



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 45.3

Old Testament Survey: Fall of Israel (Part 3): End of the 10 Tribes

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
Looking first at Assyria, we focus first on the nation, its people, and aspects relevant to the Israel story. We then isolate the three Assyrian kings that played a role in the final days of Israel. While some of this material may seem irrelevant for our study purposes, our selections for inclusion here are because of the way they help us understand the Biblical account.
- Prayer for Faithfulness
- Video (37 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ **"...they used divination and omens" (2 Ki. 17:17).** In this the Israelites were no different than their Assyrian conquerors. It seems poetic justice the Israelites would be sent to Assyria, because they practiced the same superstitious religious rituals! Think of the absurdity of what this verse means. There were a people that God specially delivered from Egyptian bondage. In a miraculous rescue, he brought them to a special silent place in the Desert Mountains of Sinai where God gave his clear instructions to the people. These instructions came complete with warnings about disobedience. God spoke to the people clearly in the language of the people. He gave them the insight and directions they needed to live in a land that would flow with milk and honey.
We may no longer be tempted to read omens in the liver of a cow. But what are we turning to instead of the revealed word of the Lord for our direction? Do we find our friends as our first counselors? Are we looking for excuses or do we rationalize ways to do the things we think we should do? It is in this sense that Paul then points Timothy to the value of God's revealed word: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God [and woman of God!] may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- ❖ **"The LORD removed them [Israel] out of his sight" (1 Ki. 17:18).** We know from the gospels that we worship a God of love and mercy. We worship a God who so loved the world that he gave his only son so that those of faith might live eternally. How do we sort through a verse like this? Do we go into a heretical fit like Marcion (remember your church history? Let me suggest that these Scriptures are not incompatible with a God of love and mercy. Paul told the Romans to have "genuine love" and to "hate evil" (Rom. 12:9). This is the prophets' cry as well. Amos warned Israel to "hate evil, and) and declare that the God of the Old Testament is different than the God of the new? This is not a rallying cry to sit in judgment on others. This is a personal cry that says we have choices, we have God's directions, and we need to realize that sin is serious to him. May it be so also to us.
- ❖ **"And at the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear the LORD. Therefore the LORD sent lions among them..." (Hos. 3:1-2).** After the newcomers were settled in Israel, God did not wash his hands of them. Even though they were not Israelites, but were foreigners, God went to work on them. He began to speak to them in ways that they understood to bring them into a measure of faith in him. God wants us to "know, grow, and go!" We learn of him, then knowing him, we grow in him. Then we are fit for service and seek to go serve him. This is our hope and our goal!

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