



FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,
DECLARES THE LORD.

PLANS TO PROSPER YOU
AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS
TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A
FUTURE. THEN YOU WILL CALL
UPON ME AND COME AND
PRAY TO ME, AND I WILL LISTEN
TO YOU. YOU WILL SEEK ME AND
FIND ME WHEN YOU SEEK ME
WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

*The Kings + Prophets
of Israel*

TEACHER NOTES FOR CHAPTER 11 THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| PAGE | 177 |
| THEME | GOODBYE TO THE NORTH: ASSYRIA'S DEFEAT OF THE NORTHERN TRIBES AND JUDAH'S CLOSE CALL |
| HOMEWORK BIBLE READING | 2 KINGS 17 & ISAIAH 38-39 |
| DOCUMENT LAST UPDATED | 8 MAY, 2011 Copyright Biblical Turning Points |

OVERVIEW

This chapter explores the defeat and exile of the northern tribes of Israel. At the end of a long period of unfaithfulness and idolatry, God eventually moved to protect the covenant and his name. The events surrounding the fall of the northern tribes are particularly important as they also function as a warning to Jerusalem about what will happen to Judah if they, like their sister, fail to reform their ways and return to the vision and calling they received from God at Sinai.

The chapter provides you with a great opportunity to explore a part of the Bible that the majority of students have never read or understood much about. It begins with an activity that reminds students of the covenant the nation entered into with God before getting them to explore the events that surrounded God calling them back to the covenant.

The history of this period also brings to life the message of the prophets who ministered during this time. The book of Hosea, a prophet who is asked to marry a prostitute, seems like a mistaken addition to the Bible until we recognise how it fits into this period. His extraordinary love in taking his wife back after she cheats on him and breaks the covenant of their marriage is a living metaphor of God's love for Israel. The judgement that comes into view at this point in the story of Israel's history is not arbitrary or unexpected. God has been graciously warning the nation and calling them back to him for generations.

The chapter takes the students to the point where the Assyrian army moved on from Israel to attack Jerusalem and God miraculously intervened. The reign of Hezekiah during this time is fascinating.

OUR TIPS

P180-181 Blessings and Curses

The events in this chapter and the next will only make sense if students see them within the framework of the relationship that God entered into with the nation at Sinai. Encourage the students to revisit the relevant passages from Deuteronomy that are listed on these pages and explore what God said would follow if the nation were faithful to the covenant or if they were unfaithful.

P182 What do you think and what have you seen?

Now that the students know what was required of the nation ask them to make their own judgment call on how they think the nation have fared so far under the covenant. It's a great opportunity to recap the events that have been covered so far in the course.

P183 Choose life

The danger of only looking at the blessings and curses is students will be more impacted by what God says in the curses that would follow disobedience. The passage that students are asked to look at here encourages them to see what God's heart was for the nation. His desire was to bless them and his encouragement to them was that they would do exactly that. Here again is a great opportunity to explore the choice that all in this life must make.

P184 Reflections on freedom choices and wisdom

To expand on the above topics there is an opportunity for the students to think about how the Bible deals with the topic of choices, human brokenness, the fear of the Lord and God's forgiveness. The following Bible passages are suggested for students to look up:

The Bible's teaching about making wise choices:

The Bible's teaching on sin and human brokenness

The Bible's teaching on the fear of the Lord:

The Bible's teaching on God's forgiveness:

P190 Now it's Jerusalem's turn:

This task is a creative writing opportunity for the students. The challenge is to get the students to research what they write before they begin. Some will be tempted to write a very vague account that doesn't require them to do much reading. You might want to overcome this by first getting the students to do their research before they start writing their fictional eye-witness account.

YOUR TIPS

We would love to hear what you have learnt after teaching this chapter. If you have tips that you are happy for us to freely share with other teachers using this course please let us know by emailing them through to us at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

COMMON QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK

- Why doesn't God do for nations today what he did for Israel when the Assyrians were attacking them?

We would love to hear what questions students are asking in response to the content of this chapter. Please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU TEACH THIS CHAPTER

- Kings and Prophets Visual aid

If you know of any websites or resources that would assist teachers with bringing this chapter to life please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

ANSWERS FOR CHAPTER 11

Answers have been provided for questions where we believe clarification may be needed or where an activity requires the teacher to have the correct answer before the students commence the activity.

If you have any questions about an activity not written up in the following notes, please contact us at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

CHAPTER 11

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| p. 180 Activity | Blessings for Obedience |
| | <p><i>Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14. What blessings did God promise the nation if they were faithful to him?</i></p> <p>Set them high above all the nations on earth Blessed in the city and in the country Fruit of womb, crops of land, young of livestock blessed Basket and kneading trough blessed Blessed when you come in and when you go out Enemies will be defeated Blessing on your barns Established as God's holy people Abundant prosperity God will send rain in season Always at the top, never at the bottom Lend to many nations but borrow from none</p> |
| p. 181 Activity | Curses for Disobedience |
| | <p><i>Read Deuteronomy 28:15-68. What curses did God warn the nation would come on them if they were unfaithful to him?</i></p> <p>Cursed in the city and in the country Basket and kneading trough cursed Fruit of womb, crops of land, young of livestock cursed Cursed when you come in and when you go out Plagued with diseases Sky bronze and ground iron Rain turned into dust and powder Be defeated by enemies Madness, blindness and confusion Oppressed and robbed Unsuccessful in all they do Be driven to another nation and worship other gods Build a house but not live in it Plant crops but not reap them Locusts Alien who lives among you will rise above you Cannibalism out of desperation Be scattered among nations Be few in number Offer yourselves as slaves but no one will buy you</p> |

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| p. 188 Activity | The case against Israel. |
| | <p><i>Read 2 Kings 17:7-23. The nation is found guilty on the following charges:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Worshipped other gods and idolsBuilt high places in their townsSet up sacred stones and Asherah polesBurned incense at high placesFollowed the practices of the nations around themSacrificed sons and daughters in the firePracticed divination and sorcerySold themselvesBowed down to the starry hostsWorshipped BaalRejected God's decrees and the covenant |