

## THE FALL OF ISRAEL

*Judgment comes to those who refuse the loving warnings of God.*



THE STORY: 2 KINGS 17:1-5

MONDAY

## God brought judgment to Israel through Assyria

God brought judgment to Israel through Assyria – Shortly after Hoshea began to reign over Israel in Samaria, the king of Assyria threatened to invade. In order to avert a war, Hoshea basically surrendered and agreed to allow Assyria to rule over Israel, however, God was supposed to rule over Israel. The Assyrian empire required him to pay tribute (2 Kings 17:3). No indication is given that Hoshea called out to the Lord for help. Instead, Hoshea looked to Egypt to form an alliance. Then he stopped sending money to Assyria. However, no help came from Egypt. The king of Assyria wasted no time in placing Hoshea in prison and invading all the land. The Assyrians besieged the capitol city of Samaria for three years. In all that time, Israel did not repent of its evil ways.

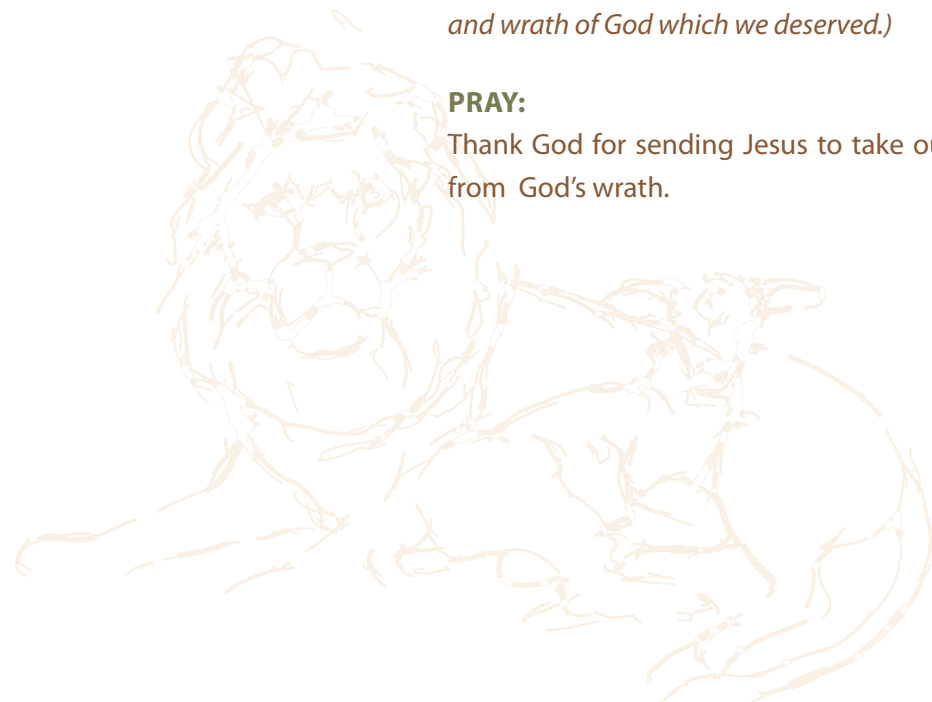
### TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did God bring judgment against Israel? *(Because they were not following the Lord.)*

Does God still judge evil today? *(Yes.) Why? (Because God is holy, he must judge evil. Everyone's sin will be judged. Sometimes God brings swift judgment here on earth. Sometimes he reserves judgment until the last day when all will be judged. For all those who trust in Christ, God has already judged Christ in our place. Jesus bore the judgment and wrath of God which we deserved.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for sending Jesus to take our punishment so that we might be saved from God's wrath.





## Israel would not listen

Israel would not listen – Israel would not listen to the warnings of the Lord. They did not believe God. They despised God’s commands. They followed false idols. In the end they abandoned all of God’s commands and even sacrificed their sons and daughters as offerings. They worshipped and served Baal and sold themselves to do evil. Therefore, God judged them by raising up the Assyrians to conquer them.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Should God have judged Israel? (Yes.) Why? (God warned Israel many times, and they did not obey His Word.)

God sent prophets to warn Israel. How does God warn us today? (God warns sinners in his Word many times. God also gives parents and friends to us who love God and warn us with wisdom from God. Like Israel, we make a choice to follow or rebel against God’s Word.)

### PRAY:

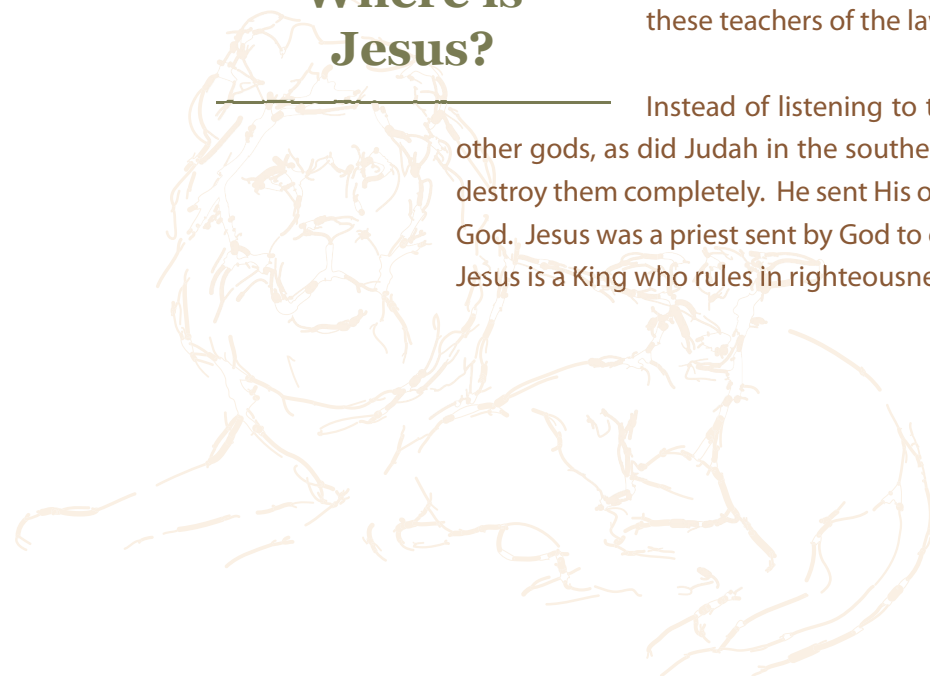
Ask God to help you place your trust in Him and follow His Word.



## Where is Jesus?

In Luke 11:47 Jesus told the experts of the law that their forefathers killed and persecuted the prophets. Jesus came as the greatest prophet. Like the prophets who came to Israel to warn them against their idolatry, these teachers of the law did not listen to Jesus, but opposed Him.

Instead of listening to the prophets, Israel served and worshipped other gods, as did Judah in the southern kingdom. But God, in His mercy, did not destroy them completely. He sent His only Son to be a prophet to bring the Word of God. Jesus was a priest sent by God to offer Himself as an acceptable sacrifice. And Jesus is a King who rules in righteousness.



**TALK ABOUT IT:**

The Bible tells us that, in our sin, we are God's enemies. How is that obvious in this story? *(God let the Assyrians conquer Israel.)*

Israel should have obeyed God who had cared for Israel and delivered them many times. Instead, Israel forgot God. How are we like Israel in this way? *(We can forget God too if we are not careful. Sin working in our hearts leads us to follow other gods and forget the Lord our God. We are often tempted by the passing pleasures of the world. When we start to love something more than God, we begin to forget God.)*

Are there any things in your life that draw your affections away from God? *(Parents - help your children think of the things that draw their affections away from God.)*

**PRAY:**

Confess this weakness and ask God to give you all strength to follow Him with an undivided heart.



THE STORY: 2 KINGS 17:16-20

THURSDAY

## Only the tribe of Judah is spared

Only the tribe of Judah is spared - At first God spared the tribe of Judah in the south and their capital city, Jerusalem. Eventually, however, even Judah turned away from the Lord and was taken captive. In the end, all of Israel turned away from the Lord, and the Lord judged them.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

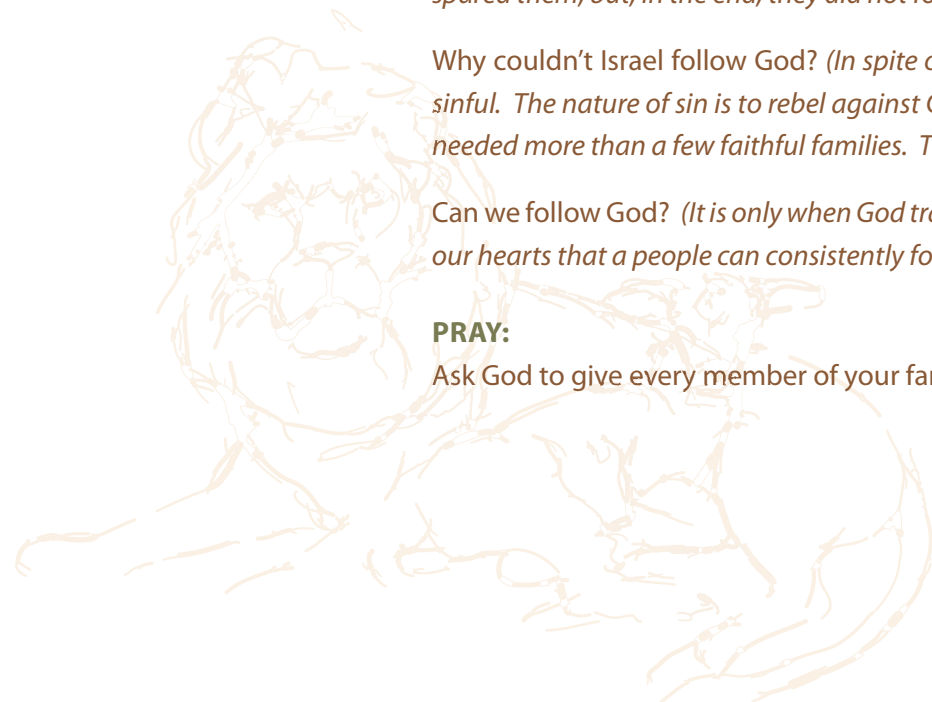
Why did God spare Judah? *(Judah was not as constantly wicked as was Israel.. God spared them, but, in the end, they did not follow God either and were judged.)*

Why couldn't Israel follow God? *(In spite of all that God did, the people of Israel were sinful. The nature of sin is to rebel against God. Israel needed more than the law. They needed more than a few faithful families. They needed new hearts changed by God.)*

Can we follow God? *(It is only when God transforms our hearts and writes His law upon our hearts that a people can consistently follow God and say no to sin.)*

**PRAY:**

Ask God to give every member of your family grace to follow His commands.





## On the road to Emmaus.

In John 3:16 we read that it was because of God's love for the world that He sent His Son, Jesus, to redeem His people. Here the psalmist asks God to redeem his people. He didn't ask for Jesus by name, but Jesus is the only answer to the prayer in Psalm 44:26.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Can you think of a verse that connects God's salvation in Jesus with His love for the world? (*John 3:16, 1 John 4:10, and 1 John 4:19 are examples of the connection between His love and redemption.*)

Is there any other way the prayer of Psalm 44:26 could have been answered apart from Jesus? (*No. Jesus is the only way we could be redeemed and brought back to God. Our sin separated us from God and required judgment. Jesus took our judgment.*)

### PRAY:

Pray the prayer of Psalm 44:26 for each member of your family. Pray that the Lord might save and redeem each one.

