

## 22.3 Pekahiah<sup>17</sup> ☹, Pekah<sup>18</sup> ☹, Hoshea<sup>19</sup> ☹, and the Captivity of Israel (2 Kings 15:23–31; 17:1–41; 18:9–12)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- To supplement the pictures found below, use plastic soldiers from a David and Goliath set: Goliath represents Assyria; two small “Philistines” represent Syria and Israel; use one orange soldier for Israel.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to conspire*: secretly getting people together for the purpose of causing trouble
- *dynasty*: the rule of one king’s family; the son of the previous king’s becoming king for continual generations. Whereas Judah had a continual line of kings who were all descendants of David (one dynasty), in Israel it was a common thing to slay a king in order to become king oneself. It happened eight times in Israel’s 224-year history (945–721 B.C.; a new dynasty, on average, every 12.5 years).
- *exile*: the situation of a person who is forced to leave his or her own country; being *in exile* or *exiled*.
- *tribute*: money or products paid by a defeated country to a conquering country to show submission to the conqueror and to keep him from destroying one’s country
- *to seige/beseige*: to have an army stay outside a city, letting no one in or out, until that city surrenders; the purpose of a siege is to keep supplies, like food or water, from getting to the people.
- *to surrender*: to give up; e.g., someone arm wrestling who can’t hold on anymore might say, “I surrender—I give up.”

### Scripture: (ESV)

2 Kings 15:23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned two years. 24 And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. 25 And Pekah the son of Remaliah, his captain, conspired against him with fifty men of the people of Gilead, and struck him down in Samaria, in the citadel of the king’s house with Argob and Arieah; he put him to death and reigned in his place. 26 Now the rest of the deeds of Pekahiah and all that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

27 In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twenty years. 28 And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin.

29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried the people captive to Assyria. 30 Then Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah and struck him down and put him to death and reigned in his place, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah. 31 Now the rest of the acts of Pekah and all that he did, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

17:1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel, and he reigned nine years. 2 And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, yet not as the kings of Israel who were before him. 3 Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria. And Hoshea became his

vassal and paid him tribute. 4 But the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea, for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and offered no tribute 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 invaded all the land and came to Samaria, and for three years he besieged it.

6 In the ninth year of Hoshea (18:10 the sixth year of Hezekiah of Judah), Samaria was taken. the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

7 And this occurred because the people 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 had feared other gods 8 and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. 9 And the people of Israel did secretly against the Lord their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. 10 They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, 11 and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the Lord carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the Lord to anger, 12 and they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, “You shall not do this.” 13 Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.”

14 But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the Lord their God. 15 They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the Lord had commanded them that they should not do like them. 16 And they abandoned all the commandments of the Lord their God, and made for themselves metal images of two calves; and they made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. 17 And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger. 18 Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

19 Judah also did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced. 20 And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

21 When he had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord and made them commit great sin. 22 The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, 23 until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.

24 And the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the people of Israel. And they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities. 25 And at the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear the Lord. Therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them. 26 So the king of Assyria was told, “The nations that you have carried away and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the law of the god of the land. Therefore he has sent lions among them, and behold, they are killing them, because they do not know the law of the god of the land.” 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, “Send there one of the priests whom you carried away from there, and let him go and dwell there and teach them the law of the god of the land.” 28 So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel and taught them how they should fear the Lord.

29 But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived. 30 The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, 31 and the Avvites made Nibhaz and

Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. 32 They also feared the Lord and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 So they feared the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.

34 To this day they do according to the former manner. They do not fear the Lord, and they do not follow the statutes or the rules or the law or the commandment that the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel. 35 The Lord made a covenant with them and commanded them, “You shall not fear other gods or bow yourselves to them or serve them or sacrifice to them, 36 but you shall fear the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm. You shall bow yourselves to him, and to him you shall sacrifice. 37 And the statutes and the rules and the law and the commandment that he wrote for you, you shall always be careful to do. You shall not fear other gods, 38 and you shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not fear other gods, 39 but you shall fear the Lord your God, and he will deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.” 40 However, they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner.

41 So these nations feared the Lord and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children’s children—as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

### **Introduction/Review:**

Before Israel entered the Promised Land, Moses, at God’s command, proclaimed two mountains to be special. One was named Mount Gerizim and was “the mount of blessing.” The other was named Mount Ebal and was “the mount of cursing.” When the children of Israel looked at these two mountains, they could be reminded of God’s promise either to bless or to curse them. God would bless the people abundantly if they would follow His commandments and serve Him, but God would curse the people abundantly if they would not follow His commandments but serve other gods.

Part of the curse for not following Him was this: “The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you do not understand . . . until you are destroyed” (Deuteronomy 28:49–51). Then after Israel would be destroyed, all the nations would say, “Why has the LORD done thus to this land?” . . . Then men would say, “It is because they forsook the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, and went and served other gods and worshiped them . . . therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book; and the LORD uprooted them from their land . . . great wrath, and cast them into another land” (Deuteronomy 29:24–28).

Some of Judah’s kings were good, and some were evil. Last week we learned about wicked Ahaz in Judah, who worshiped false gods. In the north, however, *all* of the kings of Israel were evil: they led the people to worship false gods. To punish those kings and people, God was sending Tiglath-pilezer (Pul) from Assyria to start the process of taking the people away from their land as God had said 700 years before.

### **Story:**

#### ***Pekahiah of Israel***

Only three more kings ruled in Israel in the north. We will learn about them today. The first was Pekahiah, the son of Menahem, the king who had paid off Pul (Tiglath-pilezer) in order to get him out of Israel. Pekahiah was king only two years, doing evil in the sight of the Lord.

#### ***Pekah of Israel***

Pekahiah’s captain conspired against Pekahiah. This is how he did it: He got together fifty men from Gilead [locate east of Jordan River]. ✓ Maybe these Gileadites were upset because Pul and anyone else who warred against Israel often invaded their part of the country first. The Bible doesn’t give us a reason. It does tell us that Pekah went up to the king’s house in Samaria [locate], ✓ perhaps (according to Josephus) to a banquet in the royal dining room, and slew the king. Then he became King Pekah.

Pekah ruled over Israel twenty years while Jotham and Ahaz were kings in Judah. This is the king we heard about last week who came with Syria [locate] against Judah and scared King Ahaz to shivers. Isaiah, the prophet, told Ahaz, however, that both Pekah and Syria's king Rezin would die within one year. Last week we learned that Rezin died when King Pul (Tiglath-pilezer) came from Assyria and defeated Syria.

Pul didn't stop with just Rezin and Syria, though. He pushed on into Israel, taking seven cities and all of the land of Naphtali, a ten-mile wide swath from Dan [locate] to the south end of the Sea of Galilee on the west side. Gilead, too, was taken as Pul conquered the land of Gad, Reuben, and the half tribe of Manasseh—all the land east of the Jordan River. The Bible states that “the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria” as he came into these places, burned many cities, and took the people away from their homes to cities far away in Assyria. When the people were taken away they were—what's the word? [Exiled.]

### ***Hoshea of Israel***

Just as Pekah had conspired against Pekahiah, a man named Hoshea conspired against Pekah and struck him down so that he could become king. Hoshea bowed to Pul and paid him tribute money year after year so that Assyria wouldn't come and destroy Samaria. But when Pul died, Hoshea ✓ probably thought, “Now is my chance to get out of having to pay all this money. I'll get Pharaoh So of Egypt to help me rebel against the new king of Assyria. I am NOT going to pay this tribute money anymore!” And he didn't. Oh, oh! Not a good idea. The new king of Assyria, Shalmaneser, got ahold of Hoshea and put him in prison. That was that!

### ***Shalmaneser of Assyria***

But that was not the end. Shalmaneser invaded all the land of Israel and came to the capital, Samaria [locate], which he besieged. One year went by, but Samaria did not surrender. They still had enough supplies to maintain life. Two years went by, and Samaria did not surrender. But when three years had passed, Samaria could no longer live without outside help; the city surrendered to Shalmaneser, king of Assyria.

Just as Isaiah had prophesied, both kings—of Syria and Israel—had died and Israel no longer was a nation. God had warned Israel through his prophets—Isaiah, Hosea, Micah, Joel, and many more before them—but Israel would not turn away from serving idols.

### ***Exiles out of Israel***

What did Shalmaneser do to those Israelites? He put them in exile. What does exile mean? [Taken out of their own country and made to live in another country far away from home.] Shalmaneser took them to Assyria, and he brought people from other lands to live in Israel. They, too, were exiled from their homes.

Why did God allow this—actually, why did He make it happen? It was because Israel had served other gods and not the true God of Israel. Despite the warnings of God's prophets, the people wanted their own way. They broke the first three commandments over and over again. [Have students recite the first three commandments—no other gods, no image, no taking the name of God in vain.]

In many other ways they disobeyed God. [Review the chart of sins found below.] One way mentioned by Isaiah is that they “erred through strong drink” (Isaiah 28:7, 8)—by drinking liquor. What did doing their own will get for them? Nothing but sorrow and heartache. They were receiving the curses God had promised on Mount Ebal. Hosea's children's names were being fulfilled: *Lo-ruhamah*: no mercy. Israel had used up all God's mercy; He would give no more mercy. *Lo-ammi*: not a people. God said, “You are not my people, and I will not be your God” (Hosea 1:6–9). Oh, it was dreadful punishment!

### ***Exiles from other lands***

What about the new people who were forced to live in Israel? Well, they brought their false gods to their new home. They didn't fear the true God of Israel either. “Therefore,” the Bible says, “the Lord sent lions among them that killed some of them.” Here they were—not only in a strange land but also in a lion-infested land! It was dangerous!

Messengers went to Shalmaneser with the news: “The nations which you have carried away and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the law of the god of the land. Therefore he has sent lions among them, and look, they are killing them because they do not know the law of the god of the land.” In other words, they thought God went with the land rather than with His people. In a way, that was true, for the people had forsaken Him, but this was still His land.

Then the king of Assyria commanded, “Send back one of the priests that you carried away from there, and let him go and live there and teach them the law of the god of the land.” So one of the priests now living in Assyria returned to Bethel [locate] and taught the foreigners now living in the land how to fear the Lord. (✓I am surprised any non-Aaronic, golden-calf-worshiping priest could teach the fear of the Lord, but apparently he did.)

However, these various nations who had come to Israel and who served various idols still made gods of their own and put them up on the Samaritans’ high places. The Bible says these people learned to fear the Lord but they also served their own gods. They feared God but loved their idols [Matthew Henry]. Is that a true religion? [No.] Do you think that people today try to fear God and also worship in their own way? Yes, this happens, but is it pleasing to the Lord? [No.] John 4:24 states that God’s worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth—in the way God says to worship Him.

Now, I don’t usually like to talk about false gods because God has told us to have nothing to do with them. But I want you to see just how foolish this false worship can be. These people’s gods were ✓hens and chickens, roosters, smooth goats, dogs, pheasants. It sounds to me as if these religions were “for the birds,” for that’s what most of those gods were—birds.

In spite of this half-and-half worship, God was merciful to these nations in Israel because they feared Him. God took away the lions.

The main point of this lesson, however, is that the nation of Israel was destroyed because it did not remain true to God. Judah in the south continued for a time, but Israel in the north was now gone forever.

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We see Jesus:  
God’s judgment finally came upon the disobedient Israelites after hundreds of years of His patient endurance. Romans 10:3 and 4 state, “For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, [Israel] did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” As believers, in Christ we have a righteousness based on faith, not works (Romans 10:6).
- Worship God in spirit and in truth. Know the Bible in order to worship as God wants us to do.
- Some people today have such a love for animals, even more than for people, that it’s almost worship. Don’t “worship” animals.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: lions, making manes from the “fun factory” small hole “worms”
- Snack: Cut-out sugar cookies of lions
- Review questions: (Game: Print and cut out the letters *I, S, R, A, E, L*, found below. Students may place a letter in a pocket chart or on a flannel board after answering a question correctly.)
  1. Name one of the last three kings of Israel. [Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea.]
  2. King Tiglath-pilezer (Pul) of Assyria captured which part of Israel? [Part of northern Israel and the tribes east of the Jordan River—Reuben, Gad, one-half Manasseh.]
  3. After Tiglath-pilezer died, Shalmaneser of Assyria besieged Samaria how many years? [Three.]

4. What happened to the ten tribes of Israel? [They were exiled and forever lost.]
5. Name one of the many ways Israel sinned against God. [Teacher, check chart found below. Basically, Israel worshiped false gods, rejected God's commandments, and would not listen to the prophets God sent to them.]
6. Why did the king of Assyria send a priest of Israel back to Israel? [Because the people from other lands brought into Israel were being terrorized by lions. The king thought the people needed to learn to fear the God of the land.]

### Memory Verse s:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV) A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals (I water colored mine) and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

<sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

<sup>3</sup>You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

<sup>9</sup>*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

<sup>13</sup>For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

<sup>17</sup>How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

<sup>24</sup>And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm (Jonah 4:2).

### Handwork:

- Lion mask. Instructions are at [Lion Mask Paper Plate Craft - How to Make a Paper Plate Lion Mask \(broughttoyoubymom.com\)](http://broughttoyoubymom.com).
- Or print and fill in and color the comic line drawing found below.

*to conspire*

*dynasty*

*exile*

*tribute*

*to seige/beseige*

*to surrender*



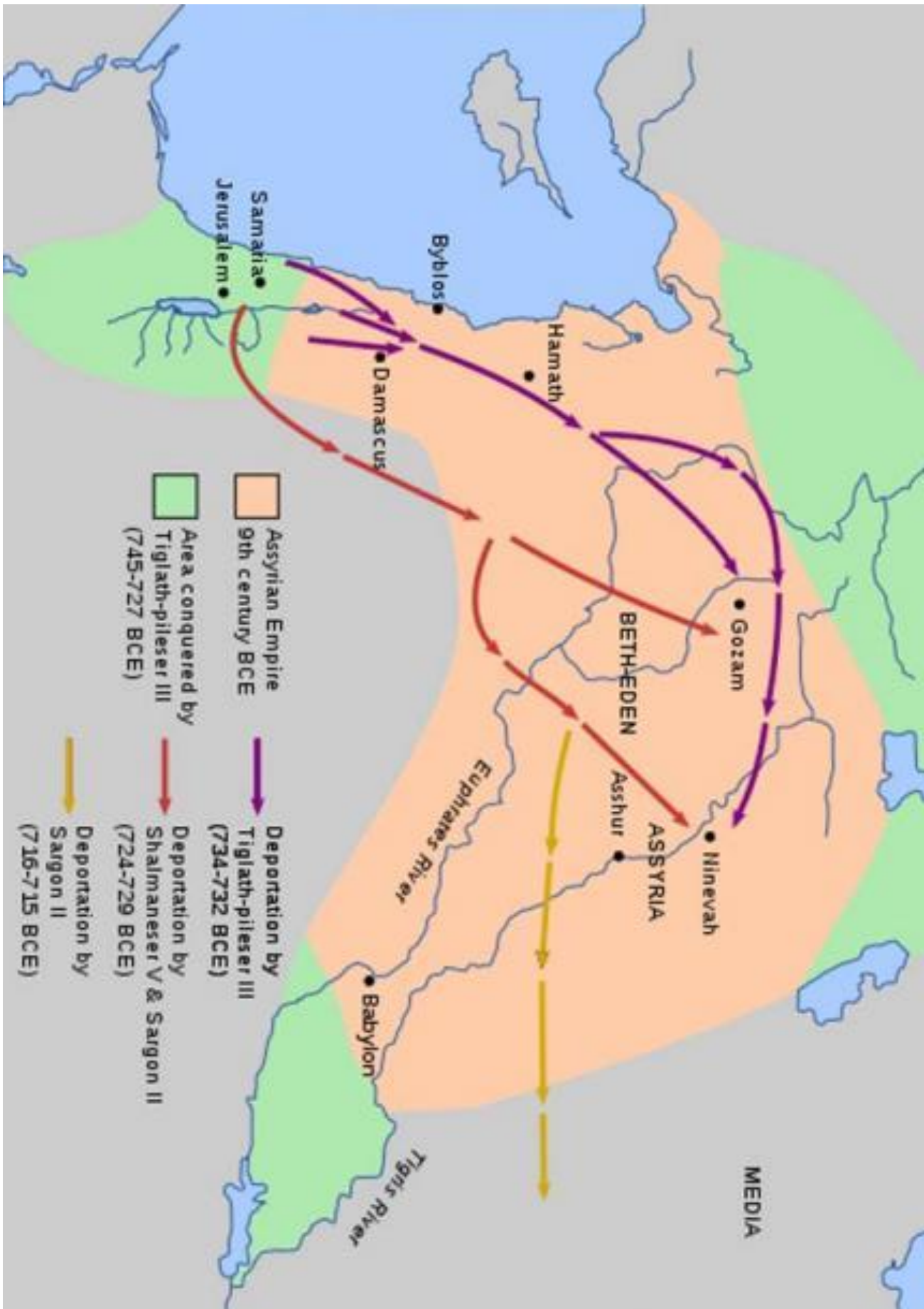


Looking west into the pass at Shechem  
Mt. Gerizim (left) and Mt. Ebal (right)

Adapted from a photograph by Bible Places ([www.bibleplaces.com](http://www.bibleplaces.com))



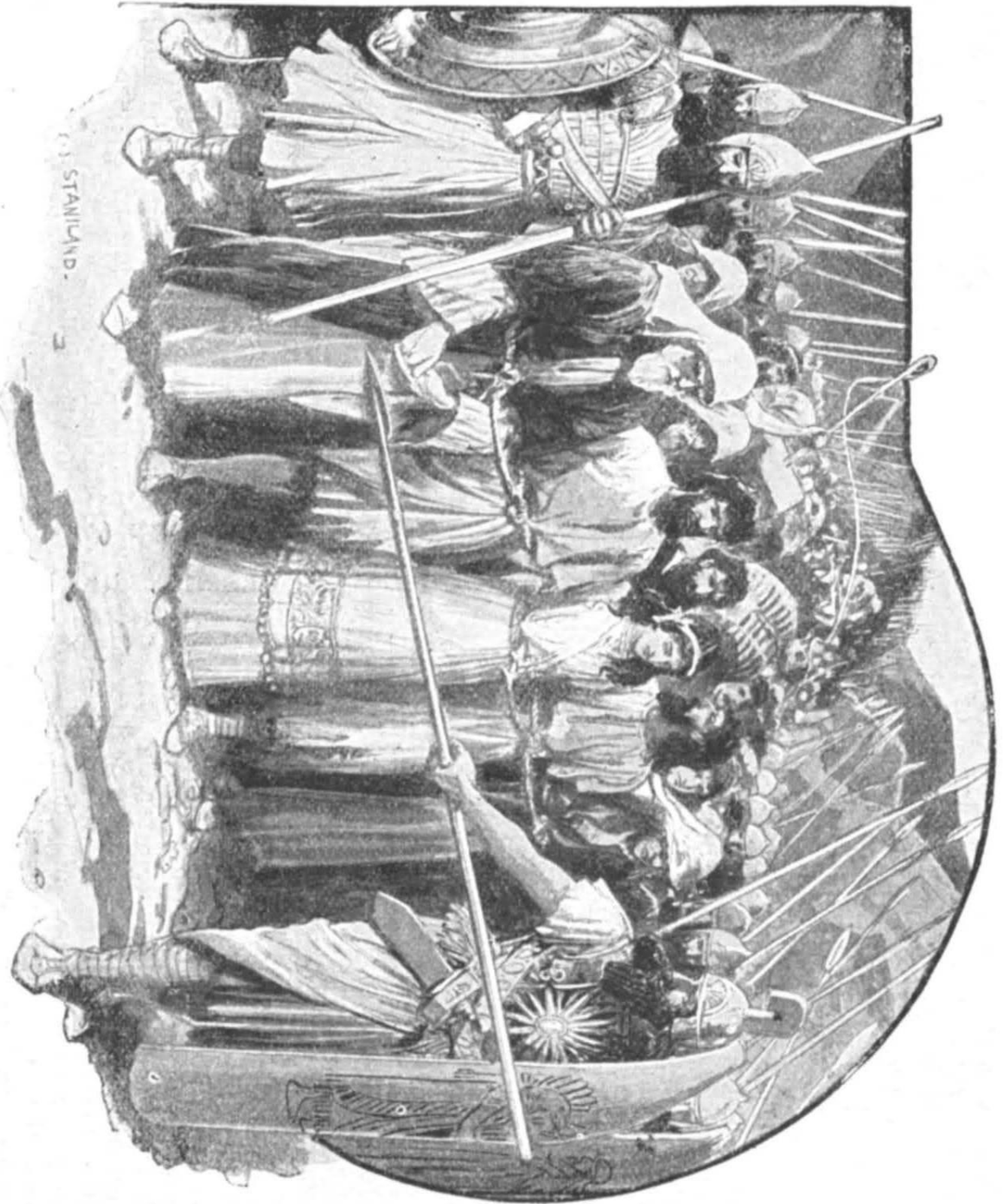












STANLAND.

"So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria. —2 Kings xvii. 23.



# **Israelites' Sins Against the Lord Their God**

- 1) *Feared other gods***, served idols, worshiped all the host of heaven, served Baal, made for themselves metal images
- 2) *Walked in the customs of the nations***, followed the nations that were around them
- 3) *Did secretly against the Lord their God*** things that were not right
- 4) *Built for themselves high places*** in all their towns, set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, made offerings on all the high places
- 5) *Did wicked things***, provoking the Lord to anger, burned their sons and their daughters as offerings, used divination and omens, sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord
- 6) *Would not listen to the prophets***, were stubborn, despised God's statutes, abandoned all the commandments of the Lord their God











from my picture collection



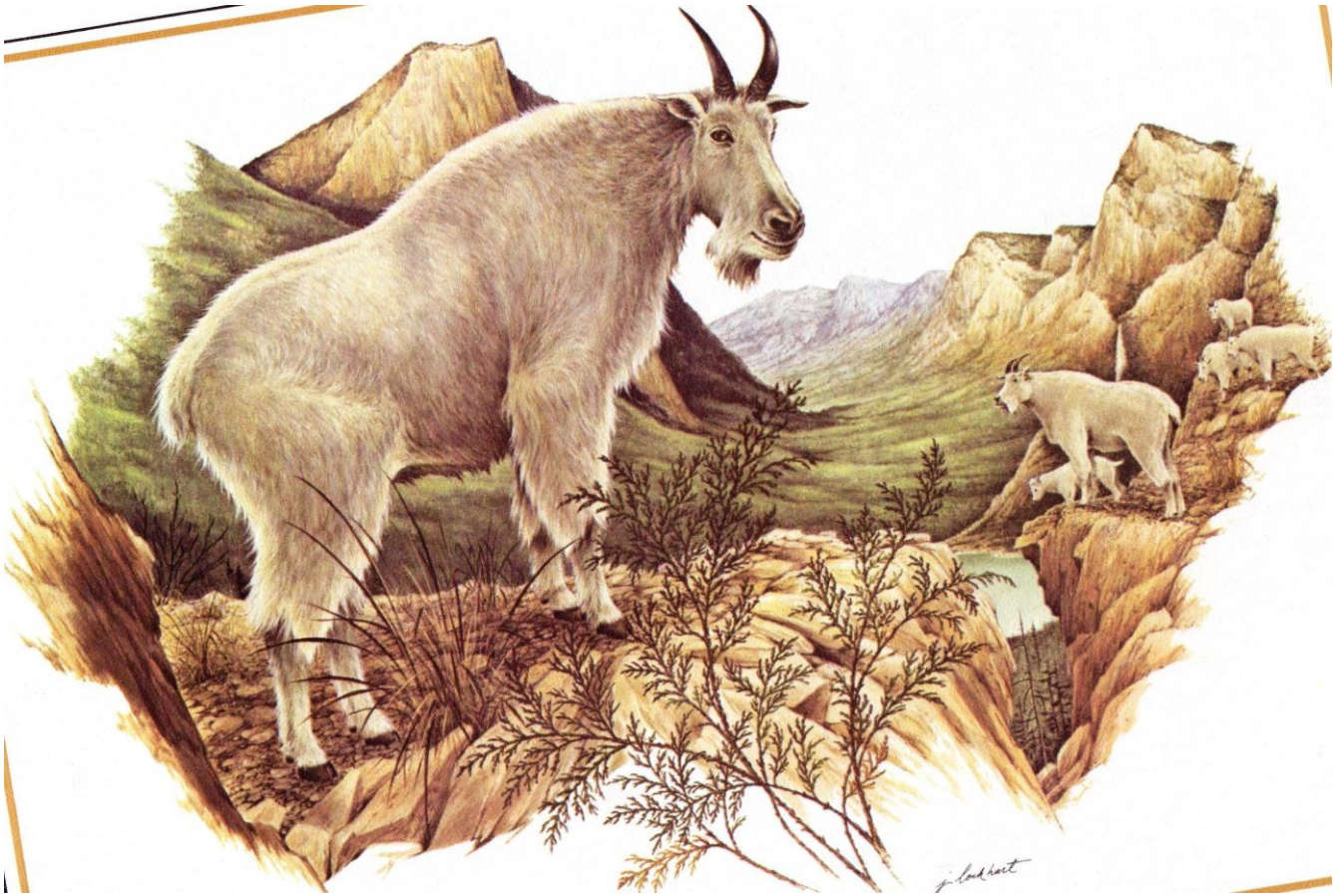


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from a calendar





from a calendar





All this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned  
against the Lord their God (2 Kings 17:7).

