

- Recap of last week. Uzziah (Amaziah) was sixteen when he became King and was King for 52 years. He was a good King and by the way was a contemporary of the Prophet Zechariah who instructed him in the ways of the Lord. He was also successful in war, rebuilt cities and irrigation systems in the countryside. He had a very large army, and his fame spread through many lands. (2 Chronicles 26:1-15) As long as he feared God, he experienced this great success. But like so many people, he became prideful in himself and that led to his downfall. (2 Chronicles 26:5 and 2 Chronicles 26:16). Uzziah went into the temple and burned incense for God which only the priests were supposed to do. As a result, he got leprosy and had to live out his days banned from just about everything. His son Jotham has to take over for him. (2 Chronicles 26:16-23) Jotham reigns for 16 years. He is successful because he “walks steadfastly before the Lord.” (2 Chronicles 27:6) He dies and is succeeded by his son Ahaz. (2 Chronicles 27) (2 Kings 15: 32-38) Ahaz is not a good king. He even sacrifices his own children. (2 Chronicles 28:1-4) Ahaz does a lot of things to make God even more mad, and even when he is in trouble he digs himself deeper by worshipping his false gods even harder (his rationale being, “well they helped my enemies so they should help me too”). He finally dies and is succeeded by his son Hezekiah. (2 Chronicles 28:16-26)
- In the North (Israel) Hoshea becomes King during the time the Ahaz has been king in the South (2 Kings 17:1).
- Ahaz did what evil in the sight of the Lord. (2 Kings 17:2)
- Shalmaneser was King of Syria at the time, and instead of fighting with him Ahaz pays him tribute. (2 Kings 17:3)
- Eventually Ahaz stops paying tribute and tries to ally with the king of Egypt against Shalmaneser instead. Shalmaneser finds out about this and attacks and lays siege to Samaria for three years. (2 Kings 17:3-5)
- Hoshea becomes the last king of Israel because eventually they are conquered by the Assyrians who carry them away to exile. (2 Kings 17:6)
- This all happened because the Israelites were worshipping other gods and even making idols to them. They had been doing this for many generations and were given lots of prophets to warn them that they needed to repent. (2 Kings 17:7-16)
- They even followed pagan worship traditions of sacrificing their own children. So all the Northern tribes went into exile in Assyria. The Bible says only the tribe of Judah was left. (2 Kings 17:17-18)
- Only the southern kingdom of Judah with its two tribes was left. Remember that the priestly tribe of Levi are often not mentioned because they had cities but no land of their own (Deuteronomy 18:12) and they had migrated to the South because Jeroboam appointed priests in the North who were not from the tribe of Levi. (1 Kings 12:31) (2 Chronicles 11:13-17) That actually was a great sin that Jeroboam committed so eventually his entire Northern kingdom of Israel was cut off. Judah had become influenced by Israel so they would eventually go down too, but first it was Israel’s turn. (1 Kings 13:33-34) (2 Kings 17:19-22)
- God had warned them this would be the punishment for disobedience way back in Deuteronomy when he first establishes the covenant with them. He tells them in very specific and extensive terms how horrible their punishment would be. (Deuteronomy 18:15-68)

- God tells a prophet named Jonah to go a city called Nineveh which is what is now Iraq and tell them to repent. He doesn't want to do this so he gets on a ship headed for a city called Tarsish which is probably in Spain, exactly in the opposite direction. He thinks he can run from God. (Jonah 1:1-3)
- Running from God is obviously impossible. Even David knew that. He wrote all about how God knows all in Psalms 139:1-12.
- God sends a big storm. The people on the boat cast lots to see who is at fault and the lot falls on Jonah. He tells them about himself and the men figure out he is trying to run from God and he tells them that if they just throw him overboard the ship will be saved, so they do and he was right. The men on the ship (they are NOT Israelites) then understand the Lord's power and they make a make a sacrifice to him and make vows. (Jonah 1:4-16)
- The Lord sends a big fish to swallow Jonah and he was there for three days and nights. (Jonah 1:17)
- Jonah prays from belly of this fish – the entire prayer is very lengthy and specific. The fish eventually vomits him up on the beach. (Jonah 2)
- Jonah goes to Nineveh which was a very large city which took three days just to walk across. Jonah tells the people of Nineveh that they will be overthrown in forty days if they don't repent. The people of Nineveh believe Jonah and they all fast and wear rags. So God decides not to have them overthrown. (Jonah 3)
- Jonah is mad that God is not going to have them overthrown and points out that God's mercy was why he was running in the first place, that he figured something like this would happen. He goes to watch what happens and builds a shelter to stay in. God makes a plant grow over him which he likes because it provides shade. Then God makes a worm to eat the plant and makes it even hotter. Jonah tells God he is mad enough that he wishes he were dead. God points out that he did not labor at all in having the plant shade him, but he labored a lot for the people of Nineveh and that he is mad about something he didn't labor for and careless about people he did labor for. (Jonah 4)
- What is our labor that we do not fully appreciate or the thing that we did not work for, for which we feel entitled?

#### Questions

1. Who is King in Judea when Hoshea becomes King in Israel?
2. Was Ahaz doing what was right in the sight of the Lord?
3. Who was King of Syria at the time of Hoshea?
4. Why does the King of Syria attack Israel?
5. Why does the exile of Israel happen?
6. Who tried to warn the Israelites that this would happen?
7. Who did not go into exile in Assyria?
8. Why should Israel not be surprised that this was happening to them?
9. Where does God tell Jonah to go?
10. Why does Jonah go in the opposite direction?
11. What does God do to the ship carrying Jonah?
12. What do the men do to finally make storm stop?

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13. What do the men on the ship do when the storm stops?
14. Who sends a big fish?
15. What does the big fish do to Jonah?
16. How long is Jonah there?
17. How big is Nineveh?
18. What does Jonah say to the people of Nineveh?
19. What two things do the people of Nineveh do to repent?
20. What does God do when He sees the people of Nineveh repent?
21. Why does Jonah say he ran from what God told him to do?
22. What does God cause to grow to give shade to Jonah?
23. How does God make the thing giving shade to be consumed?
24. What lesson does God point out to Jonah at the end of the book?