

ISRAEL PUNISHED FOR DISOBEDIENCE

BIBLE TEXT : II Kings 17:1-41.

LESSON 332 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "I am the LORD, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:5).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

2 Kings 17:1-41

¹ In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years.

² And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

³ Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents.

⁴ And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

⁵ Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor *by* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

⁷ For *so* it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,
⁸ And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

⁹ And the children of Israel did secretly *those* things that *were* not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

¹⁰ And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

Obedience and Disobedience

From the day that a mother shakes her head at her baby and says to him, "No, no," that child begins to learn that there are some things he should **not** do. As he grows older, he learns that there are some things which he may be tempted to do, but which he knows he should not do; and there are other things which he should do, and is tempted to neglect doing. Of course, we know that children who are saved are good and obedient and those who are not saved are often disobedient to parents, teachers, or others in authority. Let us for a brief time talk about unsaved children.

If children persist in being disobedient, there comes a time when even the most patient father must punish them. In fact, it is the duty of parents who love their children to be kind enough to chastise them when they need it, for the good of the children in time to come.

God, who is also a kind, loving Father to His children, is also good to those who obey Him; but also like an earthly father, He must correct His children, too, when they need it.

Israel's Disobedience

Let us recall the things that God had told the Children of Israel to do, which they did in spite of His warnings. He had brought them out of Egypt from under the wicked king Pharaoh many years before and had proved to them that He was their God. Very clearly He had said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). Many times they had broken that commandment; they had feared other gods, which were only images and idols. Then, as if God were not watching from Heaven, they had secretly done things that were wrong. They should have known that God saw them as they built the images and set them in array "in every high hill, and under every green tree" (II Kings 17:10). "And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen . . . and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger" (II Kings 17:11). God had said, "Ye shall not do this thing" (II Kings 17:12), and they should have remembered. Once more they made two calves and worshipped the stars, the moon, and the sun, and served Baal, the idol that had been proved by Elijah to be unable to hear, see, or speak.

The Call of the Spirit

When God said, "Turn," they hardened their necks, or, in other words, stubbornly resisted the voice of God. His Word says, "He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Proverbs 29:1). That verse is still true.

Some boys and girls go on in sin without turning to God. Often they go to church and Sunday School, and when the altar call is given they go out the door instead of to the altar of prayer. Some parents plead with their children to give their hearts to God; sometimes a minister will talk to a young person about giving his heart to God, but he refuses. He is doing as the Children of Israel

every green tree:

¹¹ And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as *did* the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger:

¹² For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

¹³ Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, *and by* all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments *and* my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

¹⁴ Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.

¹⁵ And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that *were* round about them, *concerning* whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.

¹⁶ And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

¹⁷ And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

¹⁸ Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

¹⁹ Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

²⁰ And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of

did: he "hardeneth his neck," or in stubbornness resists the call of God.

The Punishment

Let us see what happened to the Children of Israel. First of all, God let a king from a heathen land, Assyria, come in and compel the people to leave their homes and their land and go into a strange land, probably to become slaves for the Assyrians. We read that the Lord "cast them out of his sight" (II Kings 17:20). He could no longer bear to look upon their sin and wickedness.

Being driven from home on account of sin should be sufficient reason to cause people to turn unto God. We remember reading about the prodigal son who ran away from home and the father who loved him. When he had spent all his money he began to think once more of home, and soon he returned to those who were waiting and watching for him.

The people of Nineveh believed God's prophet and repented of their sin. But not so with these people who were dwelling in Samaria. A priest came and tried to teach the people, but they continued in their sin. All manner of idols were erected to which the people bowed down: one was in the form of a goat, another a cock, a dog, a donkey, a mule, a peacock, and a rabbit. Just think of the mockery of such worship! We read that the people "feared the LORD, and served their own gods" (II Kings 17:33). Their religion became a mixture of right and wrong. But that kind of worship is worse than no worship at all. A young woman used to attend church on Sundays and go to the movies and other sinful entertainments during the week, but God showed her that the Gospel and the worldly things do not mix.

Perhaps the Children of Israel were more or less afraid of God, but they had no reverence for Him and no intention of serving Him. We are commanded: "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). They had no desire to keep the commandments of God, and that was the reason the Lord "rejected" and "afflicted" the people and "delivered them into the hand of spoilers" and "cast them out of his sight" (II Kings 17:20).

In our civilized land people do not bow down to idols of wood and stone; however, we have learned in previous lessons that any person or any thing which comes between us and God is an idol in our life. One of the things that could be called idolatry might be a desire to some day go into world and have a "fling." Although many boys and girls are restrained by Christian parents, yet they often plan to go out into sin and see what the worldly pleasures will bring, when they reach a certain age. Too many young people have done that and have regretted the day they first went astray from a father's and mother's teaching.

Mercy and Judgement

It is true that God is a God of mercy, of love, and of kindness, who is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). But He is also a God of judgement and of vengeance; and when the "cup of iniquity" of this old world is full, He will send destruction upon the wicked.

Every man, woman, boy, or girl who is not saved is in danger of the day of wrath that is coming soon. Let every one who is not prepared to meet the Lord in peace, seek His face today, for "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2).

QUESTIONS

1. What did the king of Assyria do to Israel?

spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

²¹ For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

²² For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;

²³ Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

²⁴ And the king of Assyria brought *men* from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed *them* in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

²⁵ And *so* it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, *that* they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew *some* of them.

²⁶ Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

²⁷ Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land.

²⁸ Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

²⁹ Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put *them* in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.

³⁰ And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth

2. Why did God permit this to happen to Israel?

3. What is the first of the Ten Commandments?

4. Tell how the people had broken this commandment.

5. What happened when one of the priests came to Assyria?

6. Whom should they have feared and worshipped?

7. Who should people today fear? Are they doing so?

8. Name some things, which may become idols in our life.

made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima,

³¹ And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

³² So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.

³³ They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.

³⁴ Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;

³⁵ With whom the LORD had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them:

³⁶ But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.

³⁷ And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods.

³⁸ And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods.

³⁹ But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.

⁴⁰ Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner.

⁴¹ So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

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