### 2 Kings

## Chapter 17

1It was in the 12th year of the reign of King Ahaz of Judah that HosheA (son of ElAh) started reigning over IsraEl from Samaria, and he ruled there for 9 years.  
  
2He also acted wickedly in the eyes of Jehovah… However, he wasn’t as bad as the kings who came before him.  
  
3Then King ShalamaNasar [V] of Assyria came against HosheA and made him his vassal, forcing him to send many tributes.  
  
4However, the king of Assyria soon became [very unhappy] with HosheA, because he’d sent messengers to King Segor of Egypt [possibly Shabaka?], and he failed to send any tributes to him, the king of Assyria, that year; so he had him tied, shackled, and thrown into prison.  
  
5And thereafter, the king of Assyria marched through IsraEl and laid siege to Samaria for three years 6(this happened in the 9th year of HosheA’s reign.) Then the king of Assyria captured Samaria and moved all the people of IsraEl into Assyria – to Halae in Habor (next to the Gozan River), and into the mountains of the Medes.  
  
  
7Of course, all of this happened because the sons of IsraEl had sinned against Jehovah their God who had brought them out of the land of Egypt and from under the hand of PharaOh (the king of Egypt), and they started fearing other gods.  
  
8They’d also started following in the ways of the nations that Jehovah had removed from in front of them… And their kings were doing the same things.  
  
9There were so many things that the sons of IsraEl did to cover over the words of Jehovah and to not do any of the things that their God had told them:  
  
 • For they [built altars] for themselves in high places near every town… From their guard towers to their walled cities.  
  
 • 10They also erected stone monuments and groves of sacred poles on every high hill and under every tree in the woods.  
  
 • 11Then they burned incense on the high places in the same ways that the nations whom Jehovah had moved far away from them had been doing.  
  
 • And they formed alliances and [worshiped] carved images, so as to provoke Jehovah to rage. 12So, they started serving the very idols that Jehovah had warned them against!  
  
13Meanwhile, Jehovah had sent warnings to IsraEl and Judah through His prophets (the Seers), who told them:  
  
 ‘Turn from your wicked ways and obey My Commandments, My instructions, and all the Laws that I gave to your ancestors, which I sent through the hands of My servants the prophets!’  
  
14But they just wouldn’t listen to Him, and they made themselves even more stubborn than the stubbornness of their ancestors. 15He warned them time and again, but they just wouldn’t do any of the things that He said.  
  
Rather, they did foolish, silly things, and they followed in the paths of the nations around them… The very things that Jehovah had warned them against when He said:  
  
 ‘These are the things that you must not do.’  
  
16They also:  
  
 • Abandoned the Commandments of Jehovah their God.  
  
 • They made the two heifers for themselves of cast metal, as well as the groves of sacred poles.  
  
 • Then they bowed before all the powerful things in the skies and they started serving the BaAls.  
  
17In addition:  
  
 • They offered their sons and daughters in fires.  
  
 • They went to fortunetellers to learn the future.  
  
Thereby, they sold themselves into wickedness in the eyes of Jehovah and provoking Him to anger. 18As a result, He became so enraged with IsraEl that He removed them from before His face… He didn’t leave any of them behind, other than the tribe of Judah.  
  
19However, even Judah didn’t follow the Commandments of Jehovah their God. Rather, they followed in the ways of IsraEl and did the same bad things, pushing Jehovah away!  
  
20So Jehovah became enraged with all the offspring of IsraEl and He just shook them off, handing them over to be ripped to pieces and thrown away from before His face! 21For IsraEl had rebelled against the house of David and made JeroBoam (son of NaBat) their king, and JeroBoam led IsraEl away from following Jehovah and into a great sin.  
  
22So from then on, the sons of IsraEl followed JeroBoam in all the sins that he committed, and they never changed their ways until Jehovah removed them from before His face… Just as He said He would do through all of His servants the prophets.  
  
  
23Thereafter, IsraEl was resettled into the land of Assyria, where they still live today.  
  
24Then the king of Assyria took all the people from HoUtha, Aia, HaMath, and SePharaim (cities around Babylon), and settled them in the cities of Samaria, replacing the sons of IsraEl. So it was these people who inherited Samaria and started living in its cities.  
  
25Well, from the very beginning, these [new] people didn’t fear Jehovah either, so He sent lions among them to kill them off! 26As a result, they [sent messengers] to the king of Assyria to tell him:  
  
 ‘Because the nations that you resettled and relocated into the cities of Samaria don’t understand the God of that land, He’s sending lions against them! [These lions] are killing them off thanks to their lack of understanding Him.’  
  
27So the king of Assyria said:  
  
 ‘Then, let’s take some of the IsraElites back to the land and have them start living there once again, so they can show the people [how to please] the God of their land.’  
  
28As a result, they brought one of the Priests from Samaria and returned him to BethEl, so he could teach the people there to fear Jehovah.  
  
29Meanwhile, all these nations had also started taking their gods and putting them in the temples on the high places that the Samaritans had once built in each of their cities.  
  
30Then:  
  
 • The people who came from Babylon built [the city of] SukCoth-BenOth,  
 • The people from Cuth built [the city of] NerGal,  
 • The people from HaMath built [the city of] AsiMath, 31and  
 • The Hivites built [both] EblaZer and TarTak.  
  
At the time, the [people of] SePharaim had even started burning their sons in fires to their gods AdraMelek and AneMelek!  
  
32So although they’d started fearing Jehovah, they kept the images of their gods in the temples that they built on the high places in Samaria, close to the cities where each nation lived.  
  
And although they feared Jehovah, they still appointed their own priests to serve at the temples of the high places.  
  
33And although they feared Jehovah, they still served the gods of the countries from which they came… 34And they’re still following that same form of worship today!  
  
So although they feared Jehovah, they didn’t follow the instructions, Laws, or Commandments that He gave to the sons of Jacob (to whom He gave the name IsraEl).  
  
35For when Jehovah made a Sacred Agreement [with IsraEl], He told them:  
  
 ‘You must not fear other gods… Don’t bow to them, serve them, or offer sacrifices to them!  
  
 ‘36You may only serve Jehovah, the God who led you out of the land of Egypt with His great strength and outstretched arm! You must fear, bow before, and sacrifice to Him alone, 37and you must follow His decisions, rules, Laws, and the Commandments that He wrote down for you.  
  
 ‘You must obey these things for as long as you live, and you must not serve other gods, 38or forget the Sacred Agreement that He made with you.  
  
 ‘You must not fear other gods… 39You should only fear your God Jehovah, for He alone will rescue you from all your enemies. 40So, don’t pay attention to anything that [the other nations] are doing!’  
  
41However, although those nations [that lived in Samaria] feared Jehovah, they also served things that they carved for themselves… As did their sons and grandsons, and which they’re still doing today.