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Daily Rice 2024 April 15

YouTube Prayer Link

Read God's Word

2 Kings chapter 17 describes the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians. This event occurred about 200 years after the division of the United Kingdom of Israel under King Solomon.

The chapter begins by saying that Hoshi, the son of Elah, became king of Israel in Samaria in the twelfth year of the reign of King Ahaz of Judah. Ho Tse did evil in the eyes of the Lord, but he was not alone. Throughout Israel's history, Israel's kings and people continued to disobey God by worshipping other gods and engaging in various sins. As a result, God, through His prophets, repeatedly warned the Israelites that He would punish them if they did not repent. But they didn't listen, so Jehovah allowed the Assyrians to invade Israel and take them captive.

The main cause of the death of the northern kingdom to Assyria was Israel's rebellion against God. They rejected the law of the Lord and followed the pagan customs of the Gentiles in the worship of false gods. Although God admonished them through the prophets, they insisted on doing so, and as a result, God drove them out of the land of Canaan and left them in exile.

This chapter describes the sins of the Israelites in great detail, including idolatry, witchcraft and witchcraft, and the sacrifice of their children to pagan gods. Israel's kings led the people astray and refused to repent, even in the face of the prophets' repeated warnings.

The Assyrians conquered Israel and expelled their people to various parts of the empire, replacing them with foreigners from other countries. This event marked the end of the northern kingdom of Israel and explicitly warned the southern kingdom of Judah to turn to Jehovah and avoid a similar fate.

Most of the New Testament believers turned out to be Gentiles, but some thought they were more spiritual than the law-abiding Pharisees, but they never left their idols of fame, fortune, and career. So Paul says, "Do not exalt yourself but fear" (Romans 11:21). We should ask the Holy Spirit to see if we have been 'moved into the kingdom of His Son' (Col. 1:13) by God or 'placed in the cities of Samaria' by the king of Assyria (v.24), 'fearing the Lord and serving his own God, and moving from whatever country to follow the customs of whatever nation' (v.33).

Today we are like the Gentiles who had access to the Promised Land through Jesus Christ, and the Israelites' failure was their compromise with idols, politics, and Gentile customs. The failure of the Samaritans was that they mixed the worship of the Lord God with the worship of the Gentile gods. Both beliefs are false. The Israelites' compromise beliefs led to their expulsion from the Promised Land by God; The mixed beliefs of the Samaritans prevented them from being truly saved. Hope that we will reflect on our faith from these two errors, and are we holding on to a compromised faith? Or is it a mixed faith? Or do you set yourselves apart, as God has taught, and fear God alone?

As God asked Israel in the past, God also requires us today to keep God's commandments, to follow Him exclusively, and not to follow the habits of the past, but to have a loving relationship with God, because it is God's grace to enter into the Promised Land. Pray that God will remove all idols from our hearts and prepare our hearts to read and understand God's Word. There are many passages in the Bible that encourage us to read God's Word. Here are some of the most frequently cited chapters:

Psalms 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. "

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. "

John 8:31-32 - "Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" "

Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass will wither, and the flowers will wither, but the word of our God will be established forever." "

These chapters remind us that God's Word is the source of wisdom and strength that guides our lives. When we read the Bible, meditate, and apply the teachings in the Bible, our hearts are comforted and calmed. May God guide you and soothe your restless and troubled mind so that you may find comfort and guidance in His Word.

We pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to you and thank you for giving us your words as a guide and encouragement to our lives. Lord, we ask you to help us to fill our hearts daily with your Word and let it be the light of our thoughts, actions, and hearts.

May your Holy Spirit guide us so that we can continually meditate, follow, and apply your Word. By your grace, our hearts are soothed, and restlessness and turmoil are replaced by your peace and comfort.

Lord, we desire to know you more deeply and to be more involved in your Word. Give us the strength and perseverance to think and do Your will day and night.

We pray especially for those who are upset and troubled in their hearts, that you will soothe them with your love and strength and let them find true comfort and peace in your words.

Lord, we entrust you with everything and trust that you will hear our prayers and give us everything we need according to your plan. In the name of Jesus Christ we ask, Amen.

2 Kings 17

17:1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah reigned in Samaria nine years as king of Israel.

17:2 He did that which was evil in the eyes of Yahweh, but not like the kings of Israel who came before him.

17:3 Saman king of Assyria came up against Hoshea, and Hoshea served him and paid him tribute.

17:4 Hoshea rebelled, and sent to Suo king of Ethiopia, and did not pay tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done in previous years. When the king of Assyria knew this, he locked him up and put him in prison.

17:5 And the king of Assyria came up against all the land of Israel, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria conquered Samaria, and carried the Israelites captive to Assyria, and settled them in the cities of the Medes by the rivers Habo and Gosan.

17:7 For the Israelites sinned against the God of Jehohua, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and from the hand of Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and feared other gods.

17:8 and follow the customs of the Gentiles that Jehohua had cast out before them, and the rules of the kings of Israel.

17:9 And the Israelites secretly did not do what was right, and rebelled against the God of Jehovah, and built high places in all their cities, from watchtowers to fortified cities.

17:10 On the high hills, under the verdant trees, pillar statues and puppets were erected.

17:11 They burned incense on the high places, and did evil things that Yahweh had done in front of them, and did evil things that provoked Yahweh to anger.

17:12 And to serve the idols, it is Jehovah who warns them that it is not possible.

17:13 But Jehohua exhorted the Israelites and the Jews by all the prophets and prophets, saying, Turn away from your wicked ways, and keep my

commandments and my statutes, and walk in the law which I commanded your fathers, and by the prophets of my servants.

17:14 But they did not hearken, but stiffened their necks, as their fathers were, and did not believe in the God of Jehovah,

17:15 To reject his statutes and his covenant with their fathers, and to exhort them, to follow the vain gods, and to become vain themselves, to imitate the Gentiles around them, is what the Lord commanded them not to follow.

17:16 He forsook all the commandments of Jehovah and the other gods, and made for himself two images of calves, and set up Asherah, and worshipped all the hosts of heaven, and served Baal,

17:17 And he caused their sons and daughters to pass through fire, and to sell themselves by divination and sorcery, and to provoke him to anger by doing evil things which were in the sight of Yayah and Hua.

17:18 Therefore Jehovah was so angry with the Israelites that he drove them out from his presence, leaving only one tribe of Judah.

17:19 Nor did the Jews keep the commandments of the God of Jehovah, but followed the ordinances of the Israelites.

17:20 And Jehohua defaced all the Israeli, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hands of those who took them, so that he drove them out of his presence.

17:21 to retake the Israeli countries from the Great Vediads. And they made Jeroboam the son of Neba, king. Jeroboam deceived the Israelites into a great sin instead of following Jehova.

17:22 The Israelites will never be separated from all the sins of Jeroboam.

17:23 so that Jehovah drove them out from his presence, just as he had spoken by his servants the prophets. In this way, the Israelites were taken captive from their own land to Assyria, and to this day.

17:24 The kings of Assyria moved from Babylon, Utah, Ava, Hamath, and Sephava to settle in the cities of Samaria in place of Israelites. And they got Samaria, and dwelt in it.

17:25                   And when they lived there, they did not fear Yahweh, so Yahweh called the lion into their midst, and killed some of them.

17:26                   And it was told to the king of Assyria, saying, Those whom thou hast moved and settled in the cities of Samaria have not known the ways of the God of the land, and therefore the god has sent the lion into their midst, and has killed them.

17:27                   And the king of Assyria commanded, Let the priests whom he had taken captive return, and make him dwell there, and teach the people the rules of the God of the land.

17:28                   So a priest who had been taken captive from Samaria returned, and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how to fear Jehovah.

17:29                   But every tribe made an image of God for himself in the city where he dwelt, and set it in the temple of the hill that the Samaritans had made.

17:30                   The Babylonians made a statue of Scabine. The ancient people made hidden armor statues. The Hamathites made the image of Ashima.

17:31                   And the Awaites made images of Mah and Thartah. The people of Zephavaim burned their sons and daughters with fire and offered them to Adhmelech and Anamelech, the gods of Sefhavaim.

17:32                   And they were afraid of Yahweh, and they set up priests of high places from among them, and offered sacrifices for them in the temple where there were high places.

17:33                   And they were afraid of Yahweh, and they served their own gods, and they moved according to the customs of whomever country they migrated.

17:34                   And they walked unto this day according to the customs of the former times, and did not devote themselves to the fear of Yahweh, nor to keep their own rules and ordinances, nor to keep the law and commandments which Jehohua commanded the descendants of Jacob. Jacob was named Israel after Jehovah.

17:35                   Jehovah made a covenant with them, saying, Thou shalt not fear other gods, nor bow down to him, nor offer sacrifices unto him.

17:36 But fear him who brought you out of the land of Egypt with his mighty and outstretched arm, and bow down and offer sacrifices to him.

17:37 The statutes, the statutes, the laws, and the commandments that he has written unto you, thou shalt always observe and keep them, and fear no other gods.

17:38 The covenant that I have made with you shall not be forgotten, neither shall you fear other gods.

17:39 But fear the God of Yahweh thy , and he will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.

17:40 But they did not listen, and walked according to the customs of the past.

17:41 Thus these people feared Yahweh, and served their imagery. Their children and grandchildren have done the same, following the example of their fathers to this day.

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Chapter 17 warns people against idolatry and disobedience to God's commands. It also emphasizes the importance of listening to and obeying the words of prophets who speak on behalf of God.

2 Kings chapter 17 tells the story of Israel's fall and Israel's captivity to Assyria. Key scriptures include:

Verse 6: "In the ninth year of Hosea, the king of Assyria conquered Samaria and expelled the children of Israel to Assyria. And he settled them in the towns of Hara, and in Gozan, and in the Medes by the Habor.

Verse 7: "All this happened because the children of Israel sinned against the LORD their God, and the LORD brought them out of the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

They worship other gods.

Verse 18: "The LORD was very angry with the children of Israel, and drove them away from his presence.

Only the great tribes of Judah remained.

Verse 23: "Until the LORD hath removed them from his presence, as he had warned the prophets through all his servants. Therefore, the Israelites were taken captive from their homeland to Assyria, where they are still there.

These verses can be found in 2 Kings 17 of the Christian Bible.

In 2 Kings 17, we see the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel and the exile of its people. This chapter offers a few points to think about:

**Consequences of Continued Idolatry:** This chapter begins with an emphasis on Israel's continued idolatry and disobedience. Despite the numerous warnings given by the prophets, and despite the consequences they faced in the past, the Israelites continued to worship false gods and practice abominable rituals. As a result, God allowed them to be conquered by the Assyrians and taken captive. This account is a



powerful reminder of the consequences of turning away from God and persevering in sinful behavior. It prompts us to look at our own lives and think about idols that might take the place of God in our hearts.

**God's Faithfulness in Warning and His Long Endurance:** This chapter highlights how God sent prophets to warn the Israelites and call them to repentance. God patiently and persistently seeks to return His people to Himself. However, the Israelites did not listen and continued to rebel. Despite their rebellion, God's faithfulness was evident in His warnings and desire for their revival. It highlights God's patient nature and the many opportunities He is willing to give to repentance and redemption.

**The Role of Leadership in Shaping the Spiritual Climate:** This chapter also highlights the role of leadership in shaping a nation's spiritual climate. The wicked kings of Israel who ruled during this time actively preached idolatry and led the people astray. The influence of these leaders led to the collapse of the country. It reminds people that leaders have a responsibility to lead with integrity and justice, as their actions and decisions have a significant impact on the spiritual well-being of the people they lead.

**The Urgency of Repentance and Turning to God:** Despite the severity of God's judgment on Israel, this chapter ends with a glimmer of hope. The Assyrians resettled the land with people from other countries, but they struggled with lions and other dangers. Recognizing that this was a sign of God's punishment, they sought the guidance of the Assyrian king and accepted the teachings of the God of Israel. This account emphasizes the urgency of repentance and turning to God. It reminds us that even in the aftermath of our sin, there is always an opportunity for redemption and restoration when we humbly seek God.

**God's Covenant Faithfulness and His Sovereignty:** Despite Israel's exile, the end of this chapter reminds us of God's faithfulness to his covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Exile was not the end of God's plan for His people.

It emphasizes God's sovereignty over the course of history, as well as His commitment to the fulfillment of promises. It offers hope that God's faithfulness and redemptive purpose will endure even in the face of judgment and exile.

Overall, 2 Kings 17 reflects on the consequences of continued idolatry, God's warnings and the faithfulness of patience, the role of leadership in shaping the spiritual climate, the urgency of repentance and return to God, and the faithfulness of God's covenant and his sovereignty. It prompts us to look at our own lives, think about idols that may be hindering our relationship with God, and respond with repentance and a wholehearted return to Him. It also reminds us of God's faithfulness and His desire to redeem and restore His people, even in judgment.