



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 085 - Three Strikes, You're Out! (2 Kings 17)

Last week we saw God reveal His love for Israel through the prophet Hosea and the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ. But the Israelites persistently refused to listen to the prophets who called them to return. So finally God brought in the Assyrians.

- Compare the pitiless cruelty of the Assyrian soldiers to the brutal treatment Jesus received at the hands of the Roman soldiers in Matthew 27:26-36.
- What does the suffering of the Israelites and our Savior show you about God's wrath in respect to sin?

The northern tribes were permanently removed from the Promised Land, dispersed throughout the Assyrian Empire and never returned. When someone consistently casts aside God's gracious offer of forgiveness in Jesus Christ throughout his or her life and dies without faith, he will learn too late how terrible God's justice really is (see Hebrews 10:26-31).

- Discuss how great God's wrath must be toward someone who knew of Christ's salvation but spurned it.
- Why does the writer to the Hebrews say, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"?

God's Law presents His full wrath and hell in all their terrifying reality. But, thankfully, for those living it is not too late to be saved. Jesus went to the cross for you and suffered God's full fiery wrath to save you from hell and welcome you into God's loving presence eternally.

When Assyria removed the northern tribes from the Promised Land, they brought in other captive peoples to replace them. Inter-marriage between the Israelites remaining in the land and these newcomers produced the Samaritans. Though they were hated and despised as half-breeds by the Jews, Jesus reached out to them and offered them the opportunity to escape God's wrath and inherit the blessings that so many people of the Northern Kingdom had rejected.

- How can you show your gratitude to God for the blessings He gives you in Jesus Christ?
- Share some ideas of what you can say to someone who refuses to believe in God because they reject a God who would pour out His wrath in an everlasting hell.