

8/28/11

**2Kings 17-18**

The northern kingdom of Israel is brought to the end and taken into captivity by the hand of Assyria.

Second Kings falls into two a simple division.

\* Theme: The Lord's Great Judgment on Israel and Judah for Their Idolatry.

**I.** The Lord's constant warnings to Israel until its collapse in 722 B.C. 2Kings 1-17

**II.** The Lord's continued warnings to Judah until its collapse in 586 B.C. 2Kings 18-25

God sent many prophets to both the north and the south.

**1.** Prophets prior to Northern captivity by Assyria in 722 B.C.

- a. Hosea 740 B.C. , Israel's broken covenant relations.
- b. Joel 835 B.C. , Judah's warning of judgment from sin.
- c. Amos 760 B.C. , Israel's warning of ripened judgment.
- d. Obadiah 845 B.C. , Judah's reminder of covenant protection.
- e. Jonah 765B.C. , Israel' rebuke for national selfishness.

- f. Micah 735 B.C. , Judah's rebuke for social injustice.
- 2.** Prophets prior to the Southern captivity by Babylon in 606-586 B.C.
- a. Nahum 710 B.C. -God's jealousy/ God's terror on Judah's attackers.
  - b. Habakkuk 608 B.C. -God's holiness/God's use of foreigners to discipline.
  - c. Zephaniah 625 B.C. -God's indignation/Covenant fulfillment in Day of the Lord.
- 3.** Prophets after the return from captivity of Babylon 536-425 B.C.
- a. Haggai 520 B.C. -God's glory/Their real glory in God's Presence.
  - b. Zechariah 520 B.C. -God's Deliverance/Covenant fulfillments through Messiah.
  - c. Malachi 430 B.C. -God's Greatness/Covenant obligations until Messiah comes.  
(Knowing God's Word, Standly A. Ellisen:87, 218)

**17:1-6      The reign of Hoshea over Israel.**

**17:1-2**    The particulars of the reign of Hoshea.

- 1) During the 12th year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became

king of Israel in Samaria, for nine years.  
vs. 1

\* Heshea means salvation or Yahweh saves and reigned 731-722 B.C.

- 2) He did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as bad as the previous kings of Israel.  
vs. 2

**17:3-4** The treason of Hoshea against Assyria.

- 1) Shalmaneser king of Assyria attacked Hoshea and became his subject paying yearly tribute money. vs. 3
- 2) The king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea; to have the king of Egypt help him against Assyria and stopped paying tribute, so Shalmaneser imprisoned Hoshea. vs. 4

**17:5-6** The apostate nation of Israel goes into captivity under Assyria.

- 1) Shalmaneser invaded the all the land and besieged Samaria for three years. vs. 5  
\* The Assyrian record of Sargon tells of taking 27, 290 inhabitants and details of the battle.
- 2) In 722 B.C. , the 9th year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria conquered Samaria, carrying Israel captive to Assyria, relocating them in Halah and by the

Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, Persia. vs. 6

- a) The Assyrian record says Shalmaneser began the siege but died shortly after the conquest and Sargon completed it, not contradiction!
- b) Shalmaneser reigned 727-722 and Sargon 721–705 B.C.

**17:7-23** **The reasons for the captivity of Israel.**

**17:7-8** The high privilege of Israel, brought greater judgment.

- 1) The children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, having brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the bondage of Pharaoh and they had feared other gods. vs. 7
- 2) They became like the pagan nations the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel, and their kings. vs. 8

**17:9-12** The idolatry lead Israel to gross immorality.

- 1) The children of Israel secretly sinned against the LORD, but He see all things and erected high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city. vs. 9  
\* The reference is to small towns in contrast to larger walled cities.

- 2) They set up for themselves perverted artifacts and idols on every high hill and under every green tree, for their fertility gods. vs. 10
- 3) There they offered their worship, as the heathen nations that God expelled, doing wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger, idolatry that God prohibited. vs. 11-12

**17:13-15** The prophets constantly warned both Israel and Judah to no avail.

- 1) God had sent to Israel and Judah all His prophets, every seer, calling them to repent. vs. 14  
\* Ahijah, Elijah, Elisha, unnamed sons of the prophets, Johah, Amos, Hosea, etc.
- 2) They disobeyed and stiffened their necks, just like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God. vs. 14
- 3) They rejected God's statutes and covenant made with their fathers, and God's testimonies against them, becoming idolaters, following the nations all around them, even though God told them not to. vs. 15

**17:16-21** The kingdom of Israel and Judah rejected the warnings of God.

- 1) They abandoned the word of God and chose the calf or bull worship of Egypt, worshipped the creation of the heavens and served Baal. vs. 16
  - 2) They continued the downward path to greater darkness. vs. 17
    - a) They caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, the worship of Molech.
    - b) They practiced witchcraft, divinations and incantations of the occult.
    - c) They practiced soothsaying, observing times and spiritism. Lev. 19:26, Duet. 18:10-12
    - d) They sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.
  - 3) The consequences, Israel went into captivity and Judah alone was left. vs. 18
  - 4) Judah did not learn but followed the bad example of Israel, due to the sin of Jeroboam. vs. 19-21
- 17:22-23** The summary statement regarding Israel.
- 1) Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them. vs. 22
  - 2) God did what He said by all His servants the prophets, allowing Israel to go captive to Assyria. vs. 23

**17:24-41 The repopulation of Israel by Assyria with gentiles captives.**

**17:24-28** The problem of the people.

**17:24** The people transplanted were from Babylon.

- 1) The one responsible was the king of Assyria who conquered them, “Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon.” vs. 24a
  - a) The king was Shalmanezzer.
  - b) The nation Babylon, today Iraq.
- 2) The various regions are named. vs. 24b-e
  - a) Cuthah. vs. 24b
  - b) Ava. vs. 24c
  - c) Hamath. vs. 24d
  - d) Sepharvaim. vs. 24e
- 3) The people of the northern kingdom had been removed to other lands also. 2Kings 17:5-6
  - a) The city was besieged by Shalmaneser, “Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years”, 724-722 B.C. vs. 5
  - b) The conquest date, 722 B.C. “In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria.” vs. 6a-b

- c) The people had been dispersed throughout Persia, “and placed them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.” vs. 6c-e
- 4) The individuals were implanted into the northern kingdom of Israel, in stead of the children of Israel to occupy the city of Samaria. vs. 24f-g
  - a) The practice of cross-populating people by the Assyrians had ingenious wisdom.
  - b) The people would be removed from their homeland, their families, detouring them from rebellion by humbling and demoralizing them.
  - c) The people would be mixed in with other nations by marriage, losing their purity of race and identity.

**17:25-26** The people were pagans in the land of God.

- 1) The judgment began from the beginning of their dwelling. vs. 25a
  - a) To insure it was no coincidence.
  - b) To cause the people to reflect.
- 2) The reason being, they did not fear the LORD.” vs. 25b
  - a) They had allegiance to false gods.
  - b) They did not know Yahweh.

- 3) The consequences were severe, Yahweh sent lions to kill some of them.” vs. 25c-d
- a) The direct hand of God was bringing this to pass.
  - b) The method was through nature.
- 4) The problem was presented to the attention of the king, without doubt by one of his officers in charge of the people. vs. 26
- a) The situation was brought to the king of Assyria suggesting that the problem was due to new population in the cities of Samaria didn't know the rituals of the God of the land.” vs. 26a-c
  - b) The conclusion stated to the king was that the God of the land therefore was sending lions among them because they did not know the rituals of the God of the land.” vs. 26d-f

**17:27-28** The people were given a solution by the king.

- 1) The proclamation of the plan. vs. 27
  - a) The royal order was to return one of the apostate ex-priest to Samaria. vs. 27a-c
  - b) The royal instruction was that he dwell there and teach the people the

rituals of the God of the land. vs. 27d-e

- 2) The inception of the plan. vs. 28
  - a. The priests was brought to Samaria and dwelt in Bethel, one of the old idolatrous center set up by Jeroboam. vs. 28a
  - b. The priest only added hurt to the people, teaching them a false way to fear Yahweh. vs. 28b

### **17:29-33    The decision of the people.**

**17:29-31** The people committed themselves to their national gods.

- 1) They did not trust the calf of Bethel and Dan. vs. 29
  - a) Despite the instruction of the priest from Bethel, they clung to their traditional gods, “However every nation continued to make gods of its own.” vs. 29a
  - b) Despite the calf being the false god they were taught to worship, they simple added their own gods to the shrines, “and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made.” vs. 29b
  - c) Despite the attempt to unify the people to one form of worship, they

worshipped their own gods in every city they dwelt. vs. 29c

- 2) The various gods from Babylon the people made are named. vs. 30-31
  - a) The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth. vs. 30a
  - b) The men of Cuth made Nergal. vs. 30b
  - c) The men of Hamath made Ashima, vs. 30c
  - d) The Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak. vs. 31a
  - e) The Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. vs. 31b-c
    - \* Many being fertility gods with licentious worship practices!

**17:32-33** The people committed themselves to further confusion and deception.

- 1) They gave fear allegiance to Yahweh, not knowing Yahweh. vs. 32
  - a) The word fear “yare”, means to be afraid and reverent.
  - b) The LORD “Yahweh”, is the proper name of God, the true and Eternal One.
  - c) The spelling is “YHVH” or “YHWH”, called the tetragrammaton, unpronounceable, due to the Jews

omitting the vowels, as an act of reverence, but God never intended it.

- d) They contradicted their allegiance by appointing for themselves priests of the high places of every sort of person to sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.” vs. 32b-c
- 2) They gave their fear allegiance to Yahweh, but did not serve Him, another contradiction. vs. 33
  - a) Serving their own gods.” vs. 33a-b
  - b) Implementing the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. vs. 33c

### **17:34-41**    **The practice of the people.**

**17:34-39** The people had utterly rejected the attempt of God to turn them.

- 1) The plan was a complete failure. vs. 34
  - a) Their manner of life was to continue practicing the former rituals. vs. 34a
  - b) Their arrogance was to reject the word of God. vs. 34b-d
- 2) They dismissed and challenged God. vs. 35
  - a) Ignoring the divine covenant. vs. 35a
  - b) Rebelling and provoking God to see what He would do. vs. 35b-e
  - c) Dismissing the Exodus record. vs. 36
- 3) Disobeying, fearing other gods. vs. 37-39

- a) Instead of the word written by God. vs. 37
- b) Instead of the covenant of God. vs. 38
- c) Forfeiting the protection of God. vs. 39

**17:40-41** The people duplicated themselves in their children.

- 1) Their daily practices ingrained what they truly believed. vs. 40
  - a) They were rebellious, “However they did not obey.” vs. 41a
  - b) They were self-willed, “but they followed their former rituals.” vs. 41b
- 2) Their religious identity was syncretism. vs. 41
  - a) Including the name of God with idolatry, “So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images.” vs. 41a
  - b) Indoctrinating their children, “also their children and their children’s children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.” vs. 41b-c
    - 1)) The Samaritans were considered half breed by the Jews and hatred was thick between them.
    - 2)) They were refused to be part of the work, becoming adversaries to Nehemiah. Ezra 4:1-3, Neh. 6:1-4

- 3)) The rival temple had been erected on Mount Gerizim by permission of Alexander the Great and dedicated to Zeus through their Hellenization in 409 B.C. and destroyed in 129 B.C by John Hyrcanus the Macabean ruler.
- 4)) They declared Abraham had offered Isaac on Gerizim and that Abraham met Melchizedek there also.
- 5)) They had corrupted the place of Mount Gerizem in the Scriptures and excepted only the Pentateuch. Deut. 27