

July 15 Answers

- 1) The fall of **Samaria** and the **exile** of the northern kingdom of Israel to Assyria. This was Assyria's **third** and final invasion. The first had been a warning, and to avoid further attack, Israel had to pay tribute and promise not to rebel (2 Kgs 15:19). The people should have learned their lesson and turned to God in repentance. When they didn't, God allowed Assyria to invade again, this time carrying off the **Transjordan** tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh (1 Chr 5:26). Yet Israel still refused to forsake their idolatry, and Assyria invaded for the third and final time, destroying the capital city of Samaria and carrying away most of the people into exile. The Assyrians then resettled the land with **foreigners** from other nations whom they had conquered. The settlers brought in by the Assyrians are said to have "feared the Lord," but they also worshipped other gods (2 Kgs 17:33). Thus the author of Kings said that they didn't **truly** fear the Lord (2 Kgs 17:34–35). This teaches us that divided loyalty is no loyalty at all. God had warned Israel again and again, from **Moses** (Deut 28:63) to **Hosea** (Hos 10:6). They knew what was coming, but they still ignored God! Israel had shown itself to be no better (and sometimes worse) than the **pagan** nations it had conquered in the days of Joshua. Israel had also rejected its original purpose to honor God and to be a **light** to the surrounding peoples. How true the proverb: "He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be **broken** beyond healing" (Prov 29:1).