



All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God. Kings 17:7

Bible Study: Read 2 Kings 17. Consider how this disaster came upon the people of Israel because despite God's faithfulness to them, they chose to worship **other** gods. They sinned against the LORD who rescued them out of Egypt and provided for them over and over. They rejected his mercy and kindness and followed the example of the nations around them.

The Gospel in the Story: From the story of the rise and fall of the nation of Israel, we learn that Israel was powerless to follow God's rules in their own strength. God knew this. In fact, He knows that to be true for every person on earth; we all were born with a sin nature, and were born into captivity of sin, just like the scattered Israelites. But God He had a plan to send one, born of the Jews, who would have the power to change people's hearts so they could follow God and be reconciled to Him. And His name is **Jesus**.

Application:

Head: **What did we learn?**

Q: Who was king Shalmaneser?

A: King of Assyria

Q: How did God use Shalmaneser to punish the people of Israel?

A: He allowed him to oppress the king of Israel (Hoshea), and after three years of fighting, defeat and deport Israel to foreign lands.

Q: Why did God allow this to happen?

A: They rejected God and instead worshiped false gods

Home: **How does this affect my household?**

As a family, consider the stark difference between the practices described in 2 Kings 17 with the celebration of the dedication of the Temple (1 Kings 8:65-66). And, like Joshua, decide as a family whether you will Celebrate God or self.

Heart: **Memory Verse**

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

Heaven: **How does this help us share our faith?**

Discuss with each other the amazing Gift of God's grace, and consider those who have not yet experienced a transforming encounter with Jesus. Share with each other how you may share the gift you have with others.

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live?**

The Bible tells us that the Israelites "followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless." (2Ki.7:15). It is important to remember that all who do not proclaim Jesus as Lord have the **same** status before God!

If we don't fully appreciate the grace He showed us through Jesus, we can become stiff-necked like the Israelites, and become ungrateful for the Amazing Grace God Showed to us.