



# 4

# God Judges Israel

## Key Theme

- God judges sin.

## Key Passage

- 2 Kings 17:5–23

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how God brought judgment to Israel.
- Explain why God was so angry with Israel.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

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Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet using the letter clues. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a partner or to the teacher using only the letter clues.



### Activity 1: God Judges Israel Class Maps and Notes

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Students will complete the God Judges Israel Class Maps and Notes as you study the lesson. Pass out the class maps and class notes before you begin to teach.



### Studying God's Word

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For 250 years, the people of Israel did what was right in their own eyes—turning their backs on the Lord. So the Lord used the Assyrians to judge Israel. Assyria conquered Israel and besieged the walled city of Samaria. They then scattered the people, and moved foreigners in to occupy the land.



### Activity 2: Siege Zone

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Students will review the lesson while playing a board game.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



### GOD JUDGES ISRAEL CLASS MAPS AND NOTES

- Print one God Judges Israel Class Maps from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.
- Print one God Judges Israel Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- God Judges Israel Class Maps for each student
- God Judges Israel Class Maps Answer Key
- God Judges Israel Class Notes for each student
- God Judges Israel Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print and cut out the Scripture Strips.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Scripture Strips



### SIEGE ZONE

- Print one Siege Zone Game Board from the resource DVD-ROM for every two students.
- Print and cut out one set of Siege Zone Cards, from the resource DVD-ROM.

- One Siege Zone Game Board for every two students
- One button/game piece per student
- One set of Siege Zone Cards



## Memory Verse

**Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

God warned the people that judgment would come (2 Kings 17:13–18). He spoke through His prophets Hosea, Amos, and others. The time had come. Israel was about to be wiped out as a nation and the people carried away into captivity for their unwillingness to turn from their sin and trust in God.

The 10 tribes of Israel suffered as a result of the wicked kings who led the people to idol worship away from the true God. The suffering was a result of spiritual famine. They had gotten to the place where only a small remnant remained committed to honoring God. The others feasted on their selfish lusts and made their offerings and sacrifices to false gods.

Over time, the leaders did not cling to the truth of the Creator God who alone was to be worshipped. Politics and power became the driving force, and alliances were made with the surrounding nations. In disobedience and rebellion, they turned from the One who had brought them out of Egypt. Worship had been corrupted, and even the priests of God were participating in idol worship. Rather than a sweet-smelling aroma (Philippians 4:18), the worship of the people was a stench in the nostrils of God. In fact, Israel looked a lot like many Western countries today.

God was patient for 250 years, sending many prophets to warn Israel and Judah. But after years of consistent rebellion, idolatry, sin, and hostility toward God, His anger was finally provoked to action, and He judged Israel by removing them from His sight (2 Kings 17:18). The Lord finally rejected Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers (2 Kings 17:20). God sent the powerful nation of Assyria to bring judgment upon the nation that had forsaken Him. The Northern territory would never be fully under the control of Israel again. The Promised Land had been torn from them because of their unfaithfulness.

God proves Himself patient and gracious to all of His followers. We all were once alienated and enemies of God by wicked works. Yet He offered us reconciliation through the death of Jesus Christ. This miracle of salvation presents those who trust in Christ as holy, blameless, and above reproach before our holy God (Colossians 1:21–22).

Just as many perished in Samaria, many more will perish eternally one day because of their sin. The judgment on Israel will pale in comparison with that final

judgment. We are called to be ambassadors on behalf of Christ, imploring people to turn from their sin and trust in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20–21). That is your calling as you teach. The gospel is the only truth that can save. It is the only truth that can bring the hope and peace we all seek.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As the capital of Israel, Samaria was the site of the final showdown between Assyria and the Israelites in the North. Shalmaneser V had taken tribute from Hoshea, but Hoshea turned against him to the king of Egypt (2 Kings 17:3–4). Shalmaneser wouldn't stand for that, so he conquered the land of Israel. However, the takeover of Israel's capital, Samaria, took three years. Why so long? As a fortified city, Samaria had its own supply of food and water within the walls. The Assyrians' unglamorous yet effective plan of attack was to set up camp outside the city and wait until the people inside starved or opened the gates.

The siege lasted through the reign of Shalmaneser V, and some believe that he died at the end of the campaign. After the land was fully taken, the Assyrians conducted a campaign of relocation. The Israelites were delivered to the regions of Halah, Habor, Gozan, and the cities of the Medes (2 Kings 17:6). These were regions far to the east in modern-day Iraq, Syria, and Iran. However, many of the poor and non-threatening Jews were left in Israel to work the land.

As the Assyrians conquered more lands, they settled Samaria with the foreigners from those lands (2 Kings 17:24). The new citizens moved in, and with them came their worship of false gods. They did not fear the Lord or know how He demanded to be worshipped (2 Kings 17:25–26). And, as always, this angered God.

In response to God's judgment of sending marauding lions, the foreigners sent for a priest in the hopes they could learn the rituals of the true God and so appease His anger (2 Kings 17:26–27). But God demands nothing short of perfect obedience and worship of Him alone. And although the priest did show them how to worship God, they continued to make gods of their own and put them in the shrines. The worship continued to be blended in perverse ways, and God was not honored (2 Kings 17:28–33). In addition, the Jews intermarried with these foreigners and they became the Samaritans, whom the Jews despised but Jesus reached out to (John 4:1–42).

Here we can see a clear present-day principle to apply from this Old Testament passage: Beware of churches that integrate worship practices from religions around the world. This type of syncretism promotes a false worship of God. This is unacceptable. We are to have no false gods before us. We are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, our minds, and our souls.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Heavenly Father, this lesson reveals your justice. I must admit that I don't always feel comfortable seeing your wrath displayed in the pages of

Scripture. My "happy ending" would have been one where Israel turned to you in utter repentance and humility. But the Bible isn't a fairy tale. The Bible is true history that reveals the wretchedness of man in relation to you. When I think of the detestable practices that were part of Israel's worship, I marvel that you were patient for 250 years! Of course, they deserved your judgment. And yes, so do I. I don't deserve your grace, but you've shown me grace. You have offered it to me as a free gift. Thank you that I am justified by Jesus's blood and saved from your wrath through Him. Help me to express this truth to my students this week.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



# God Judges Israel Class Maps and Notes

## MATERIALS

- God Judges Israel Class Maps and Answer Key
- God Judges Israel Class Notes and Answer Key
- Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print one class maps and class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Students will complete them as you continue the lesson.*

We will be completing the class notes and marking on the class maps during our lesson today.

*After completing each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes and mark on the class maps, we will find out what happened to the people of Israel after the Lord sent Assyria as judgment for their sins.



## Studying God's Word

We have heard how God warned the people that judgment would come. God sent His prophets Amos, Hosea, and others. The prophets told the people to turn from their wicked ways and turn to God or they would face judgment. But the people would not listen. And now, after 250 years of patiently waiting and warning, God was going to judge and punish their disobedience. God was angry and needed to show the people that He was God, that He alone was worthy of all their praise and worship.

- Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

God sent a powerful king, King Shalmaneser, the king of Assyria, to take over the northern kingdom of Israel and the capital city of Israel, Samaria.

Take a look at your class maps. Do you see how Assyria was located along Israel's northern border? We're going to complete these maps to show what happened to the people of Israel. For the 250 years since the nation split in two, the Assyrians dwelled behind their own borders north of Israel. *Point out the region of Assyria on the map.*

## READ THE WORD

2 Kings 17:5–6

The Israelites lived in Israel; the Assyrians lived in Assyria. Remember, God had been warning the Israelites for 250 years to turn back to Him but they kept returning to their sin. Well, it was time for God's judgment on Israel. We are going to start today by reading 2 Kings 17:5–6. *Assign a reader.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

God would finally send Assyria to Israel, and Assyria would be God's judgment on them because of their sin.

### Observe the Text

- ? What does our text say the King of Assyria did? *2 Kings 17:5. He went to Samaria and besieged it.*
- ? Has anyone heard that term before? Do you know what it means to besiege a city? *Allow discussion.*

► You may want to consider a very simple board drawing to illustrate Samaria under siege by the Assyrians.

To besiege means to try to take over a city by surrounding it. Sometimes an army would use this strategy to win a war without fighting! The army would circle around the city and block anything and everyone from going in and coming out. That way the people couldn't get food or water from the outside. The army would keep watch around the outside of the city—camping out and blocking all supplies—until the people gave up because they were out of food and water. The Bible tells us that King Shalmaneser of Assyria took the land of Israel and then went to the capital city of Samaria. The city of Samaria had large walls, a water system, and lots of food stored inside. The Assyrians surrounded the city until the people ran out of food and water. Then the Assyrians were able to take the city.

- ? How long were the people in Samaria able to withstand the siege by living on what they had stored? Look back at 2 Kings 17:5. *2 Kings 17:5. Three years.*

That's a long time! Based on what we know has happened so far, we are going to mark Map 1. So, draw a large arrow from Assyria down to Israel, showing the invasion of Israel. Put a circle around the capital city of Samaria, showing the siege of the city by the Assyrians. *Help students complete Map 1. Show them the map answer key.*



? Someone read the sentence on Map 1. How will you complete it? *Assign a reader. Samaria.*

Good. Map 1 represents what was happening to the people of Samaria during the three years of the Assyrian siege. Look back at your Bibles now. After three years the Israelites in Samaria finally gave up.

? 2 Kings 17:6 tells us what happened to them when they surrendered. What did Assyria do with the people? *2 Kings 17:6. Carried Israel away to Assyria.*

Often during a war in those days, the more powerful nation would force the people to leave their homes and live in other nations. That's what happened here. The Assyrians made most of the people of Israel move away from their homes in Israel and into Assyria. Because they were scattered this way, they were less likely to rise up and rebel against their new king.

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

The Assyrian king made his people from Assyria move to Israel. The Assyrians took over the northern kingdom of Israel. And now most of Israel was occupied by Assyrians.

? Look at Map 2. How should we mark it to show what happened? *Allow discussion.*

First, draw an arrow from Israel up to Assyria. This represents those Israelites who were taken captive to Assyria.

Next, draw an arrow from Assyria into Israel. This represents those Assyrians who were moved from Assyria to live in Israel. *Refer to the map answer key to help students complete Map 2.*

? Someone read the sentence on Map 2. How would you complete it? *Assign a reader. Assyria, Israel.*

Let's review what happened.

? What does Map 1 show? *Assyria invaded Israel and besieged Samaria for three years, cutting off all of their food and water.*

? And what about Map 2? *Israelites were taken to Assyria, and Assyrians were moved into Israel.*

## Discover the Truth

Finally, God decided that the time for waiting and second chances was over for the northern kingdom of Israel. He sent King Shalmaneser and the Assyrians to take over Israel and the capital city of Samaria. But not only that, God moved the people out of Israel. They moved to Assyria. And people from the nation of Assyria and other foreign nations moved to the land of Israel.



➤ Refer to the map answer key to help the students complete their own map.

## READ THE WORD

So we know that God was angry with the people and had finally sent His judgment, but why was God angry? I'm going to hand out these Scripture Strips. They will help us answer that question. If you get one, look up the verse and mark it in your Bible. Each verse will answer one of my questions. *Hand out Scripture Strips for 2 Kings 17:7, 17:9, 17:12, 17:13, 17:14, 17:18, 17:23.*

### 2 Kings 17:7-23

## EXAMINE THE WORD

Let's get started! Remember, we are trying to answer the question, "Why was God so angry?" As you read the verses and answer the questions, you will also be filling in the class notes. *Pass out the class notes if you haven't done that yet.*

► Use the 2 Kings 17 Scripture Strips from the Resource DVD-ROM. Have the students read the verses as you come to them, answer the questions, and complete the class notes.

### Observe the Text

- ? Who has 2 Kings 17:7? Please read it. Now answer this question. What did the children of Israel do against the Lord? *They sinned.* Complete #1 on your class notes. *Sinned.*
- ? Who has 2 Kings 17:9? Please read it. Now answer this question. What did the children of Israel do against the Lord their God? *They did things that were not right, built high places.* Complete #2 on your class notes. *Right.*
- ? Who has 2 Kings 17:12? Please read it. Now answer this question. What were these people serving? *Idols.* You can answer #3 on your class notes. *Idols.*
- ? Who has 2 Kings 17:13? Please read it. We've talked about how God warned His people over and over again. He had sent His prophets to tell the people that judgment would come. What were these prophets telling the people? *2 Kings 17:13. Turn from your evil ways, keep God's commandments.* Complete #4 on your class notes. *Evil.*
- ? Who has 2 Kings 17:14? Please read it. And here is the question. How did Israel react to these warnings? *They would not hear!* Complete #5 on your class notes. *Hear.*
- ? Who has 2 Kings 17:18? Please read it. And here is the question. So what did God do? *The Lord got very angry and removed them from His sight.* Complete #6 on your class notes. *Angry.*
- ? Who has 2 Kings 17:23? Please read it. Now answer this question. What was the Lord's punishment on Israel for their disobedience? *Israel was carried away from their land to Assyria.* Complete #7 on your class notes. *Land.*

God had to judge, or punish, the people. They would not listen to God's prophets. They continued to worship false gods and idols. The Lord got angry because of their sin.



? Look at the Attributes of God Poster. Why does God have to punish sin? There are two attributes in particular that deal with sin. What are they?  
*Holy and just.*

Yes, God is holy. He must judge all sin—even His beloved Israel's sins. Israel no longer feared God or respected His holiness. God had been patient. But finally, because He is just, He sent punishment on His people. God sent Assyria. Assyria took the land and moved the Israelites away from their homes.

HOLY  
JUST

*(Refer to Attributes Poster)*

## Discover the Truth

The people of Israel would not listen—they would not obey God. 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. God finally punished them. He used their enemies—the Assyrians—to do that. Assyria captured Israel and the city of Samaria. The people were moved out of the land and the Assyrians came in to live in Israel. The northern kingdom came to an end.



## Siege Zone

### MATERIALS

- Button/game pieces for each student
- Siege Zone Game Board for every two students
- Siege Zone Cards to read during the game

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Pass out one game board for every two students. Pass out one game piece to each student. Have students choose whether to be an Assyrian or an Israelite. The Assyrians will use the outside track on the game board. The Israelites will use the inside track on the game board. Print and cut out the Siege Zone Cards. Read the cards, starting with an Assyrian card and alternating between Assyrian and Israelite cards. Each student will move forward according to the number of spaces you call out per the cards.*

The object of this game is to get to the finish line first. All the Assyrians are a team and all

the Israelites are a team. One Assyrian and one Israelite share a game board. Set your game pieces on the starting square and listen to me as I read the game cards that will tell you what's happening and how many spaces to move.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

- ? Who won the game? *The Assyrians.*
- ? You could say the Assyrians won. But who was making it so that they would win? *The Lord.*

Yes, it was the Lord who used the Assyrians to accomplish His purpose. His purpose was to judge Israel.

- ? Why did God have to judge Israel? *Because of their sin.*





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The Lord had been patient with Israel for 250 years, but finally judgment had come. He used Assyria to conquer Israel and scatter the people. God would not tolerate their sins of disobedience and idolatry anymore. The northern nation of Israel was no more!

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The people of Israel had turned from God. They worshipped idols, not God alone. So many things in the world distracted them from the real God, and they forgot all the wonderful things God had done for them. It sounds familiar, doesn't it? We, too, get distracted from God. Because of the first sin of Adam and Eve, we all are born in sin. We turn from Him. 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 we won't have to face His judgment and His punishment.

God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to live as a man. He lived a perfect life and was put to death for the sin of everyone who would believe in Him. God must judge sin, it's true. He hates sin! But, if we humbly trust in Jesus, who died for sinners like us—if we turn away from our sin and place our faith in Jesus—if we call on the name of Jesus—then we will be saved from God's judgment and the punishment of eternity in hell without the Lord. Jesus took the punishment for sin when He died on the Cross. He made a way for sinners to be saved.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.

? Look at #8 on your class notes. This is the best news we could ever hear. God must punish sin, but He made a way for sinners to be forgiven. How will you complete #8 on your class notes? *Allow discussion. Jesus.*



### MEMORY VERSE

**Isaiah 42:8** I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for His Word that gives us an accurate account of history.
- Thank God because even though He must judge sin, He was merciful to provide His Son Jesus to offer forgiveness and take the punishment for sinners.
- Ask God to open our hearts to the truth about Jesus and the gospel.