God or respected his holiness. They thought they could get away with their sin.

The people of Israel would not listen—they would not obey God even after the prophets of God warned them. Jeroboam was the very first king of Israel after the kingdom was divided following Solomon's death. And for 250 years, every king in Israel that followed him did evil in the sight of the Lord. They worshipped other gods; they served idols; they did not do as God commanded; they ignored the prophets God

sent them. Finally, God punished the Israelites through their enemies—the Assyrians. When Assyria captured Israel and the city of Samaria, the people were moved out of the land, and the Assyrians came to live in Israel. The northern kingdom came to an end.

Application

Slide #23

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The people of Israel had turned from God. They worshipped idols, not God alone. They wanted to be like the nations around them rather than a people dedicated to God. So many things in the world distracted them, and they forgot all the wonderful things God had done for them. As punishment, God allowed the Assyrians to defeat the Israelites and take them away from the promised land.

We, too, can get distracted and want to be like the people around us. Because of the first sin of Adam and Eve, we are born in sin. We turn from God, and we disobey. And just like God had to punish Israel, he must punish us as well. But God has offered all of us a way to be forgiven of our sins so that we won't have to face his judgment.

God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to live as a man. Jesus lived a perfect life and was

put to death for sinners. God must judge sin, it's true. But, if we humbly trust in Jesus, if we turn away from our sin and place our faith in Jesus, then we will be saved from God's judgment and from the punishment of eternity in hell. Jesus took the punishment for sin when he died on the cross, and then he rose from the dead. He made a way for sinners to be saved.

This is the best news we could ever hear! God must punish sin, but he made a way for sinners to be forgiven.

Lesson Review

We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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