

## 2 Kings 17

Jesus

### I. Hoshea Reigns in Israel: Last King of Israel before Deportation

**1** In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, **Hoshea** the son of Elah became **king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years.** **2** And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, but **not as the kings of Israel** who were before him.

#### **Hoshea: THE Last King of Northern Kingdom of Israel**

**Not as bad as his father...though judgment will come during his reign**

This reminds us that judgment may not come at the **height of sin**. When God judges a nation or a culture, He has the big picture in view. For that reason, the actual events of judgment may come when things are **not as bad** in a relative sense. [Guzik]

**3 Shalmaneser** king of Assyria came up against [Hoshea]; and Hoshea **became his vassal**, and paid him tribute money.

#### **Assyria continues to press in on the Northern Kingdom**

- **3 Tribes already deported:** Reubenites, Gadites, and Manasseh.
- Israel becomes Assyria's vassal; **slave/servant**

God's people now paying enemies not destroy them....  
**What would David and Solomon say if they saw this?**

**4** And the king of Assyria **uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea**; for he [Hoshea] had sent messengers to So, king of **Egypt**, and brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year.

- **New King of Assyria:** Shalmaneser V
  1. Tribute check not in the mail
  2. Hoshea's trusts in Egypt for protection...

...Therefore, the king of Assyria **shut him up, and bound him in prison.**

- Consequence of trusting in world for protection? Bondage
- **God is our help...**

**Psalm 46:1** God is our refuge and strength, **A very present help in trouble.** **2** Therefore we will not fear...

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**Psalm 37:40** ...the Lord shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.

**Psalm 121:2** My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

**Hoshea's Great-grandfather did not trust in man's wisdom/protection  
David trusted his God...**

**Psalm 20:7** Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the **Lord our God.**

Hoshea's total disregard for God and Indifference to God...  
Exemplifies the current state of the Northern Kingdom of Israel

**SUMMARY:** Hoshea Reigns in Israel: Last King of Israel before Deportation

## **II. Israel Carried Captive to Assyria: Presumption Judged**

**5** Now the king of **Assyria went throughout all the land**, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years.

**200 years/19 Kings after Solomon Assyria invades/conquers all the land of Israel**

- Laid siege against Capital; i.e. Samaria for 3 Years

**6** In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and **carried Israel away to Assyria...**

- Ended Hoshea's nine-year reign

**Assyria carried Israel away to Assyria. Sad. Their Kings let them down**

- **After Egypt God was their King...**

**Exodus 19:4** 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

- Demanded a king like other nation. To be like the world.
- **Now a king of another nation carries them away**

**Proverbs 14:12** There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

When the Assyrians depopulated and exiled a conquered community, they led the captives away on journeys of hundreds of miles, with the captives naked and attached together with a system of strings and fishhooks pierced through their lower lip. God would make sure they were led in this humiliating manner through the broken walls of their conquered cities. [Guzik]

- Fat and Lazy physically and Spiritually

**Amos 4:1** Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, Who oppress the poor, Who crush the needy, Who say to your husbands, "Bring wine, let us drink!" **2** The Lord God has sworn by His holiness: **"Behold, the days shall come upon you When He will take you away with fishhooks, And your posterity with fishhooks.**

- At first Israel put up a fight but were doomed because God declared it...

[Sargon II successor of Shalmaneser Assyrian "Prisms of Sargon II" wrote...] "The men of Samaria with their king were **hostile to me** and consorted together not to carry out their vassal obligations and bring tribute to me, so they fought me... I clashed with them and took as booty 27,280 people with their chariots and their gods in whom they trusted. I incorporated 200 chariots into my army. The rest of the people I made to dwell within Assyria. I restored the city of Samaria and made it greater than before."

### **About 200 years in the northern kingdom is no more. 200 years?**

**6b...** and [Assyria] placed [Israel] in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

- God's patience has run out. Removes protective hand from the people He loves...

7 For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods, 8 and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the Lord had cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. 9 Also the children of Israel **secretly did** against the Lord their God things that were not right...

Their judgment was impaired enough to think they could sin secretly against the God who sees everything. [Guzik]

**9b...** and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city. 10 They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. 11 There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the Lord had carried away before them; and they did **wicked things** to provoke the Lord to anger, 12 for they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

"Their sin was first against law, but finally it was against patient love." [Morgan]

- God's loving-kindness/patience was taken for granted; insulting the Spirit of Grace

Presumptuous sin to provoke a God of love...leading to meeting a God of wrath [NJC]

**Psalms 19:13** Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me.

**Numbers 15:30** 'But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the Lord, and he shall be cut off from among his people.

**2 Peter 9:11** [Unjust are reserved for...] punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are **presumptuous**, self-willed.

- **Presumptuous:**

1. Arrogant, proud, swelled up. From rt. *defy* to *do proudly*
2. Presuming God will not judge. Trampling on His goodness...

**Hebrews 10:26** [Read] For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has **trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant** by which he was sanctified a common thing, and **insulted the Spirit of grace**? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**Insulting God's patience and the Spirit of Grace  
Trampling God's goodness and provision. I don't need the blood of Christ**

- God sent His messengers "rising early in morning" to Kings of both Judah and Israel

**13 Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."**

- God was pleading through his Prophets as He pleads through us...

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new...**20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God.**

**14** Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God. **15** And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they **followed idols**, became idolaters

"The original [language] is more accurate at this point: 'They worshipped emptiness and became empty.' The word here is *hebel* meaning 'air,' 'delusion,' or 'vanity.' The idea is that they became like the gods they worshipped. They bowed down to nothingness and became nothing." [Dilday]

**15b...** [and they] went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them that they should not do like them. **16** So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. **17** And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced

witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.

**Lord continues to build His case though He does not need to...**

- **Stiffened their necks:** Would not turn from their own way
- **Rejected God** in tangible/well devious ways **just to provoke Him. Presumption.**
  1. Followed Idols
  2. Went after gods of other nations
  3. Two Gold Calves? Crafted ways to make it known exactly who they rejected
  4. Served Baal: False-god of prosperity
  5. Sacrifice their own children to have their own way/comfort
  6. Witchcraft: Today Ouija boards. Dungeons/Dragan's, Pokémon [Bible]
  7. Sold their souls to do evil. Slaves to sin

**Matthew 16:26** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**Romans 6:16** [Don't you get it?] ...you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

**Sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.**

**18 Therefore** the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

Because they did not fear the Lord, they sacrificed their sons and daughters and eventually lost their entire nation

- Satan wants our children. Are we just giving them away? Sold for our sin.
- **Judah was also guilty...**

**19** Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the **statutes of Israel** which they made. **20** And the Lord **rejected** all the descendants of Israel, **afflicted** them, and **delivered** them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight. **21** For He **tore** Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam **drove** Israel from following the Lord, and made them commit a **great sin**. **22** For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, **23** until the Lord **removed Israel out of His sight**, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.

- Breaking God's heart for His creation...

**Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

**1 Timothy 2:3** ...God our Savior, 4 ... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

▪ **Ways of the Lord are good...**

1. Righteousness
2. Victory
3. Purpose
4. Good Fruit

**Galatians 5:22** [Fruit of Spirit] love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

**Psalms 23:1** The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to **lie down** in green pastures; He **leads me** beside the still waters. 3 He **restores my soul**; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil**; For You are **with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely **goodness and mercy** shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

**They would not have it so God allowed enemies to take them away**

**Isaiah 42:24** Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers? **Was it not the Lord**, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, Nor were they obedient to His law.

- God's justice led to giving away His people. Refused His warnings...

**Romans 1:24** Therefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen 26 For this reason God **gave them up** to vile passions....**28** And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over...**

- Why is this happening to me? You refused His warnings.

**SUMMARY Israel Carried Captive to Assyria**

**III. Assyria Resettles Samaria...in Assyria**

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from **Babylon**, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

**Assyria now calling the shots [physical realm]**

- **NOTE:** Small remnant left in Northern Kingdom [2 Chronicles 30:10-19]  
▪ Assyria basically swept clean Capital of Israel Samaria and **10 Tribes**

Yet, it is a mistake to think of these ten northern tribes as lost. Far back in the days of Jeroboam and his original break with the southern kingdom of Judah, the legitimate priests and Levites who lived in the northern ten tribes did not like the Jeroboam's idolatry. They,

along with others who set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel, then moved from the northern kingdom of Israel to the southern kingdom of Judah (2 Chronicles 11:13-16). So actually, the southern kingdom of Judah contained Israelites from all of the ten tribes. [Guzik]

- Put in heathen vassals including Babylon

25 **And it was so**, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them. 26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land." 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land." 28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord.

- **Heathen nations doing heathen things in land of Israel**

1. Reasoned that the Lord did not save His people thus they...
2. Did not fear the Lord so...God sent lions to show He is still God/still His land
3. King of Assyria sends a priest of Israel back to Israel to "help"

Their false-religion to true God combined with Assyrian/Israelite intermarrying  
...led to a people know as **Samaritans**

- **Pseudo-Christians teaching heathens how to worship? UMC?**

29 However every nation **continued to make gods of its own**, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt. 30 The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, 31 and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. 32 **So they feared the Lord**, and from every class they appointed for themselves **priests of the high places**, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods—according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

- Continued to make gods of their own
- This is how they were taught to fear God ["Priest in Bethel w/ Golden Calf"]

"Let me be right, and let there be no mistake about it; but do not let me try to be both right and wrong, washed and filthy, white and black, a child of God and a child of Satan." [Spurgeon]

34 To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they **do not fear the Lord**, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the Lord had commanded the children of **Jacob, whom He named Israel**, 35 with whom the Lord had made a covenant and charged them, saying: "**You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them**; 36 but the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice. 37 And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods. 38 And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. 39 But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

- Our county was founded on the fear of the true God; i.e. God of Israel
- Floodgates opened
  1. **1963** Prayer removed from public schools
  2. **1964** February the Beatles arrives JFK w/ cutesy haircuts. 1966 army helmet
  3. **1968** Helter-Skelter: Meaning disorderly haste/confusion since 16th century.
- No prayer in school
- Easter Religion, Mysticism, anti-Christian rebellion.
- **How are we doing since 1963?**

Obama, June 28, 2006 [as delivered]: Whatever we once were, we are **no longer a Christian nation** – at least, not just. We are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, and a Hindu nation, and a nation of nonbelievers.

### **One God...the True and Living God. Jealous God. The God of Israel**

**Nehemiah 9:6** You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

**Luke 4:8** [ Devil: Worship me] "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and **Him only** you shall serve.' "

- **Promised Land: Israel**
  1. Israel removed heathens for following other gods
  2. Heathens removed Israel for following other gods
  3. Heathens now in back in the land doing following other gods...

40 However they **did not obey**, but they **followed their former rituals**. 41 So these nations **feared the Lord**, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.



Trying [as best they could] to link the old idolatries with worship of the true God, which thing is the most loathsome in the sight of Most High. [Spurgeon]

**Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.