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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1557 ~ Samaria Falls to the Assyrians.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

One of Australia's social past-times involves the tracking of the family tree. A member of a family tries to find out all the names in one branch of their family and their ancestors. Then those details are shared with another family member who's already tracked down another part of the family. Past records were often lost in times of war and people who had found five generations back had done very well.

People with some famous ancestor are usually proud of their heritage and this can become a source of boasting and pride. Others discover some shameful deeds committed and decided they will stop mapping their family tree. Whatever folly and mistakes a person's ancestors have made, the person can't go back and set them right. If ever we desire to go back to change the course of history, the best place to start would be with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God, however, did not reverse their sins; instead, He was gracious in His judgments while people had to learn to live with the consequences of Adam's and Eve's mistakes.

A story tells of a woman who was boasting about her famous ancestors. When she had finished impressing her own importance on a friend, she asked the friend about her background. Of course, the friend didn't have any notable relatives of her own, so she responded by saying she didn't know, as all her family records had been lost in Noah's world-wide flood.

And this certainly had some truth. All people living on the earth today have descended from Noah and his wife. Although everyone is distantly related, such a fact never made people friendly towards one another. In today's Bible Adventure, the nation of Assyria was marching across the then known world to conquer, kill and destroy anyone else in its path.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

Why did God allow the wicked Assyrians to capture the northern kingdom of Israel? And why did He let the Assyrians take so many Israelites into exile?

The people of Israel had forgotten God's mercy shown to their ancestors in bringing them out of the Egyptian bondage. One of the best ways to remain true to the Lord is to remind ourselves of all the good things that He has done for us. In the Old Testament book of Psalms, Chapter 103, it says: "Praise the Lord, my soul, and do not forget how kind He is." "The Lord is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of constant love."

The people of Israel also followed the practices of the pagan religions from the nations around about them. They let these worldly ways creep into the worship of Almighty God until their worship for Him was no longer pure and pleasing to Him. The prophets warned the people to repent but they wouldn't listen. To them, God was only one of many gods they worshipped in the land, so God rejected Israel and their ways of worship.

God will always reject worship that isn't honourable to Him. In John's Gospel, Chapter 4, the Lord Jesus said: "God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The fall and capture of Israel and its capital city of Samaria took place in 722 BC. How observant the king of Assyria was to realize that the Israelite people weren't doing the right thing by their God and so this had made their nation weak.

When we speak of worshipping idols today, we think of carved wooden figures of pagan religions. But the truth is, if we substitute anything that the central place of God should hold in our lives, we are doing the same wrong too. Anything that becomes an interest greater than the interest we have in God is an idol to us. We don't have to reject God openly to be an idol worshipper. It's just if God is no longer the most important One in our lives, then He's not the one who we want to control our life. Before long, He's just faintly influencing it.

Idols do more than retard our spiritual maturity. They destroy it as well because there can be no ongoing spiritual growth in a life in which idols are present. The view of the world is that we should cultivate a strong ego and do what pleases us. But God wants us to have our lives revolved around Him and not ourselves; for it is for His good pleasure and purpose that He created us to worship Him in the first place.

Have you ever wondered why a few people have a desire to compete with others to become the person in charge? The king of Assyria was only one of many kings through the centuries who desired to conquer the world and rule everybody. The spirit of competitiveness must be overthrown by God's Spirit in those who want to claim the Lord Jesus as Lord of their lives. God has His own special, individual plan for every person He makes. We must not look at others with envy or superiority.

Instead, thank God for His blessings and provision and ask Him to supply your needs according to His will and grace. Worship Him with an adoring heart, offering all that He's given you back to Him in love and humility.

So what should we look for in the character of our Christian leaders? The Scriptures tell us that leaders should obey God and depend on Him for His strength, wisdom and knowledge. They should also be a good example and serve others without a self-seeking attitude. They should value God's justice highly and see that justice is not withheld from their people.

Good leaders therefore are not to lead others astray or seek their own needs and wants first. This includes giving up their ambition for power and no rebelling against God in old age, as many leaders mentioned in the Bible seemed to do.

Each person has their own piece of history to write. The records for each of us are kept in heaven. One day they will be read out before God and the angels. If you are ever tempted to think it doesn't matter what you do, think again. God cares and He wants to hear a good report about us. But a good report is more than helping other people with their needs and problems. God wants to hear how you've treated His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Is Jesus the most important one in your life? Have your own circumstances and problems stolen your focus from following Jesus? The Old Testament book of Isaiah, Chapter 55, says: "Seek the Lord while he may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: Let Him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him." Come and worship God through His Son Jesus Christ today.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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