

K-Ist Lesson

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. When the people of Israel were divided, 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 sinful things. God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to show the people the power of the one true God. But the people didn't change their ways. They kept on worshipping false gods.

Refer to Lesson 96 Flip Chart. God called Amos, a shepherd, to deliver a message to Israel. He warned that an enemy would come against them if they did not turn from their sins.

Refer to Lesson 98 Flip Chart. 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 leaving him, God would forgive Israel for leaving him to worship false gods.

But the people of Israel would not listen to the prophets 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 the one true 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. We will look in 2 Kings chapter 17. It's one of the books of history in the Old Testament.

2 Kings 17:3 & 5

Listen for the name of the king who attacked Israel. Read the first sentence of verse 3.

- ? What was the enemy king's name who attacked Israel? *Shalmaneser.*
- ? What country was he from? He was the king of what? *Assyria.*

Remember, God had given the Israelites 250 years to turn from their sins and come back to him, but they chose not to. Now God used the enemy to punish them.

Listen to what else Shalmaneser did. Read verse 5.

The king of Assyria invaded the land of Israel. That means he brought his army into Israel to take it for his own.

- ? What city did the enemy come to? *Samaria.*

King Shalmaneser besieged the capital city of Samaria. Besiege means an army would circle around the city and block everyone from going in or coming out. So, the people inside the city couldn't get food or water from the outside, and no one could bring any in. The army would set up camp and keep watch just outside the city walls. After a while, the people inside the city were forced to give 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!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. 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 shabby clothing because they can't get new clothes, and they're thin because they're running out of food in the city and can't go out to get any more.

- ? How do you think the people felt when they looked out and saw a huge enemy army all around them? *Allow discussion.*
- ? How long did King Shalmaneser and his army besiege the city? *Reread 2 Kings 17:5. Three years.*

Yes! The army stayed there for three years until the people finally ran out of supplies and had nothing left to eat or drink. Then they captured the city and all the people inside.

- ? Just think, if you were there inside the city, you would be three years older before it was all over! How old would you be in three years? *Allow several students to share.*

Often during a war in those days, the winning king would take the losing people away from their homes and make them live in other countries. That's what King Shalmaneser did. His Assyrian army took most of the Israelites away from their land and made them live in different cities that were far away.

- ? When the Assyrians moved the Israelites out, what do you think happened to the cities in Israel? *Allow discussion.*

The Assyrian king sent people he had captured from other countries to live in Israel. Some Assyrians also went to live there. So, the Assyrians ruled over the northern kingdom of Israel with a mix of different people living there.

God Judges Sin

We've been talking about Israel for a long time. We've learned what happened to them. Now we're going to do a little review. We're going to play a question and answer game. I will ask a question then read a verse. You will have to listen carefully for the answer. Then I will draw a name out of this container and ask that person for the answer, so pay attention and be ready. Read each verse (or part of the verse that answers the question) then draw a name and ask that student for the answer. If he or she doesn't know, draw another name.

2 Kings 17:6–18 (selected verses)

- ? Where was the enemy king from? Listen for the answer. Read 2 Kings 17:6 then draw a name of a student to give the answer. *Assyria.*
- ? Ready for the second question? What did the people do against the Lord? Read 2 Kings 17:7. Draw a name. *Sinned.*
- ? Here's the next question. What kinds of things did the people do, things that were not what? Read 2 Kings 17:9. Draw a name. *Right.*
- ? Here's another question. What were the people serving? Read 2 Kings 17:12. Draw a name. *Idols.*

God sent the King of Assyria to capture Israel because the people were doing things that were not right, including worshipping idols and false gods.

- ? Whom did the Lord send to warn his people to turn back to God? Listen for the answer. Read 2 Kings 17:13. Draw a name. *Prophets and seers. (A seer is another name for a prophet.)*

God wanted the people to turn from their evil ways and obey his commandments. So, he sent prophets to warn the people to turn from their sins.

- ? But the people would not what? Read 2 Kings 17:14. Draw a name. *Listen.*

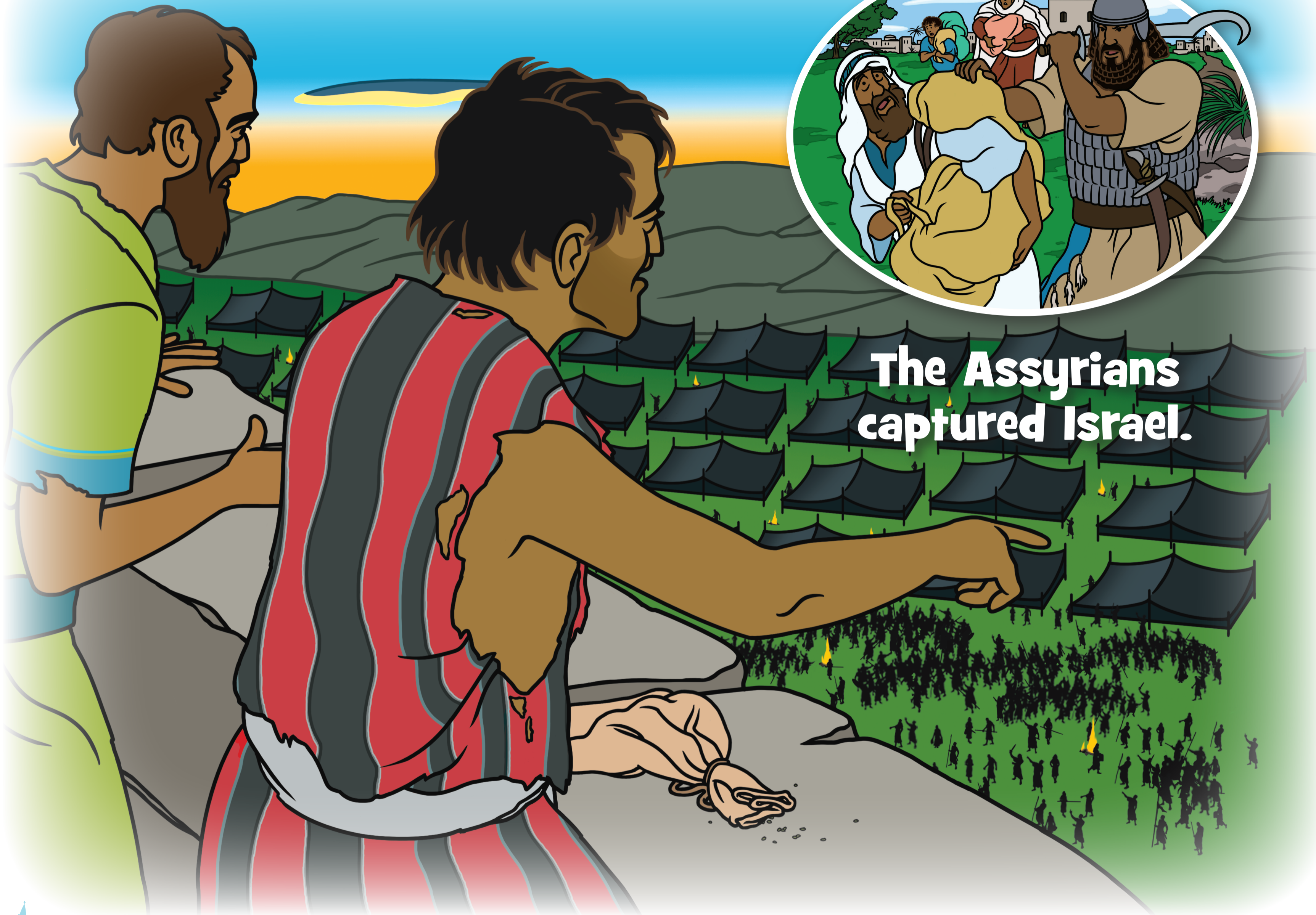
God sent many prophets and gave the people many warnings, but they just would not listen.

- ? How did God feel about the Israelites? Listen for this last answer. Read 2 Kings 17:18. Draw a name. *He was very angry.*

When a person gets angry at someone, sometimes it's because of selfish, sinful reasons. But God is holy—it is impossible for him to sin. His anger is never sinful. God hates sin and gets angry about it because he is the one who decides what sin is. As our Creator, he knows what is best for us and tells us what is right and wrong. Every time we turn away from him and disobey his commands, we are sinning.

Israel did not care about God or respect him as their Creator and Lord. They continued to turn away from him and to disobey his commands. They thought they could get away with their sin.

God waited patiently for 250 years, sending prophets to warn the people to turn from sin and come back to him. But every king in Israel did evil things, and the people did not turn back. God is patient, but he is also just. There comes a time when he must punish sin. Finally, the northern kingdom of Israel came to an end. God allowed the Assyrians to capture Israel and the city of Samaria, and the people were taken away from their land.



**The Assyrians
captured Israel.**