



4

God Judges Israel

Key Theme

- God judges sin.

Key Passages

- 2 Kings 17:5–7, 17:9, 17:12, 17:14, 17:18

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

Students will fill in the missing letters from the memory verse. Then, they will say the verse to each other and/or the teacher.



Activity 1: God Judges Israel Class Notes

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



Studying God's Word

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. The Assyrians conquered Israel and besieged the walled city of Samaria. Then they scattered the people, and moved foreigners in to occupy the land.



Activity 2: Act Out the Siege

Students will review the lesson by acting out the Assyrian siege to take over the Israelites.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO



COME ON IN

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



GOD JUDGES ISRAEL CLASS NOTES

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



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



ACT OUT THE SIEGE

- Read through the Act Out the Siege activity.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

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

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

- Student Take Home Sheets



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.

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet by filling in the blanks.
- They will say the verse to each other and/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 Notes

MATERIALS

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

INSTRUCTIONS

Print one 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 these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When we finish completing our class notes, we'll know how the Lord judged Israel's sins.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

God sent His prophets Amos and Hosea to warn the Israelites that judgment would come. The prophets told the people to stop sinning and turn from their wicked ways. The people would not listen. And now 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. God sent a powerful king, King Shalmaneser, the king of Assyria, to take over the northern kingdom of Israel and the city of Samaria in Israel.

- 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.

2 Kings 17:5–6

Refer to Quarter 2, Lesson 9 Lesson Theme Poster. God split the nation of Israel into two nations—Israel and Judah. The country to the north of Israel was Assyria. The people in Israel would not listen to God. God sent His prophets to warn them. But they did not want to obey Him. God warned them that He would have to judge their sin. And the time had come. God would punish the people in Israel. Listen as I read from 2 Kings 17:5–6. Listen carefully and tell me what happened! *Read 2 Kings 17:5–6.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

► Have students look at their class notes.

- ? What king is mentioned? *2 Kings 17:5. The king of Assyria.*
- ? What did the king do when he got to the city in Israel called Samaria? *Re-read 2 Kings 17:5 emphasizing "besieged." He went to Samaria and besieged it.*
- ? How long did Assyria besiege the city? *2 Kings 17:5. Three years.*
- ? That's right. Now who knows what that means—besieged? *Allow discussion.*

Besiege: to surround a city with military forces to bring about its surrender.

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 the Assyrian king, Shalmaneser, took over 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 they were able to take the city.

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

Find Assyria on your class notes at the top of the map. Make an arrow from Assyria going into Israel to show that the Assyrians came in and **besieged the city.** *Show the class notes answer key for arrow placement. Allow the students time to complete this.*

This siege of Samaria took three years! That's a long time! The Israelites were trapped inside the city. The Assyrians had surrounded Samaria—cutting off all of their supplies. They had already taken the rest of Israel. And after three years, the people in Samaria had to give up.

Once they gave up, something happened to them. Listen again as I read 2 Kings 17:6. *Re-read 2 Kings 17:6 emphasizing "Assyria carried Israel away."*

- ? What did the Assyrians do with the Israelites once they surrendered? What did they do with all the people? *Carried Israel away to Assyria.*

Now make an arrow from Israel going into Assyria to show that the Israelites were taken out. Show the class notes answer key for arrow placement. Allow the students time to complete this.

During a war in those days, the more powerful nation would make the people leave their homes and live in other nations. That's what happened here. The Assyrians took most of the people of Israel away from their homes in Israel and made them move to Assyria. Then some of the people from Assyria moved to Israel!

? So, after the siege on Samaria, who was living in Israel and Samaria? *The Assyrians.*

? And where did Assyria take the people from Israel? *Into Assyria.*

The Assyrians did not move all of the people in Israel to Assyria. Some people got to stay in Israel. But most of them went. This was God's punishment on the people because they would not listen to God. They would not turn back to Him.

Discover the Truth

Finally, God decided that the northern kingdom of Israel would have no more second chances. He sent King Shalmaneser and the Assyrians to take over Israel and the capital city of Samaria. But not only that, God had the Assyrians take most of the people out of Israel. They were moved to the nation of Assyria, and people from the nation of Assyria were moved in to live in the land of Israel. Everyone was mixed up! Refer to the map and the class notes.



READ THE WORD

So we know that God was angry with the people and had finally sent His judgment. Why was God angry? Let's look in the Bible and find out. I'll read a verse and then ask a question.

Let's get started! Listen carefully. Remember, we are trying to answer the question, "Why was God so angry?" Read 2 Kings 17:7.

2 Kings 17:7

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? Who had the children of Israel sinned against? *God.*

? Who can read #1 on the class notes for me? How will you answer that? Look at the words on the bottom of your class notes to fill in the blank. *God.*

? Read 2 Kings 17:9. What did the children of Israel do against the Lord their God? *They did things that were not right.*

2 Kings 17:9

► Read the verses as you come to them, emphasizing the answers as you go.

2 Kings 17:12

2 Kings 17:14

2 Kings 17:18

HOLY
JUST

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

? Someone read #2 on your class notes. How will you finish that? *Right.*
Yes! They were disobeying God by building high places in all the cities. They were serving and worshipping idols—false gods—at these high places.

? *Read 2 Kings 17:12. What were these people serving? Idols.*

? Someone read #3 on your class notes. How will you finish that? *Idols.*

God had sent prophets to warn Israel. The prophets spoke for God. They told the people that God would have to punish them if they would not listen and obey! Yet they continued to worship idols! Now listen to this as I read 2 Kings 17:14. *Read 2 Kings 17:14.*

? Did the people listen to God's prophets and His warnings? *No. They would not hear!*

? Someone read #4 on your class notes. How will you finish that? *Hear.*

Israel would not listen to God's warning. This next verse tells us how God felt about that. Listen carefully. *Read 2 Kings 17:18.*

? So how did God feel? *The Lord got very angry.*

That's right. The Bible tells us the Lord finally got angry with the people of Israel—because of their sin. And God removed the people from the nation.

? Someone read #5 on your class notes. How will you finish that? *Angry.*

? Look at the Attributes of God Poster. Why does God have to punish sin? *Allow discussion. Review the definitions of holy and just. He is holy and He is just.*

? Someone read #6 on your class notes. How will you finish that? *Holy and Just.*

Yes, God is holy and just. That means He hates sin, and He must judge all sin. The people in Israel no longer feared God or respected Him. 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.

Discover the Truth

Refer to Lessons 1, 2, and 3 Lesson Theme Posters. 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 that followed him did evil in the sight of the Lord. They worshipped other gods, they served idols, and 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 took Israel and the city of

Samaria in Israel. The people were moved out of the land and the Assyrians came in to live there. The northern kingdom of the nation of Israel came to an end. *Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster.*



Act Out the Siege

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will act out the Assyrian siege on Israel. Adjust the number of students participating depending on your class size.

Remember when we said the Assyrians laid siege to Samaria? Well, let's review what happened in today's lesson by acting it out! *Have all of the students sit in a circle. God's people were surrounded by their enemies, the Assyrians. I want some of you to come sit in the middle of the circle. You will be God's people—the Israelites. But you have sinned against God! Choose students.*

Now I want some of you to be the Assyrians. God sent the Assyrians to punish His people. The Assyrians circled the city of Samaria and all the people in that city. *Choose more students to surround the people of God.*

Have the Assyrians stand in a circle around the people of Samaria. The Bible says the adversaries were all around them. When Israel ran out of food and water, the Assyrians went in and took

the city! They took the people of Israel away. I want you Assyrians to take the Israelites away! Take them out of the circle! Have the adversaries take the other students out of the circle. That's what happened in the Bible. The enemy was stronger than the Israelites! They took the people out of the land of Israel, just as God had said! Repeat this exercise making sure to include all of the students. You can also have the students switch roles.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? Who won each time we acted the siege out?
The Assyrians.

? You could say the Assyrians won. But who was really in control? *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 the people had sinned against Him.*



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 scatter and move the people of Israel to another nation. God would not tolerate their sins of disobedience and idolatry anymore. He got angry and judged them.

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.

That can happen to us, too. We get distracted from God. The Bible says we are all 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.

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

God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to live as a man. He lived a perfect life and died 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 turn to Jesus and His Word—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.



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 to sinners.
- Ask God to open our hearts to His truth about Jesus and the gospel.