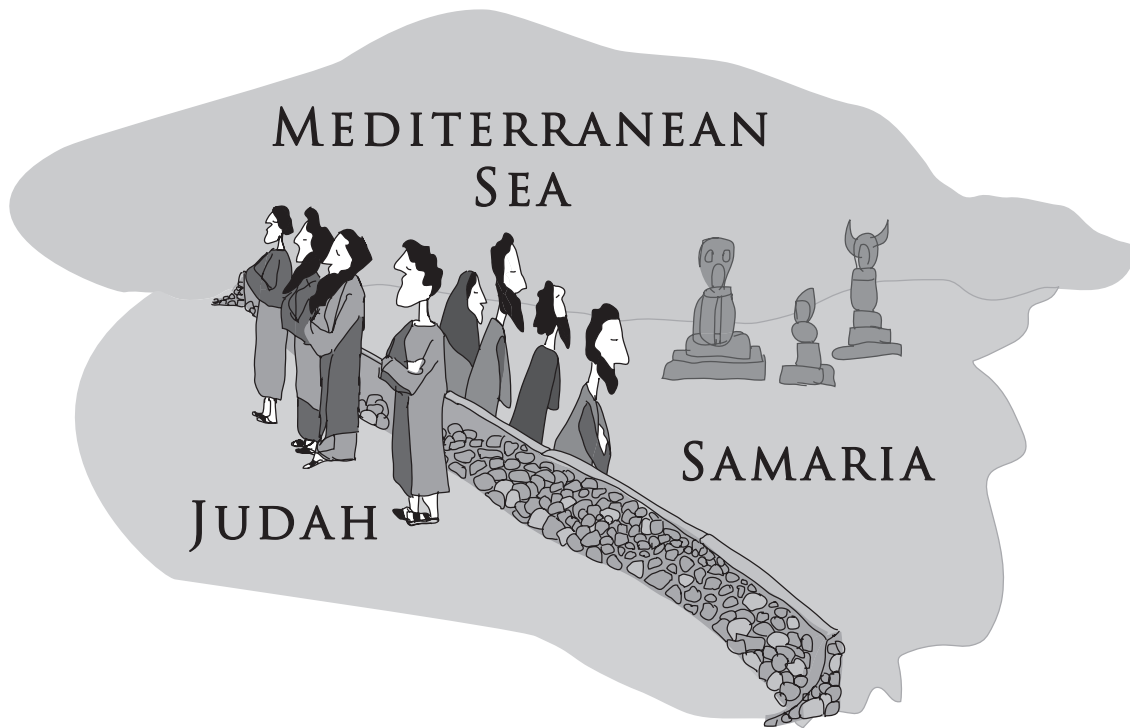


LESSON 67

The Fall of Israel

2 KINGS 17:1-20



BIBLE TRUTH

JUDGMENT COMES TO THOSE WHO REFUSE THE LOVING WARNINGS OF GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 2 Kings 17:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 67, “The Fall of Israel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
List the Evils
SUPPLIES:
✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **20 MIN**
Hear Ye, Hear Ye
SUPPLIES:
✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
Surrounded!
SUPPLIES:
✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Find the Sin of Israel
SUPPLIES:
✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

TOTAL 90 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Israel loses all faith in God—This week's lesson picks up 130 years after our last lesson. Israel and Judah have continued to be ruled by kings who have mostly abandoned or ignored the ways of God although Israel has been much worse than Judah.

Shortly after King Hoshea starts his reign over Israel in Samaria, the king of Assyria threatens to invade. To avoid this, Hoshea, instead of seeking God, surrenders. He and his nation no longer have any faith or trust in God. Instead of asking God for help, Hoshea secretly sends messengers to Egypt to ask for help. Hoshea then stops paying Assyria the money they had demanded.

In response, the king of Assyria arrests Hoshea, surrounds Israel with his army, and for three years prevents Israel from trading with or traveling to other nations. In all that time, Israel does not repent of her evil ways.

God raises up Assyria to judge Israel—The kingdom of Israel is judged by God for ignoring his warnings and continuing in their idolatry. In the end they abandon all of God's commands and completely stop observing any of the things God had taught them through Moses. They worship and serve Baal and sell themselves to do evil. Therefore, God judges them by raising up the Assyrians to conquer them.

Only the tribe of Judah is spared—Although the northern kingdom completely abandons all faith in God, there are a few good kings in Judah who do not turn to idols. So at first, God spares the tribe of Judah and their capital city, Jerusalem, allowing only the northern kingdom to be taken captive. But eventually even God's people in Jerusalem turn away from the Lord and are taken captive. In the end, all of Israel turns away from the Lord, and the Lord judges them.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

High Place

Just as the name suggests, a high place was located at the top of a mountain or hill. In pagan culture, altars were erected on high places for the purpose of worship. There seems an obvious psychological advantage to getting closer to the clouds and sky where most of the gods were believed to be. Where there were no hills, towers or pyramids could be built. Frequently a high

place would have an altar and a wooden pole or stone obelisk or pillar that was also worshiped. The Canaanites used high places in their worship. Israel was required to destroy the high places and drive out all the people who worshiped there (see Numbers 33:52).

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 2 Kings 17:15–17.

When you look at Israel's history, you can see the consequences that came to them when they turned away from the Lord. Their sin got so bad that in the end they were killing their children as sacrifices to their false gods.

God could have completely destroyed all of Israel because of their sin, but he didn't because he had a plan to save his people. Although the northern kingdom was defeated and captured, God spared Jerusalem in the south. No matter how bad Israel's sin became, the Lord did not abandon his people because he loved them. Later, when God allowed Jerusalem to be defeated, captured, and taken to Babylon, their captivity would last for only seventy years.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 2 Kings 17:1–20 from the Scriptures or read story 67, "The Fall of Israel," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

List the Evils

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Read through the passage, and then ask the children to tell you all the sins of Israel. Write their ideas on the whiteboard.

- Israel feared other gods.
- They walked in the customs of the other nations.
- They did things secretly against the Lord that were not right.
- They built high places to idols in their towns.
- They set up pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree.
- They made offerings on all the high places.
- They did wicked things.
- They served idols.
- They would not listen to God’s warnings.
- They despised God’s statutes and his covenant.
- They went after false idols.
- They followed the nations that were around them.
- They abandoned all the commandments of the Lord.
- They made metal images of two calves.
- They made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven.
- They served Baal.
- They burned their sons and their daughters as offerings.
- They used divination and omens.
- They sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Do you think the Lord was just in punishing Israel?**
(Help the children to see that Israel had committed incredible sins against God.)
- **What should we learn from Israel’s mistakes?**
(Even though God took them through the Red Sea and delivered them from the hands of their enemies, Israel strayed. We need to be careful that we obey and serve the Lord rather than think we could never sin so badly.)

■ Why didn't God wipe out his people for their wrongdoing?

(God would have been justified in wiping out all of Israel and Judah, but God in his mercy had a plan to save his people. God's plan was for Jesus to die and take upon himself the punishment for our sin. Jesus lived a sinless life and gave his righteousness to us by being born a man and standing before God as our representative.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 20 MIN

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Use the following activity for practical application of this lesson:

Divide the class into a court. Assign the following roles: one judge (a teacher); three prosecuting attorneys; three defense attorneys; one accused, Israel; and a group of jurors.

Have all the children read through 2 Kings 17:1–20 aloud by taking turns; then write a list of charges against Israel on the whiteboard.

While the prosecution is preparing the charges, help the defense attorneys work on their defense. They will use the gospel (Romans 3:21–26; Galatians 3:7–14; and/or Ephesians 1:3–14). Their basic defense is that Israel is guilty but that Jesus paid with death penalty, and therefore Israel should be set free if they accept Jesus' work on the cross.

Act out a trial before the jury by having the prosecution take the charges before the jury while the defense presents their case. Once their arguments are complete, have the jury decide on a verdict together and have a representative announce the verdict to the class.

Given the list of sins Israel committed, the children should become more amazed by the cross. Make sure they do not have a self-righteous response, but see themselves as sinners who stand with Israel on trial in need of the gospel.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN

Surrounded!

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of the armies of Syria surrounding the city of Samaria.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Find the Sin of Israel

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Have the children read 2 Kings 17:7–20. Divide the class in half and have the teams take turns naming Israel's sins listed in the passage. Make two columns on the whiteboard and record the suggestions of each team in their column. Keep going until one group fails to come up with a sin. Then count up the sins in each list to see who is the winner.

Talk about how we, too, could make a list of our sins against God. Explain that our only hope, like Israel's, is for God to send his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take away our sin. Share the gospel and challenge them to turn away from their sin and place their trust in the Lord.