

## The Assyrian Settlement

2 Kings 17:1-23

### I. Hoshea Had a Big Idea

**A. Hoshea came to power as a lesser evil.** In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. And **he did that which was evil** in the sight of the LORD, **but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.** (2 KINGS 17:1-2)

**B. Playing in the worldly league of the era, Hoshea made a terrible mistake and paid dearly.** **Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant**, and gave him presents. And the king of **Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea**: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year: **therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.** (2 KINGS 17:3-4) [Israel lasted 265 years from the setting up of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.]

**C. Isaiah predicted precisely what followed.** O Assyrian, the **rod of mine anger**, and **the staff in their hand is mine indignation.** I will send him against **an hypocritical nation**, and against the people of my wrath will **I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.** (ISAIAH 10:5-6)

**D. Those who reject God find themselves alone in their distress.** For now **they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD**; what then should a king do to us? (HOSEA 10:3)

### II. Samaria Collapsed

**A. The Assyrians conquered and deported the northern tribes.** Then the **king of Assyria** came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and **besieged it three years.** In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and **carried Israel away into Assyria**, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. (2 KINGS 17:5-6)

**1. OBEY OR PAY was no innovative end-time revelation.** And **I will bring the land into desolation**: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. And **I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.** (LEVITICUS 26:32-33)

**2. The disaster of preferring sin to sanctification was a principal theme from the dawn of the nation.** When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and **ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves**, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any *thing*, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke him to anger: **I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go** over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong *your* days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. And **the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.** And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. (DEUTERONOMY 4:25-28)

**B. Samaria deserved the disaster for being so disrespectful to God.** For so it was, that **the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD** their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, **and had feared other gods**, And **walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out** from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. (2 KINGS 17:7-8)

**C. Abandoning their own safety net, Israel refused to develop another, and then provoked God to do something.** And the children of **Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD** their God, and **they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen** to the fenced city. And **they set them up images** and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: And

there they **burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen** whom the LORD carried away before them; **and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD** to anger: For they served idols, whereof **the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this** thing. (2 KINGS 17:9-12)

### III. God Sets Limits and Follows Through

**A. When God warned, Israel refused to listen.** Yet **the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye 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. **Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks,** like to the neck of their fathers, that **did not believe in the LORD** their God. And **they rejected his statutes, and his covenant** that he made with their fathers, **and his testimonies** which he testified against them; **and they followed vanity, and became vain,** and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom **the LORD had charged them,** that they should not do like them. (2 KINGS 17:13-15)

**B. God did what He said He would do and made Israel disappear.** And **they left all the commandments** of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, **even two calves,** and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And **they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.** Therefore **the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.** (2 KINGS 17:16-18)

**C. The path to exile was marked at every stage by increasing evil.** **Also Judah kept not the commandments** of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. And **the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel,** and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight. For **he rent Israel from the house of David;** and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin. For the children of **Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam** which he did; they departed not from them; **Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets.** So was Israel carried away **out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.** (2 KINGS 17:19-23)

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