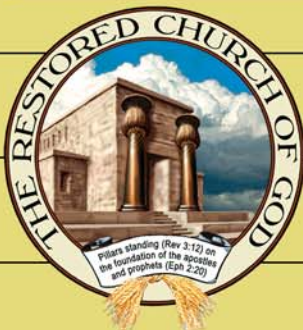


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



Israel Goes Into Captivity



LEVEL 5
LESSON 10

Israel Goes Into Captivity

We now come to the time when Ramoth-gilead was occupied by the Syrians. Because of this, Samaria, the capital city of Israel, was threatened. This was a fact of which King Jehoram (also called Joram, II Kings 8:16) was well aware. So he went forth with the help of King Ahaziah of Judah to besiege the fortified city.

During the siege, King Jehoram was seriously wounded by an arrow shot from the walls. The king's officers quickly took him from the battle scene to Jezreel, several miles north of Samaria, so he could recover. His officers felt it was wiser for him to go there secretly instead of returning to Samaria, in what would be regarded by many as a disgraceful condition.

Jehu, the commander of the army in Israel, was left in charge of the siege of Ramoth-gilead. Rather than wait to find out what the Syrians would do, Ahaziah chose to go to Jezreel to visit Jehoram

and learn if he had started to recover (II Kings 8:25-29; II Chronicles 22:1-6).

A New King of Israel

Because of the events that were taking place at Ramoth-gilead, the prophet Elisha knew that God's judgment had come for Ahab's treacherous family (I Kings 21:20-21). God then inspired Elisha to call on a young prophet to go and anoint the next king of Israel, Jehu.

"Get yourself ready, take this flask of _____ in your hand, and go to _____. Now when you arrive at that place, look there for _____ the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of _____, and go in and make him to _____ from among his associates, and take him to the inner room. Then take the flask of oil, and pour it on his _____ and say, thus says the LORD: I have anointed you _____ over



Israel. Then open the door and flee, and do not _____” (II Kings 9:1-3).

Elisha realized this was a difficult task for the young prophet. Because of the danger he may encounter, Elisha advised him to get this job done and leave quickly. The young prophet took his advice and hurried into the camp of the army of Israel. He found Jehu sitting among the soldiers of Israel. He immediately told Jehu, “I need to speak to you privately. I have a message for you!” Jehu led the young prophet into a nearby house to receive the message. As Jehu listened intently, the young prophet poured oil upon his head.

Summarize II Kings 9:6-10: ____

Jehu was surprised by this event. When the young prophet completed his mission, he fled the home, as Elisha instructed him to do. The military officers who saw the young prophet walk in with Jehu were now wondering why he ran out so quickly. At first, they thought he was insane, until Jehu walked out of the house and told the officers he had just been anointed king of Israel!

Death in the City of Jezreel

Jehu wasted no time. He wanted to move quickly to seize the throne. Knowing that King Jehoram was still in Jezreel, recovering from his wounds, and also realizing that King Ahaziah of Judah was with him, Jehu quickly gathered several men for a journey into Jezreel.



King Jehoram soon got word that Jehu was on his way to Jezreel. So he and the king of Judah prepared their chariots to go out to meet him. They met up in the field of Naboth the Jezreelite.

When they confronted Jehu, they soon realized his intentions. Jehoram turned away and

tried to flee. Jehu stopped him by drawing his bow and sending an arrow into the king's chest. King Ahaziah of Judah also tried to escape, but Jehu's men caught up with him and killed him as well.

Jehu now set his mind to enter the city of Jezreel. It was then that he saw Jezebel yelling out of a high window, jeering at him as he rode by. She shouted at Jehu, saying, "Do you think you will have peace for what you have done? You are no different than Zimri, who killed his master."

Jehu ignored Jezebel, but shouted back to her servants near her at the high window, "Who of you are on my side? If you are on my side, then throw her down!"

In a moment, Jezebel's servants grabbed the screaming queen and threw her out the window. Jehu gave a signal to his men to move on. And they did—right over Jezebel's mangled body. Jezebel was trampled by the horses and died a gruesome death. Jehu's men stopped at a nearby inn to eat while the horses rested and were fed and given water. Jehu told his men after the meal

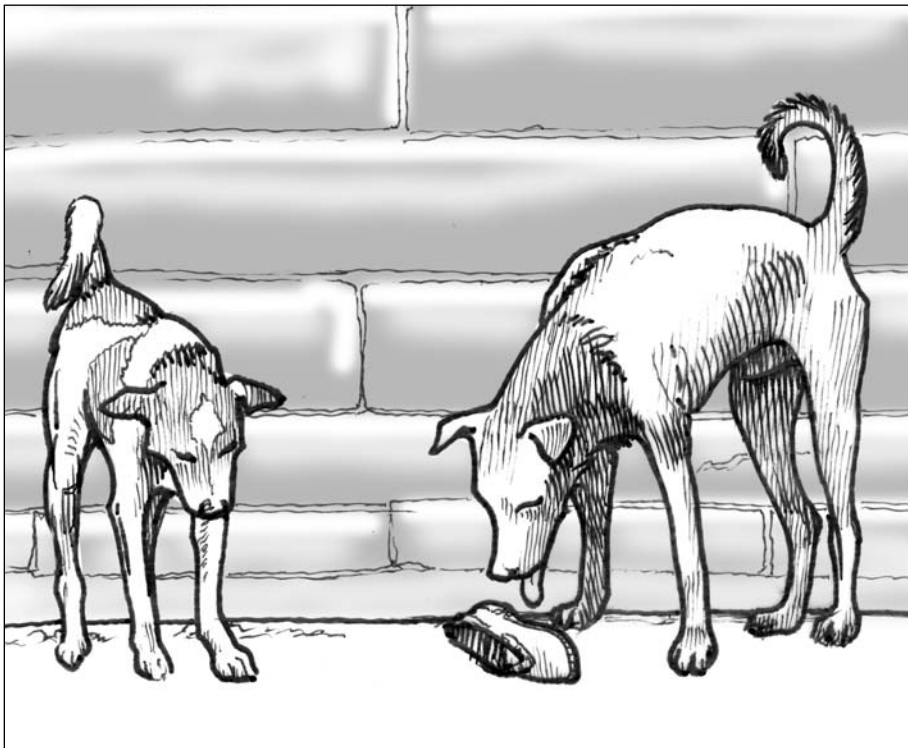
that the people had seen the remains of this wicked woman long enough.

Jehu exclaimed, "Jezebel doesn't deserve an honorable funeral, but she was a daughter and wife of a king. She shouldn't be left unburied. Remove her from the street and prepare a grave for her."

But when Jehu's men went to retrieve the body, they found that Jezebel had been almost completely eaten by wild dogs. (Recall Elijah's prophecy regarding Jezebel's death.)

"This is according to God's will," Jehu informed them. "Elijah the prophet foretold that dogs would consume this woman close to the wall of Jezreel. Not enough is left of her even to be buried. She will only become waste matter on the ground. She'll never have a monument or even a tombstone with her name on it" (II Kings 9:36-37; I Kings 21:1-26).

Jehu now set his mind on the 70 sons of Ahab who were living in the city of Samaria. Each son was being reared by wealthy leaders of the city. Jehu feared that one of these leaders might try to seize Israel's throne for one of Ahab's sons. So



Jehu sent a letter to each leader, saying, "Now as soon as this letter comes to you, since your masters sons are with you, and you have _____ and _____, a fortified city also, and _____, choose the best qualified of your master's sons, _____ him on your father's _____, and fight for your master's house" (II Kings 10:2-3).

Trembling in fear, because they knew what Jehu did to the kings of Israel and Judah, the guardians of Ahab's 70 sons agreed to do all that Jehu requested of them. So Jehu sent

a second message to the guardian leaders of Ahab's sons. The message was this, "Bring the heads of Ahab's sons in a basket to Jezreel tomorrow! Don't let any of them escape." The fearful men obeyed Jehu and murdered all 70 of Ahab's sons (II Kings 10:7-11).

God used Jehu not only to bring an end to Ahab's treacherous family, but also to anyone sympathetic to king Ahab. Jehu also went on to kill all of the priests and worshipers of Baal (II Kings 10:18-25).

Test Your Memory:

- 1) What two kings besieged the Syrian occupied city of Ramoth-gilead? _____
- 2) Who was the prophet to Israel during the time of the two kings mentioned above? _____
- 3) Whom did God use to fulfill His plan for the family of Ahab? _____
- 4) Why did God choose to destroy the heirs of King Ahab? _____

- 5) Who was the evil queen who taunted Jehu from the high window? _____

Four Generations of Kings

Because Jehu had obeyed God's instructions in destroying Ahab's family and the priests of Baal, God made a promise to him that his sons would be kings of Israel for four generations. But Jehu later disobeyed God. If he would have continued in obedience, God might have extended Jehu's generations on Israel's throne beyond four. Even though he put away Baal worship in Israel, he still continued in the sins of King Jeroboam (II Kings 10:18-25). Because of this half-hearted attitude, God began to withdraw national blessings, allowing various territories of Israel to be overrun by the Syrians (II Kings 10:32).

After 28 years of reign, Jehu died. His son Jehoahaz would now reign as king over Israel. Jehoahaz would go on to rule the throne for 17 years. During those 17 years as king, God continued to allow the Syrians to oppress the Israelites, because King Jehoahaz and the people continued in idolatry and other sin (II Kings 13:1-3).

The death of Jehoahaz marked the end of the second generation of Jehu's sons who would rule. The third generation would be Jehoahaz's son, Jehoash (also called Joash – II Kings 13:12). This generation would prove no different than the generation before him. Jehoash continued in his father's and grandfather's idolatrous ways for another 16 years. Leaders of Judah talked King Jehoash into allowing sacri-



Jehoash (Joash) was only 7 years old when he began to reign.

fices to be made away from the temple at Jerusalem. This led to people slipping back into the worship of idols.

During these years, the Syrians continued to oppress the Israelites. But God did not cause the complete destruction of Israel, due to the covenant promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He offered mercy, giving them a period of deliverance, always hopeful for their repentance. “So _____ pleaded with the LORD, and the LORD listened to him; for he saw the _____ of Israel, because the king of _____ oppressed them.

The LORD was gracious to them, had _____ on them, and regarded them, because of His _____ with _____, _____, and _____, and would not yet _____ them or cast them out of His presence” (II Kings 13:4, 23).

Death of Elisha

The prophet Elisha was a faithful servant of God for many years. He warned the people of Israel and Judah to turn away from sin. During the time of Jehoash, Elisha became very sick. When the king heard of Elisha’s condition, he went to visit him.

While visiting, Elisha told Jehoash that God would deliver Israel from Syria. It was not long after this that Elisha died. The prophecy that God gave him was fulfilled (II Kings 13:25). God, through Elisha, performed many miracles. Even after his death, God performed a mighty miracle through him. Write out II Kings 13:21. _____

Jehu’s Line Comes to an End

In the days of King Jehoash, the kingdoms of Israel and Judah were not on friendly terms. Remember that Jehoash’s grandfather, Jehu, murdered many of the royal line of Judah. At the time of King Jehoash of Israel, Judah’s reigning king was Amaziah.

After winning the battle against the Edomites, the king of Judah felt confident that he could be victorious over Israel. Because of this confidence, King Amaziah challenged King Jehoash. During the battle, King Amaziah was taken captive, and the palace and temple in Jerusalem were looted of their treasures.

It is important to note that even though God allowed Israel this victory, Israel still refused to obey Him. After 16 years of Jehoash ruling Israel, a new man would become king over Israel. Jehoash’s son Jeroboam II took over the throne. And as it was with his fathers, Jeroboam II led the nation into the sinful ways of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat (I Kings 12:26-32).

Jeroboam II ruled Israel for 41 years. God used him to restore many territories back to the kingdom of Israel. At the time of Jeroboam’s death, his son Zechariah succeeded to Israel’s throne. His reign was very short, lasting only six months. A man named Shallum, who wielded power in Israel, conspired against the new king, killed him, and seized the throne for himself (II Kings 15:8-12). God’s promise to Jehu was fulfilled.

Assyria Comes Against Israel

The reign of Shallum was only one month because he was murdered by a man named Menahem. During the reign of Menahem, the king of Assyria, Pul (also known as Tiglath-pileser), came against Israel. Instead of fighting

against Assyria, Menahem took money from some of the wealthy people of Israel and gave it to Pul as tribute (II Kings 15:19-20).

For the next 10 years, Menahem struggled to maintain control over Israel. After his death, his son Pekahiah reigned over Israel (II Kings 15:17, 22). His reign was also a short one. He would rule for only two years before he was taken from the throne. A man named Pekah, along with several others, conspired against him and murdered him. Pekah then made himself king and went on to rule Israel for 20 years (II Kings 15:23-27).

House of Israel Not Jewish

During the reign of King Pekah of Israel, Ahaz became the King of Judah. It is important to note that II Kings 16 shows that the kingdoms of Israel and Judah are two separate nations! About 17 years into his reign, King Pekah of Israel decided to form an alliance with the king of Syria, King Rezin, for the purpose of besieging Jerusalem. This attempt went forth without success (II Kings 16:5). But what is important is that the alliance of Israel and Syria was formed to war against the kingdom of Judah—the Jews!

The first time the word “Jew” is mentioned in the Bible is found in II Kings 16 (*King James Version*). Write out II Kings 16:6. _____

This shows that Israel was at war against the Jews. The word Jew is just a nickname for Judah. It is important to keep this truth in mind throughout the rest of this Lesson. The individual Jews of Judah are in fact children of Israel, but they do not hold the name of Israel as a national title.

A similar comparison would be that of a person who is a citizen of the state of California. A Californian is an American, just the same as a Jew is an Israelite. All Californians are Americans, but all Americans are not Californians. All Jews are Israelites, but not all Israelites are Jews. The Jews are only of the kingdom of Judah, which is only a small part of Israel as a whole.

Genesis 48:16 shows that the patriarch Israel (formerly, Jacob) crossed his arms and laid his hands on the two young sons of Joseph—Ephraim and Manassah. The dying Israel said, “Let my name be named upon them.” Ephraim and Manassah (Joseph) became the leading tribes among those remaining.

Israel's Captivity

King Ahaz of Judah needed help to wage war against the Israelite and Syrian armies. He decided to send many temple and palace treasures to buy Assyrian aid. So Tiglath-pileser of Assyria helped Ahaz. Through Tiglath-pileser, Assyria conquered portions of Israel and Syria, setting up Assyrian control. They were successful in conquering areas such as Galilee, Naphtali and portions of other Israelite territories, taking the Israelites to Assyria as slaves.

God allowed Tiglath-pileser to conquer portions of Israel for a reason. For many years now, Israel was blatantly transgressing His laws and was in direct conflict with their God-given purpose (Deuteronomy 4:6-7). Because they turned from God, their sins drove them into captivity.

King Pekah's reign ended when a man named Hoshea murdered him. Hoshea became Israel's last king, ruling Samaria for nine years (II Kings 15:30). During this time, a new Assyrian king, Shalmaneser, also invaded Israel.

King Hoshea survived his reign only by paying tribute to the new Assyrian king. King Shalmaneser later discovered that King Hoshea

conspired with King So of Egypt to fight the Assyrian domination. Shalmaneser then went forth to imprison King Hoshea. He also went forth with a massive invasion of Israel. Both nations met in hand-to-hand combat. Weakened by a lack of food, the Israelite soldiers were no match for the greater number of Assyrians who poured inside the city in a short period of time, with civilians and soldiers under their control.

After being under siege for three years, Samaria fell completely. The people of Israel were taken out of their own land into captivity. Shalmaneser and his successor, Sargon, took the captives to Assyria and placed them at the southern shores of the Caspian Sea.

“In the ninth year of _____ the king of Assyria took _____ and _____ away to Assyria, and _____ in Halah and by the Habor, the river of _____, and in the _____ of the Medes” (II Kings 17:6).

It is important to realize that it was the nation of Israel, not Judah, that was taken away into captivity by the Assyrians. Israel was driven out of its homeland and later lost from history. They became known as the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel.

“Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone” (II Kings 17:18).

Thus, 253 years after the original 12 tribes divided into the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah, the kingdom of Israel ceased to exist. Scattered across hundreds of miles of territory, and mingled with heathen nations, the people of Israel eventually lost their identity as Israelites and Sabbath keepers. What had once been a great nation was now swallowed up—gone from view—known now as the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel.

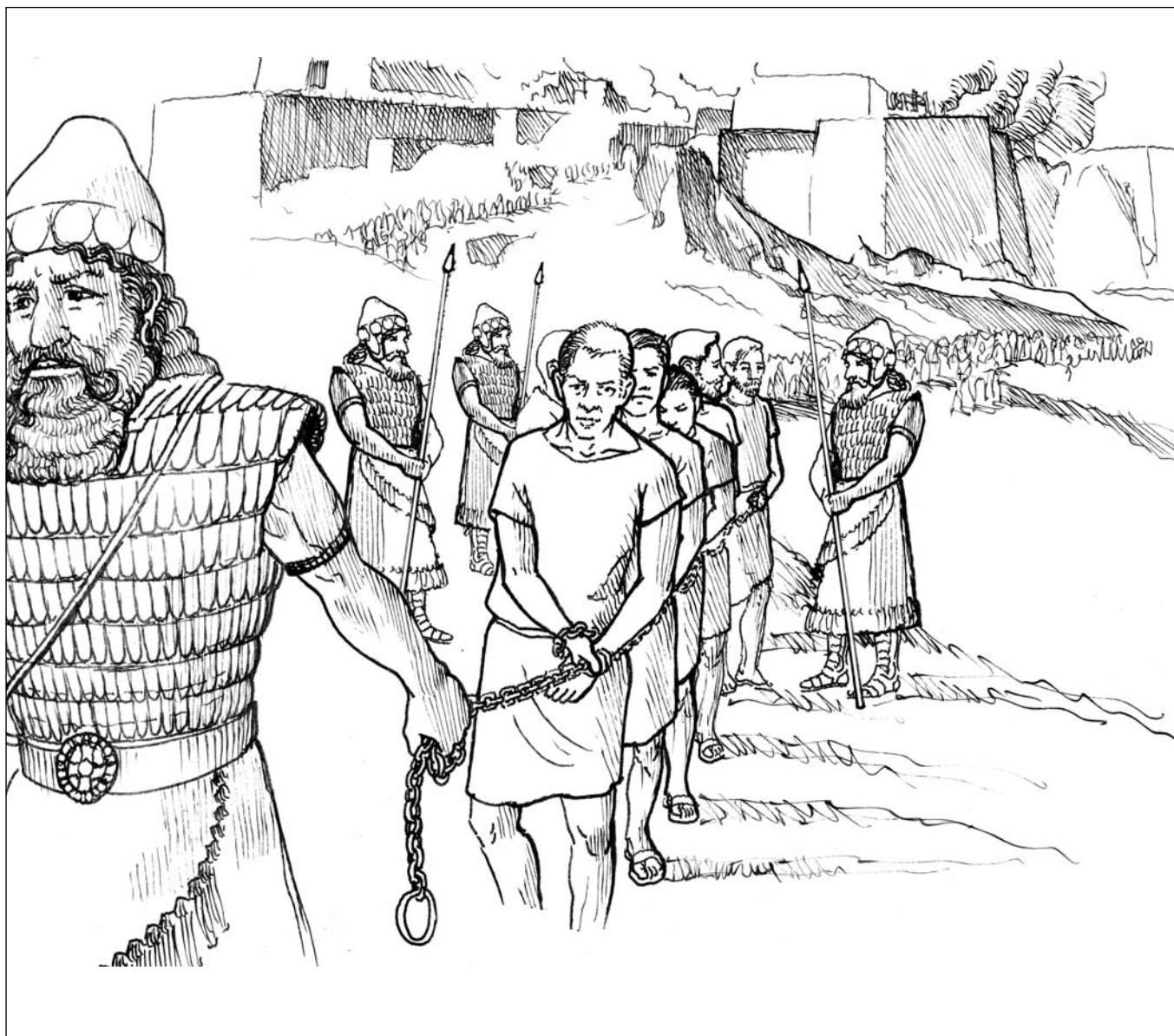
Why did God allow Israel to be conquered and led away captive? “For so it was, that the

children of _____ had _____ against the LORD their God, who had brought them _____ of the land of _____, from under the _____ of _____ of _____; and they had feared _____, and had walked in the _____ of the _____ whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of _____, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made” (II Kings 17:7-8).

Out of mercy, God warned Israel by sending His prophets. Write out II Kings 17:13. _____

What was the response of Israel toward the prophets that God would send? Summarize II Kings 17:14-17. _____

Because of Israel’s two national sins—Sabbath breaking and idolatry—God was provoked into anger. Israel was influenced by the heathen nations that surrounded them. Through Moses, God warned Israel about the consequences of sin. It was written in Israel’s book of the Law. Write out Deuteronomy 32:26. _____



After hundreds of years and numerous warnings, God drove Israel into captivity for these unrepented sins. The vacant land of Israel was immediately populated by people from Babylon and other heathen lands. Write out II Kings 17:24. _____

An Obedient King of Judah

Judah was now the only nation that remained. Hezekiah had been ruling Judah since about the third year of the reign of Hoshea, king of Israel.

King Hezekiah was 25 years old and a very upright young man. Although he was the son of evil King Ahaz, he was the opposite of his father (II Kings 18:1-3; II Chronicles 28:27).

In the first year of his reign, King Hezekiah knew that God's temple at Jerusalem needed to be cleaned up. Sixteen years earlier, his evil father, Ahaz, had closed the temple because he

turned to idolatry and stripped the temple of its valuables to pay the king of Assyria for help against Judah's enemies.

King Hezekiah informed the Levites and the priests to cleanse themselves so they would be fit for the task of reopening the temple in Jerusalem. Later, the temple cleansing was thorough and complete.

At this time, there were still some Israelites that the Assyrians left behind. God, still merciful toward Israel, would offer the very few left a chance to repent by returning to Jerusalem to keep the Passover under righteous King Hezekiah. Hezekiah sent messengers to most of the towns of Israel to proclaim that the Passover would soon be observed at the newly opened temple, saying, "Return to your God, and He will return unto you."

Hezekiah's messengers were very careful to avoid the Assyrian soldiers who now occupied most of Israel, especially Samaria. The few remnants of Israel, mainly of the tribes of Manasseh, Ephraim and Zebulun, laughed and scoffed at Hezekiah's message. Israel rejected God's call to repentance. Assyria later returned in another invasion wave to collect more of the scattered Israelites.

Choose—Blessings or Curses

The kingdom of Israel was left without excuse. Hundreds of years before its captivity, Israel was taught that God would bless them for an attitude of obedience. He also spelled out what the effects would be if they chose an attitude of disobedience. These are all listed in what is called the "Blessings and Cursings" chapter found in Deuteronomy 28.

These blessings and curses are still in effect today! God expects His people to learn about these principles while we are young. Read through Deuteronomy 28 and summarize in your own words these blessings on a separate sheet of paper.



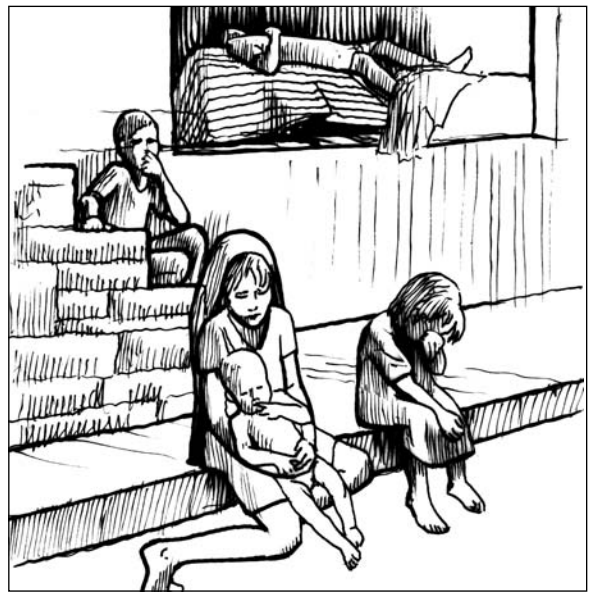
Do the same with the curses that will be received for the attitude of disobedience. We should learn while we are in our youth how to receive God's blessings and how to avoid the problems (curses) that come with the attitude of disobedience.

God will bless all of us greatly in the world to come, but many fail to realize that He is very eager to shed upon us His many blessings now—in this present life!

Read Deuteronomy 30:19 very carefully: "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live."

The people of Israel, and the many kings that led them, rejected this command from God. Instead of reaping God's promised blessings, they ignored Him, continually reaping curses as a result.

God caused Israel to migrate to Northwestern Europe, where they formed many of the modern nations of today's world. Modern Britain and the United States have unknowingly fulfilled a promise God made to the ancient patriarch Abraham.



BLESSINGS and CURSINGS



BIBLE MEMORY: Deuteronomy 28:1-2

Blessings and Cursings

Below you will find BLESSINGS across (both forward and backward) and CURSINGS vertically (both up and down). There are 16 individual words or phrases for blessings and 11 words or phrases for curses. Some curses may surprise you.

D	S	N	N	S	E	C	U	R	I	T	Y	P	L	H	S	R	M
R	A	I	N	I	N	D	U	E	S	E	A	S	O	N	L	U	E
O	S	U	C	C	E	S	S	P	O	W	E	R	S	S	A	I	N
U	O	R	B	K	R	I	C	H	C	R	O	P	S	V	V	N	T
G	P	E	A	C	E	I	N	T	H	E	C	I	T	I	E	S	A
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L	O	M	A	N	Y	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	C	O	W	S	S
F	N	S	T	N	E	M	D	N	A	M	M	O	C	N	E	T	S