

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 the people of Israel were divided after King Solomon's death, the southern kingdom was called Judah and the northern kingdom was called Israel.

We have been learning about some of the kings and prophets of Israel. None of the kings followed God. They sinned against him and led the people to do the same terrible things. God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to show the people the power of the one true God. But they didn't change their ways.

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

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 did not repent of their sins.

What does it mean to repent? To turn away from your sins and turn to God.

Refer to Lesson 98 Theme Poster. God also sent the prophet Hosea to warn the people. Hosea's love for his wife Gomer was a picture of God's love for the people of Israel. Just as Hosea forgave Gomer for being unfaithful and leaving him, God would forgive Israel for being unfaithful by worshipping false gods.

But the people of Israel would not listen or turn from their wicked ways. After 250 years of patiently waiting and warning, it was time for God to punish them for their disobedience. God was angry with their sin and needed to show the people that he alone was God. He promised to send an enemy against them. Let's find out what happened.

Israel Is Conquered

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 17:3 & 5

We'll start at verse 3. Listen for the name of the king who attacked Israel. Read the verse.

Hoshea was the king of Israel at this time. He also did evil and would not follow God. So God sent King Shalmaneser to capture Israel. He made King Hoshea pay money to him, but when Hoshea would not pay any more and tried to get help, Shalmaneser threw him into prison.

Who will read what else Shalmaneser did?
It's in verse 5. Assign a reader.

What did the king of Assyria do? He invaded the land of Israel.

Right. God sent a powerful enemy to invade the kingdom of Israel and take over its capital city of Samaria.

Point to #27 on the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Remember, God had given the Israelites 250 years to repent and turn from their sins, but they chose not to follow the Lord.

What did this king do to the capital city of Samaria? Look at the end of verse 5.

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 or coming out. That meant the people inside the city couldn't get food or water from the outside and no one could bring any in. The army would keep watch

and camp just outside until the people inside the walls gave up because they were out of food and water. This took a long time, but it was a good way 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 into the city.

How long did King Shalmaneser and his army besiege the city? Three years.

Yes! The siege of Samaria lasted three years because the city had large walls, a water system, and lots of food already stored inside. But when the people finally ran out of supplies and had nothing left to eat or drink, they surrendered to the Assyrians.

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.

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 different cities that were far away. Scattering the Israelites around like that would keep them from getting together to try to 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.

You may want to show the map work on the board for students to copy, or use the answer key or slides to help students visualize the map section.

The Assyrian king sent people he had captured from other nations to live in Israel. Some Assyrians also went to live there. So, the Assyrians ruled over the northern kingdom of Israel, and foreigners moved in.

Slide #7

Look at the map on your Class Notes. Let's draw 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 shows the Israelites who were taken captive and moved to live in Assyria. Have students draw the arrow.

Now, draw an arrow from Assyria down to Israel. This is for the Assyrians and other

people who moved to live in Israel. Have students draw the arrow.

God Will Judge Sin

Have the papers with each student's name ready in a container.

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 next from 2 Kings 17. I will read some verses that will give us the information we need to fill in the Class Notes. Make sure you listen each time because I will draw a name out of this container and ask that person for the answer. Read each verse (or part of the verse) then draw a name and ask that student for the answer. If he or she doesn't know, draw another name. Have students write in the answers on their Class Notes.

2 Kings 17:7–23 (selected verses)

Pass out the Class Notes.

Slide #8

Slide #9

Slide #10

Slide #11

Slide #12

Slide #13

Slide #14

Slide #15

Look at #1 on your Class Notes below the map. Who will read that sentence? Choose a reader.

Listen to verse 6 for the answer we need to fill in the blank. Read 2 Kings 17:6 then draw a name of a student to give the answer. Assyria. Complete #1.

Ready for #2 on the Class Notes? Someone read that. Choose a reader.

Listen for the answer. Read 2 Kings 17:7.

Draw a name. Sinned. Have students complete #2.

Who will read #3 on the Class Notes? Choose a reader.

Here's the answer for #3. Read 2 Kings 17:9. Draw a name. Right. Have students complete #3.

Let's move on to #4. Will someone read that sentence? Choose a reader.

Listen carefully! Read 2 Kings 17:12. Draw a name. Idols. Have students complete #4.

Who did the Lord send to warn the people for #5? Listen for the answer. Read 2 Kings 17:13. Draw a name. Prophets. 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? Listen to this verse for the answer to #6. Read 2 Kings 17:14. Draw a name. Listen. Have students complete #6.

Someone read #7 for us. Choose a reader.

Listen for the answer. Read 2 Kings 17:18. Draw a name. Angry. Have students complete #7.

And what happened to Israel because they continued to sin? Listen for the answer to #8. Read 2 Kings 17:23. Exiled. Have students complete #8.

Exiled 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. That means God can be angry and not sin because he is holy. God is the one who decides right from wrong, and every time we turn away from him and his commands, 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, so they did not stop.

The people of Israel would not listen—they would not obey God even after the prophets of God warned them. For 250 years every king in Israel 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, the northern kingdom came to an end. God punished the Israelites through their enemies, the Assyrians, allowing them to capture Israel and the city of Samaria. The people were moved out of the land, and the Assyrians came to live in Israel.

Application

Slide #16

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The people of Israel had turned from God. They worshipped idols instead of only the one true God. They wanted to be like the nations around them rather than a people devoted to God. So many things in the world distracted them from the real God, 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 and not listen to what we need to hear. But God has given us his Word that tells us how we should live to please him. He

gave us parents who teach us to do what's right and teachers and pastors to help us learn from God's Word. If we choose to ignore them, it will lead to trouble or punishment.

Can you remember a time when you didn't listen when you should have? What happened because of that? Allow students to share or share a personal example.

God is patient; he warned the Israelites for a long time. But don't you think it makes God much happier (and our parents) when we stop to listen carefully and obey the first time? Let's ask God to help us listen and obey this week.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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