

Fall of Israel, the City of Samaria

2 Kings 17:7-41



bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Ms

main street

April 24, 2011

2 Kings 17:7

All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God.

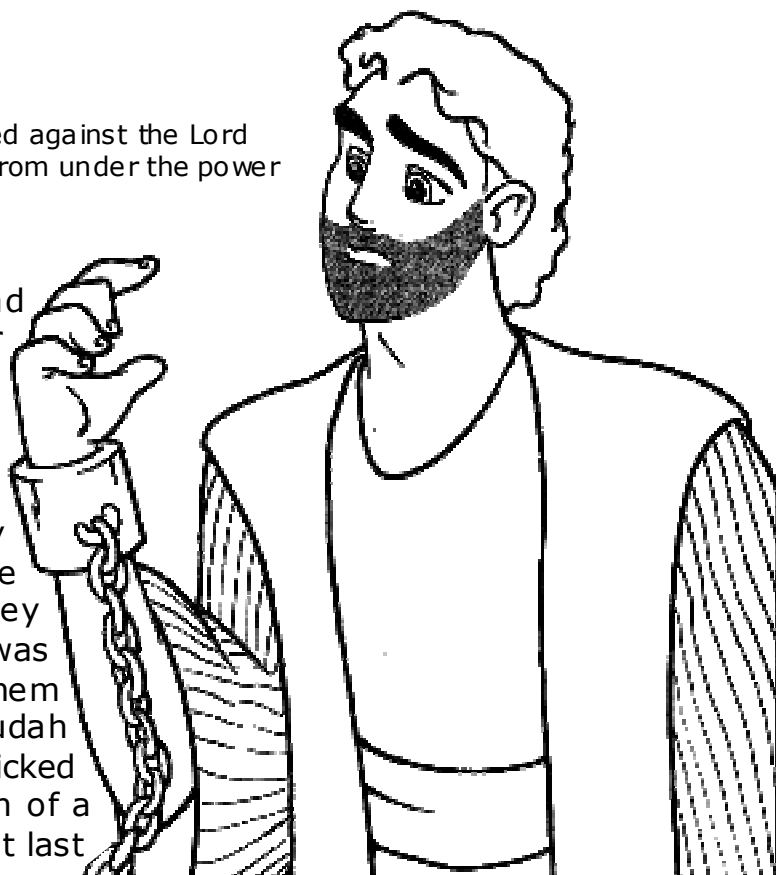


story lesson

BIBLE STORY

"All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt" (2 Kings 17:7).

The Israelites broke the covenant they had with the Lord. They chose to follow other gods and not the One, True God. The Lord kept up his mercy and grace, even when only a remnant would repent. He sent prophets to call them back to Him, but they refused. Things had gotten really out of hand. The kings of Israel were wicked in the sight of the Lord. They committed grievous acts. "So the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left" (2 Kings 17:18). Judah was wicked as well, but still possessed a small portion of a heart for the Lord (although that would not last much longer).



"The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them until the Lord removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there" (2 Kings 17:22-23).

They were exiled; kicked out of the land and scattered among the other nations of the world.

Meanwhile, the capital of Israel, Samaria, was resettled by the people of Assyria.

"When they first lived there, they did not worship the Lord; so he sent lions among them and they killed some of the people" (2 Kings 17:25). So, they brought an Israelite priest back to Samaria to teach them what the god of the land required. "So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the Lord" (2 Kings 17:28).

Interesting, even when Israel was being punished for not being a light to the nations, God is being worshiped despite his people. Even the foreigners know to worship the god of the land. So they get a priest from Israel to teach them, and they worshiped the Lord.

And yet, the Assyrians did not worship the Lord God only. They set up their own gods and worshiped them. "Even while these people were worshiping the Lord, they were serving idols" (2 Kings 17:41).

exile Exile. The people of God were "divorced" due to covenant unfaithfulness. They prostituted themselves before other gods and idols and rejected the Lord their God. They were banished from the land for seventy years. They came out of exile from Egypt (way back when) into the Promised Land. Now due to their rejection of the Lord as their God, the Lord sent them back into exile.

It seems that most of the literature we have been going through this second year was written during this time period (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings). It is believed that it was written to show the exiles why they were where they were. The inspired authors went back from the time they entered the land (Joshua) and showed how they obeyed as a people and how they disobeyed as a people.

****Important Note**** This is just the northern tribes of Israel. Remember this is a divided kingdom. The north was sent into exile first. Meanwhile, Judah is still in the land, but not much longer. Their wickedness is building up too, and God will have to send them into exile as well.

This "exile" state that the people are in is what we see when we start reading the Gospels and the story of Jesus. The people of Israel and Judah have never quite made it back into a kingdom. They are living in the land, but they are not in charge of it. They are still an oppressed people (i.e. like back in Egypt). It is out of this context that

we see Jesus “setting the captives free.” The people are looking for a deliverer (like Moses) and they call this person the “Messiah.” The people during Jesus’ day were looking for this “messiah” ruler guy to kick the Romans out of their land so they could take back control of the land. But this was not what the “true messiah” came to do. He was not bringing a physical kingdom, but a spiritual one that could permeate all kingdoms. This is why Jesus was crucified. To the Romans he was a threat because he was preaching a kingdom other than Caesar’s. To the Jews, they thought he was not who he claimed to be because he did not want to “physically conquer” the land for Israel. Jesus was on neither side, but on the side of the Lord God of heaven and earth.





life application

MAKING IT REAL

Moving...

Ask the children what it would be like to move. Have them tell of any first-hand experience of moving. Did they want to move? Were they given a choice? What if Canada came in and conquered our country and sent us all up to live in northern Canada where? What would you think? Let them talk...

Consequences

There are consequences in life—good and bad. They are based on the choices that we make. If we make good choices, then usually good consequences tend to happen. If we make bad choices, then usually bad consequences take place. Rules and boundaries are made not to make us miserable, but to protect and lead us to righteousness.



questions

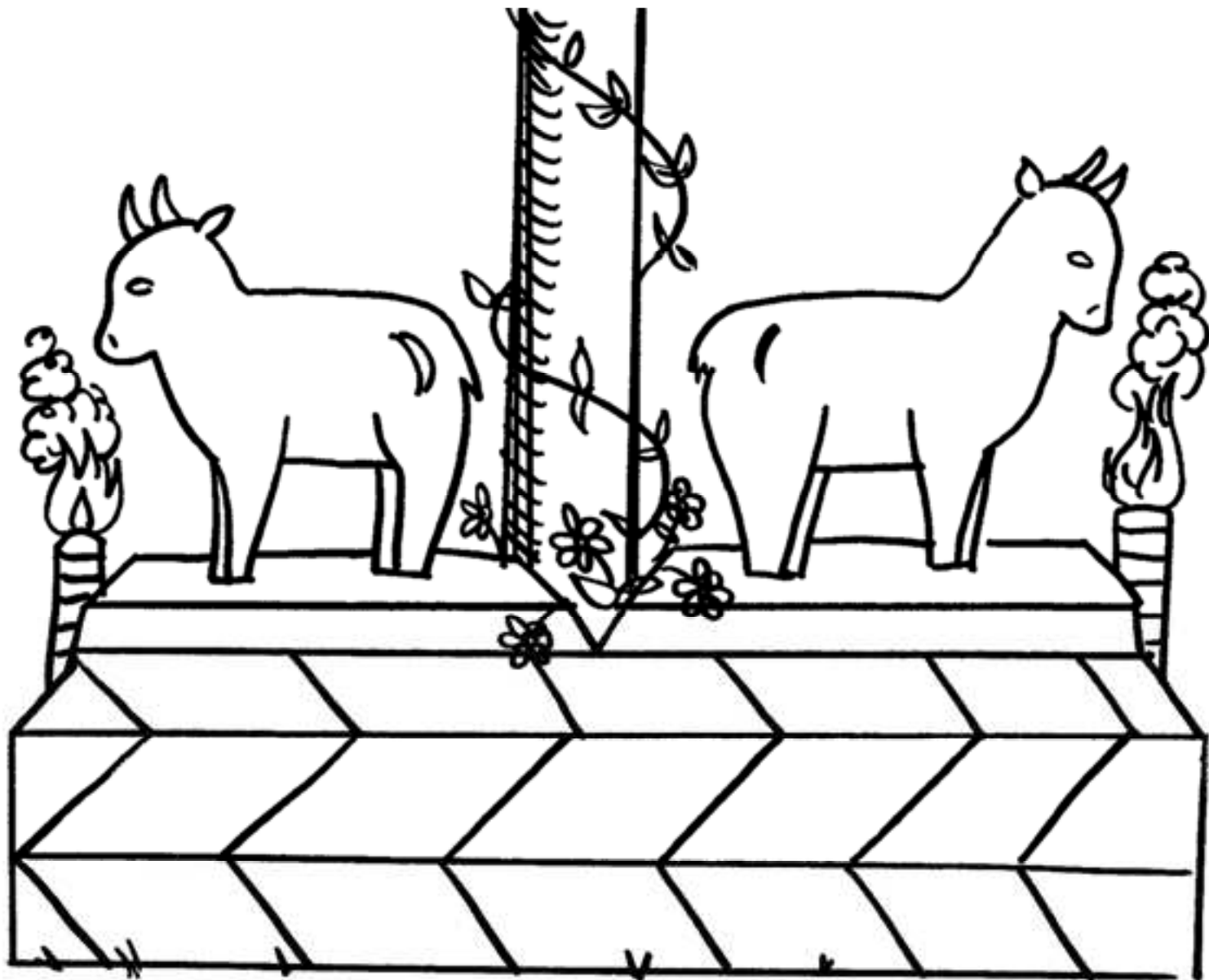
REMEMBERING

- 1. Why did Israel get exiled (sent into slavery)?** Because they sinned against God and broke their promise
- 2. What city was the capitol of Israel?** Samaria
- 3. What superpower country came and conquered Israel?** The Assyrians
- 4. When did this first exile happen?** 722 B.C.



coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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