

II Kings 17 – 3 November 2022

“Mishandling God”

Introduction

*Israel divided in 931 BC into north (Israel) & south (Judah)

*Israel in the north has been given 210 years to live for God...or not

*They've had 9 dynasties & 19 total kings & ALL were said of God to be evil

*Today shows the final fall of the northern kingdom of Israel at the hands of the Assyrian Empire

*Chap 17 shows a great encapsulation of all the ways Israel has mishandled the Lord in their short history

*It's the same for all people today

*We have knowledge of God, but not a proper relationship with Him

***So, today, here's 3 ways people mishandle God that leads to their own destruction**

1st way we mishandle God: We live as if there is no God (Chap 17:1-6)

Intro

1. We never bring God into circumstances of life
2. We live independent of His leading & help

Read Vs 1-2

1. Not a single king from Israel did right in the eyes of the Lord
2. Hosea was a puppet king installed by Assyria

Read Vs 3

1. Tiglath-Pileser III made the Assyrians into an Empire & took Galilee into captivity in 733BC
2. Now Shalmaneser, his successor, makes Israel their servants taking regular tribute
3. What to do when being oppressed by man?
 - a. Do we turn to God or other selfish men?
 - b. Do we see ourselves as independent or dependent on someone else?

Read Vs 4

1. What's difference between Moses & Joshua's leadership compared to these kings of Israel?
 - a. Moses & Joshua continually 'inquired of the Lord' for guidance
 - b. Not once do we read of the kings doing this
2. Egypt was where they were delivered from
 - a. Known to them as 'the house of bondage'
3. What's key to deliverance that unlocks bondage?
 - a. Deliverance begins w/ inquiring of the Lord
 - b. Bondage begins w/ trusting men to deliver

Read Vs 5-6

1. So the 10 northern tribes have been sent far to east edge of the Assyrian Empire in modern Iran
2. At end of this 3 year siege, there was ascension of Assyria's next king Sargon II (II Kings 18:9-10)
 - a. Sargon is mentioned in Isa 20:1 & was seen as a "Bible Blunder"up until 1842 when Botta discovered Sargon's palace in Ninevah
 - i. Many treasures showed him as great king
 - ii. Yet his name disappeared from history

- b. One of Sargon's inscriptions says, "In my 1st year I captured Samaria. I took captive 27,290 people. People of other lands, who never paid tribute, I settled in Samaria."
 - c. So the Bible is true; direct evidence for many parts and believe God for the rest
3. Are there 10 lost tribes?
- a. No
 - i. James wrote his book to the 12 tribes
 - ii. Paul said he's of the tribe of Benjamin
 - iii. Paul spoke of all 12 of them in Acts 26:7
 - iv. DNA evidence of all 12 returning to land
 - b. Lost tribes theory just feeds man's pride
 - c. Some believe this lie...
 - i. Mormon believe Native Americans (north & south) are from lost tribes
 - ii. Some believe they settled in England & began the English monarchy
 - d. Was only necessary to keep tribal distinction until Messiah came from tribe of Judah
 - e. God knows who they are b/c he seals 144,000 in the Tribulation

2nd way we mishandle God: We live for false gods (Chap 17:7-23)

Intro

1. We serve & trust others things as our priority

Read Vs 7

1. Israel sinned against the God that had *already proven Himself true & good*
2. *1st sin: Feared & served other gods*

Read Vs 8-11

1. See characteristics of serving false gods
 - a. Vs 8 - Obeyed false teachings
 - b. Vs 9a - Did evil deeds secretly
 - c. Vs 9b-11 - Devoted their time, money & love to another
2. They don't value things of God
 - a. Read Matt 22:2-9 – Value wealth more

Read Vs 12

1. *2nd sin: Reject God's declared Truth, His Word*

Read Vs 13-15

1. See characteristics of rejecting God's Word
 - a. Vs 13 - Rejected those sent w/ God's Word
 - b. Vs 14 - Refused to believe
 - c. Vs 15 - Did what God said not to do

Read Vs 16-17

1. Once you leave the truth, there is no limit to what you can throw your devotion into

Read Vs 18-19

1. What is worse than committing all these sins?
 - a. Seeing your brothers & sisters judged for doing them and not repenting yourself!

Read Vs 20-23

1. If someone won't take the good blessings of God *into their life*, then God will take the spoils we've gotten from sinful gain *out of our lives*
 - a. Goal? To have us realize our true need
 - b. Seems America is walking this same path

3rd way we mishandle God: We act as if He's our "Genie God" (Chap 17:24-41)

Intro

1. Want God to serve us, instead of us serving God

Read Vs 24

1. We're told from Sargon's writings these were people from Babylon, "that never paid tribute"

Read Vs 25-26

1. They mistakenly thought *Jehovah is bound to the land*; in fact *the land was bound to Jehovah*
2. God made 3 promises to Israel; 1 was of giving THEM this land forever

Read Vs 27-33

1. They "feared God AND..." – this never works
 - a. Read Jer 7:8-10 – Can't serve God & principles that are *against* God
 - b. Can't serve false gods AND the parts of the Lord that you happen to like!
2. Religion of Samaritans of Jesus day begins here

Read Vs 34

1. Following verses will specifically point out which principles of God's Law they are violating by their mixed religion

Read Vs 35 – Violated Exo 20:3-5

Read Vs 36 – Violated Deut 10:20

Read Vs 37 – Violated Deut 5:32

Read Vs 38-39 – Violated Deut 4:23

Read Vs 40-41

1. So the Samaritan culture began from Babylonians and others mixed with Israelites
2. Assyria goal in mixing was to destroy national identity so all that's left is to be w/ Mother Assyria
 - a. Christians can't allow America to destroy our Christian identity just to identify as Americans
3. Once all Israel comes back to land in 536 BC, they'll *never again* serve false gods
 - a. God's punishment is effective on the outward
 - b. But every individual will have to choose to let it work on the inward parts

Conclusion

So, Israel will now suffer the consequences for how they mishandled God. How do you handle God?

1. Do you live as if there is no God

- a. I can say I love my wife, but if I never go home to her, do I really love her?
- b. God's looking for relationship throughout all that life throws at you – Go together w/ God

2. Do you live for false gods (ie selfish passions)

- a. Serving selfish passions proves that you don't believe God – that He's good & best
- b. This is the same as calling God a liar, wow!

3. Do you live as if He's our "Genie God"

- a. God is a jealous God, & He deserves to be!
 - i. Can't just add Him to our collection of gods
- b. He's not here to serve our *sinful will*, we should be here to serve His *perfect will*