

Major Event: Exile

Lesson 2: Assyria Captivity, 722 BC

Scriptures: 2 Kings 17:5-41

Central Text: 2 Kings 17:6-12

“....the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria.....for so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods, and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel.....”

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The reason for Israel’s captivity is clearly stated to be its spiritual failure, in turning from the living God to worship false gods. The detailed account (v7-17) of Israel’s adulterous idolatry makes it clear that Israel had grown thoroughly corrupt from the leaders on down. Reasons for the captivity 17:7-23:

- (1) They feared other gods (v. 7; cf. Exod. 20:3; Judg. 6:10).
- (2) They adopted Canaanite customs (v. 8; cf. Lev. 18:3; Deut. 18:9).
- (3) They adopted customs condemned by the Mosaic Law (v. 8; cf. 16:3; 17:19).
- (4) They practiced secret sins (v. 9).
- (5) They built pagan high places (v. 9; cf. Deut. 12:2-7, 13-14).
- (6) They made many sacred pillars and Asherim (v. 10; cf. Exod. 34:12-14).
- (7) They burned incense to other gods (v. 11).
- (8) They did evil things that provoked Yahweh (v. 11).
- (9) They served idols (v. 12; cf. Exod. 20:4).
- (10) They refused to heed God's warnings (vv. 13-14).
- (11) They became obstinate (v. 14; cf. Exod. 32:9; 33:3).
- (12) They rejected God's statutes (v. 15).
- (13) They rejected God's covenant (v. 15; cf. Exod. 24:6-8; Deut. 29:25).
- (14) They pursued vanity (v. 15; cf. Deut. 32:21).
- (15) They became vain (v. 15).
- (16) They followed foreign nations (v. 15; cf. Deut. 12:30-31).
- (17) They forsook Yahweh's commandments (v. 16).

- Grace Before Judgment: Despite repeated warnings (v13, 14, 23), Israel had persisted in every form of idolatry (v10-12, 16, 17)
- As God had promised, the Israelites' disobedience had resulted in their scattering among other peoples (Deut. 28:64).

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Justice
2. Of Man: Disobedience

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 2 Kings 17:5-17