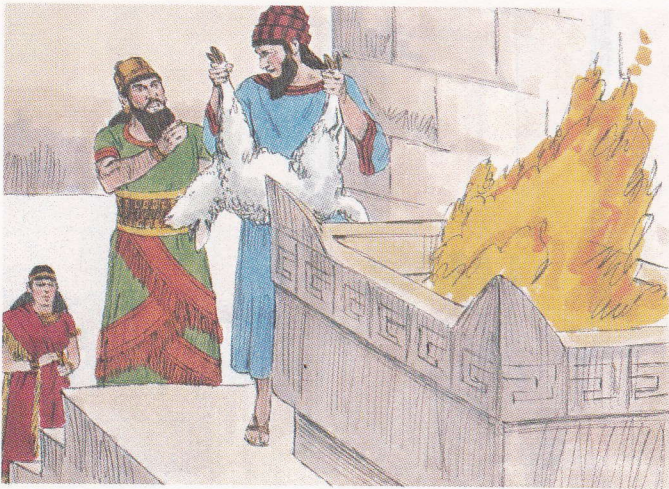


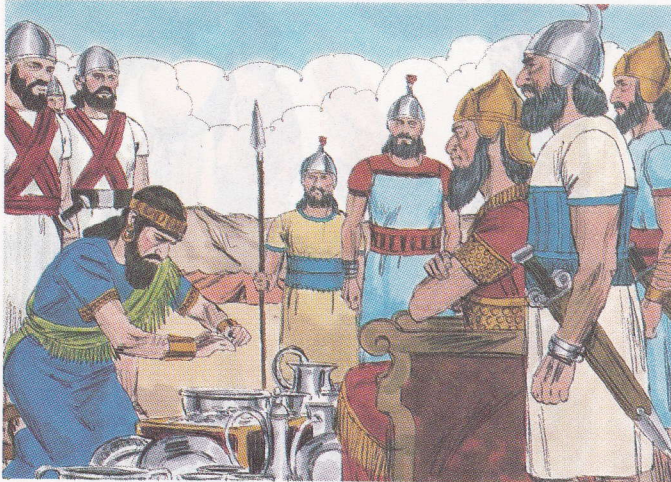
The End of Israel



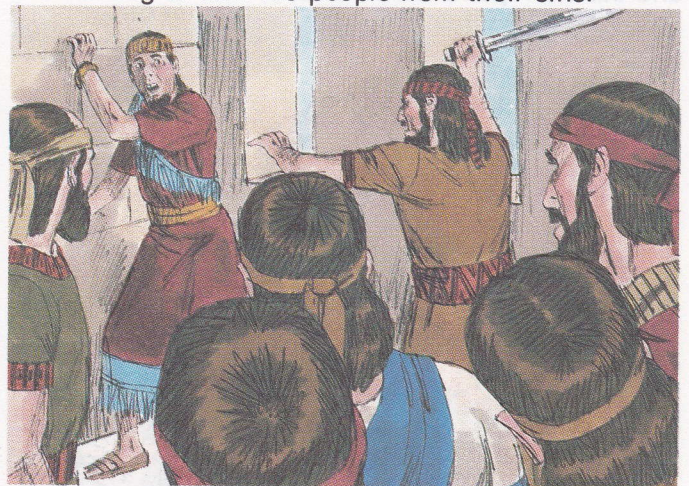
1 A few of the kings of Judah were good men, loyal to the Lord. But all of the kings of Israel, the northern kingdom, were men who did evil in the sight of the Lord.



2 Menahem, for example, became king of Israel by killing King Shallum—who had killed the king before him. Menahem was king for ten years but he did nothing to turn his people from their sins.



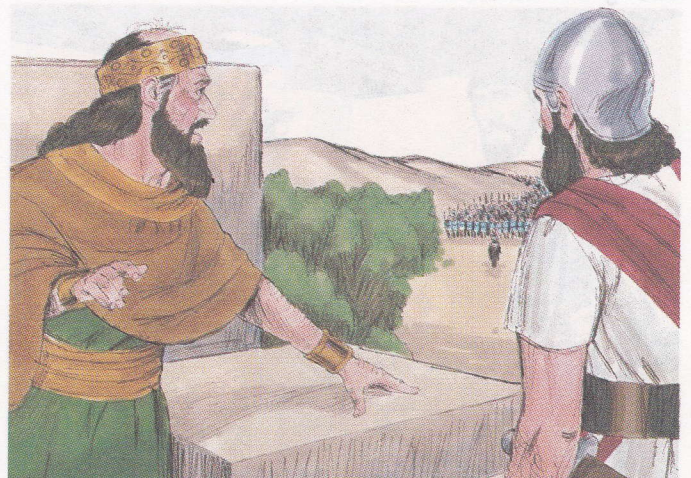
3 While Menahem was ruler, Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria led his army against Israel. In order to remain king of Israel, Menahem had to give Tiglath-Pileser a huge amount of silver.



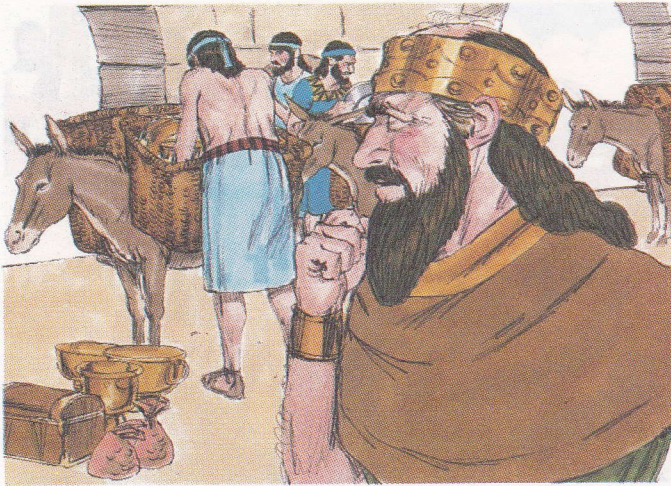
4 When Menahem died, his son Pekahiah became king. After ruling for only two years, Pekahiah was murdered by Pekah, who became the next king.



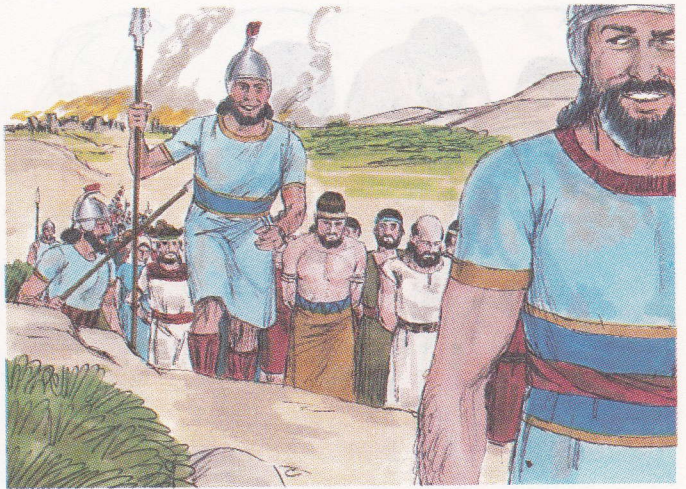
5 During the time of Pekah, Tiglath-Pileser brought his army to Israel again. He captured many cities in Galilee and Gilead and took many people to Assyria as prisoners.



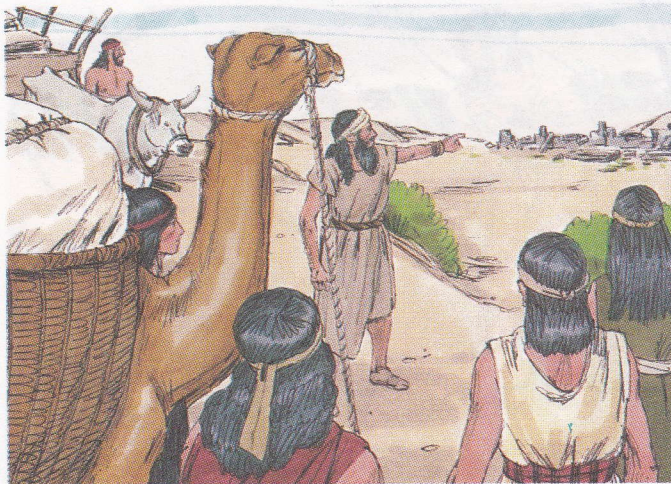
6 After that, Pekah was killed by Hoshea, who then became king. During his reign, the new king of Assyria, Shalmaneser, attacked Israel.



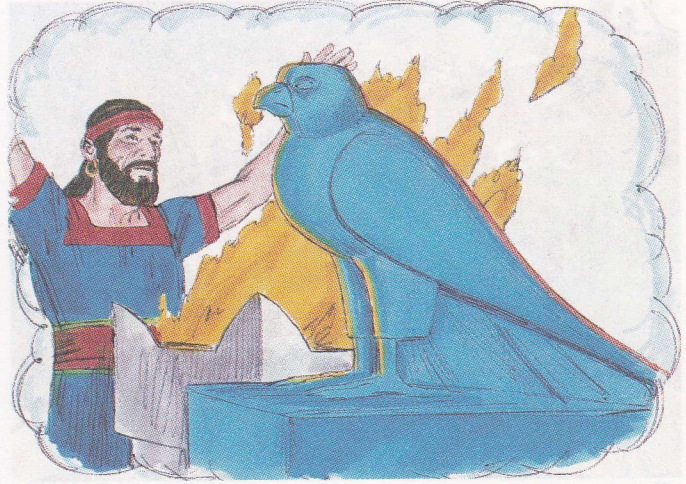
7 Hoshea paid Shalmaneser a great amount of money each year in order to remain king. Finally, Hoshea decided he would pay no more. Then Shalmaneser and the Assyrian army attacked Israel.



8 The Assyrians besieged the city of Samaria for three years before it surrendered. Then the king of Assyria took all the people of Israel back to the land of Assyria, where he forced them to live.



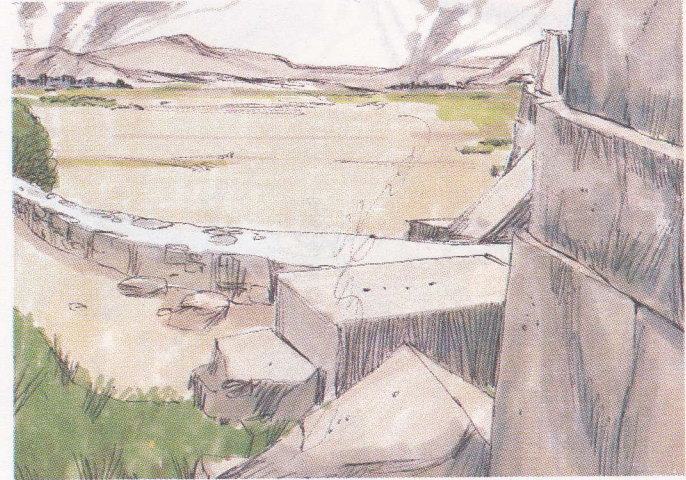
9 The king of Assyria made people from Babylonia and Elam and Syria move to Israel and live in the cities that had once been the home of the Israelites.



10 Israel was not destroyed because the Lord was unable to protect his people. Rather, Israel was destroyed because the people had sinned against the Lord by worshipping other gods.



11 The Lord had sent his messengers—the prophets—to warn Israel by saying, “Give up your evil ways and obey the Lord.” But the people had ignored the prophets.



12 The people of Israel did not keep the covenant their ancestors had made with the Lord. So the Lord removed them from the land he had given them. Only the tribe of Judah was left.