

For Christ's Sake: Trusting God in the Calm and Crisis

“The Sanctity of Life in 722 BC”

2 Kings 16–17

The Lord's Day Morning

January 21, 2024 | Sanctity of Life Sunday

After 209 years of heinous crimes against God and violent crimes against people made in his image, the Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Shalmaneser of Assyria, who destroys the capital of Samaria, removes the people from their homeland, and replaces them with foreigners who have never heard the truth about God. The disaster in context:

1. **The Act of Creation** (Gen. 1:26-31): God creates people in his own image and commands them to be fruitful as they live in perfect peace with him and each other.
2. **The Promise of Redemption** (Gen. 3:15-21): God creates the “church” (the assembly of the redeemed) to promote peace between God and fallen people by the power of the word.
3. **The Noahic Covenant** (Gen. 8–9): God creates the state to promote peace between all people (redeemed or not) in all nations by the power of the sword.
4. **The Mosaic Covenant** (Ex. 19:5-6) God creates a holy nation that unites church *and* state to promote peace between all people *and* between people and God by the word *and* the sword.
5. **The New Covenant** (Lk. 22; 1 Cor. 11): Christ makes peace on the cross, separates church and state, and sends the church to peacefully enter all the nations with gospel of peace (Mt. 28:18-20).

Principles to live by:

1. The church promotes peace by loving neighbors, preserving their lives, doing good works, sharing the gospel, and persuading _____ to recognize and enforce just laws (Mt. 5:13–16; Acts 22:25).
2. The church is simultaneously _____ and _____ (Jn. 3:16; Jn. 4:9).
3. The Lord's Supper is the _____ reminds us that on the cross, Jesus made peace between God and man possible (Col. 1:20).