

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023 • Read 2 Kings 17**

Questions from the Scripture text: In what year of what king of where, did who become king of whom, where, for how long (v1)? What did he do (v2)? In whose sight? But not as whom? Who did what at that time (v3)? What did Hoshea become? Doing what? But what did the king of Assyria uncover (v4)? With whom did Hoshea ally himself? What did he stop doing? What did Shalmaneser do to Hoshea? What did he do to Samaria (v5)? For how long? Then what did he do to Israel (v6)? Where did he put them? What had Yahweh done for them (v7)? But what (at least eight things) had Israel done in return (v7–12)? According to the statutes of what two entities (v8)? Like which nations (v11)? Whom had the Lord sent to rescue them, how (v13)? How did they respond to this preaching (v14)? Like whom? What did they reject (v15)? Like whom? What did they leave (v16)? In what three stages? How far did it end up going (v17)? What did Yahweh do at this point (v18)? Who was left? But what were they doing (v19)? Like whom (v19)? So how many of the seed of Israel did Yahweh reject (v20)? By doing what? How had this begun in the north (v21)? Whom did they make king instead? But what did Jeroboam do? And what did Israel do (v22)? And not do? Until what (v23)? As foretold by whom? Where is Israel at the time of writing? Whom did Assyria bring to do what (v24)? And Whom did these not fear (v25)? What did Yahweh do to them? To what conclusion do they come (v26)? What solution does the king of Assyria come up with (v27)? Who become their ironic teachers (v28)? What do the nations continue to do in addition (v29–31)? Even unto what point? What do they now add (v32–33)? Whose way of worshiping Yahweh do they learn (cf. v32b)? How does v34 summarize the Samaritan worship? Whose commandments do they not obey? How had Israel gotten its start? What had He said not to do (v35)? Who had given particular commandments for how they should worship (v36–37)? How does He define worshiping Him in a different way (v38)? How had He promised to reward obedience (v39)? But what did they, and the new Samaritans, do (v40)? In combination with what (v41)?

**What should we take away from this summary of the fall—and ongoing apostasy—of the residents of the northern half of the land?** 2Kings 17 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these forty-one verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Lord continues to mercifully warn and urge the residents of the land to worship Him only in the way that He has commanded.**

The “to this day” of v22, and again the “to this day” of v41, help us understand the purpose of this passage. The Holy Spirit is recounting history, in mercy, as an invitation to the readers of the book not to suffer the same consequences as Israel and Judah. By the time this is written and delivered, Israel and Judah are gone. One of the reasons is that they did not heed the merciful reminder that other nations had committed the same sins and suffered the same fate.

But as we see in the chapter, there's a new set of residents making the same old mistakes. So the Spirit invites the reader (which is currently *you*, dear reader) to learn the lesson the seed of Israel didn't learn. Behold the various mercies of God, and respond in the manner prescribed in Romans 2:4. Repent!

**The mercy of the Lord to deliver us.** The subjugation, siege, destruction, and exile of Israel is recounted in vv1–6, but we mustn't see the politics related therein as the cause. The text tells us the cause in v7. They had sinned against Yahweh. Who is Yahweh? Their God Who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh. This is very similar to the language of Ex 20:2 and reminds us that God gives us His commandments against the backdrop of deliverance. Failure to remember His salvation leads to sin, and every sin is inherently a failure to remember His salvation.

**The mercy of the Lord to establish us.** The Lord had not only saved them out of Egypt. He had cast out nations in order to establish them in their land. v8 is analogous to v6b; if they will not obey Yahweh, Who placed them in their land, then He will give them over to Assyria, who will place them in another land. What do we have that we have not received? Everything that we have has been given to us by God. Even ourselves. We must remember that we are not our own; we are bought with a price.

**The mercy of the Lord to give us good commandments.** Yahweh had added another mercy to deliverance and provision: commandments (v15a, 16a). And when they had turned from them, He sent them new prophets to urge them back to keeping them (v13). Even now, the Lord continues to give us His good Word. Will we have grace from Him to receive it with meekness, as the implanted Word that is able to save our souls (James 1:21–26)? Or will Scripture like 2Kings receive the pocket-veto of laziness, or of endless qualifications about why it doesn't really apply to us? And, then, whom will we have to blame when our family ends up outside the covenant, or our congregation's lampstand is removed?

**The mercy of the Lord to give bad examples as a warning.** Israel had the warning example of Egypt (v7). They had the warning example of the Canaanites (v8). They had the various warnings of disciplinary providence that accompanied the messages of the prophets referenced in v13. The southern kingdom of Judah had the warning example of the northern kingdom of Israel (v19). Israel had had the warning example of what had happened even to the line of David (v21a), but Jeroboam immediately instituted the Yahweh-worship traditions that went back to Aaron (v21b–22, cf. 1Ki 12:26–33; Ex 32:4–6).

vv24–41 show us that if God had wanted mixed worship, He could get it just as easily from pagans. The mixture that we see in this passage doesn't differ much from the mixture that Israel had offered in its latter days. It is an irony that priests from Jeroboam's made-up lines (v27–28; the Levites had gone south, cf. 1Ki 12:31; 2Chr 11:13–14) were sent back into the land to reproduce the same mixed religion complete with yet another new priesthood (v32). They did not learn from the former examples (cf. Jn 4:21–22). Will we (cf. Jn 4:23–26)?

**Who has given us the way to worship? By what mercies does He urge us to worship only that way?**

*Sample prayer: Lord, we praise You for the mercy of deliverance, the mercy of provision, the mercy of commandment, the mercy of warning, and the mercy of history. Forgive us for how slow we are to respond to the riches of Your goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering. Grant, by Your Spirit, that Your goodness would lead us to repentance, through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP72A “God, Give Your Judgments to the King” or TPH72A “O God, Your Judgments Give the King”**

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2, King 17. These are God's words. And the 12th year of Ahas, king of Judah Hashaya, son of Ella became king of Israel and Samaria. And he rained nine years and he did evil. In the sight of Yahoo. Not as the king's of Israel who are before him. Chamanese her king of Assyria came up against him and his shed, became his vassal.

And paid him tribute money. And the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshaya. For he had sent messengers to Seoul can give Egypt. And brought no tribute to the king of Assyria as he had done here by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shot him up and banned him in prison.

Now, the king of Assyria went throughout all the land and went up to Samaria and besieged it for 3 years, In the 9th year of Hashaya, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria. And place them in, hella. And buy the Habor, the river of goes in.

Linden, the city of the cities of the means. For. So it was that the children of Israel had sinned against Yahweh. Their god, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And they had feared other gods and had walked and the statutes of the nations whom Yahweh had passed out from before the children of Israel.

End of the kings of Israel, which they had made. Also the children of Israel secretly did against Yahweh, their god things that were not right. And they built for themselves, high places, and all their cities. From Watchtower to Fortified city. They set up for themselves, sacred pillars and wooden.

Images on every high hill and under every green tree there, they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations. Whom y'all had carried away before

them. And they did wicked things to provoke your way to anger. For they served idols of which y'all had said to them, you shall not do this thing.

Your childhood testified against Israel and against Judah by all of his prophets, every Sierra saying turn from your evil ways, Keep my commandments in my statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers. And which I sent to you by my servants, the prophets Nevertheless, they would not hear but stiffen their necks like the neck of their fathers who did not believe and Yahweh, they're gone.

They rejected his statutes and his covenant. That he had made with their fathers and his testimonies which he had testified against them. They followed idols and came idolaters went after the nations who were all, ran them concerning whom y'all had charged them that they should not do like them.

So they left all the commandments of Yahweh, their god made for themselves a molded image and two calves. Made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven and served bail. And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire. Practiced witchcraft. So you say, And sold themselves to do evil in the side of Yahweh, to provoke him to anger.

Therefore, y'all way was very angry with Israel. And removed them from his site. There was none left, but the tribe of Judah alone. Also Judah did not keep the commandments of y'all were their God. But walked in the statute of Israel which they made. And y'all ever rejected all the descendants of Israel?

Afflicted them and deliver them into the hand of plunderers until he cast them from his sight. For he tore Israel from the house of David and they made Jerobone the son of me back king and then Jerobone drove Israel from following Yahweh. And made them. Commit a great sin.

For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of gerobo much he did. And they did not depart from them. Until you all the way removed Israel from out of his sight. Has he had said by all his servants, the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria as it is to this day.

And the king of a Syria brought people from Babylon, Kutha Ava. Hematin from Sephora volume and place them in the cities of Samaria, instead of the children of Israel. When they took possession of Samaria, dwelt in its cities, And it was so at the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear your way and therefore you always sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

So they spoke to the king of a serious thing. The nations whom you have removed and placed in the city of Samaria, do not know the rituals of the god of the land. Therefore he has sent lions among them. And indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the god of a land.

Then the king of Assyria commanded saying, send there. One of the priests whom you brought from there. Let him go and dwell there. Let him teach the rituals of the god of land. Then one of the priests and they had carried away from Samaria, came and dropped in Bethel and taught them how they should fear your way.

However, every nation continue to make gods of its own and put them in the shrines on the high places, which is Samaritan's had made, Every nation in the cities where they dwelt. And then a babbling made suck up on off them and of course made their call then if I'm off made Ashima.

The Avites made nib has and tartech, the separovites burned their children in fire. The gods of separov iron. So they feared Yahweh. And from every class they appointed for themselves, priests of the high places, Your sacrificed for them, and the shrines of the high places, they feared Yahweh. Yet they served their own gods.

According to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. To this day. They continue practicing the former rituals, they do not fear your way. Nor do they follow their their statutes nor their ordinances, or the law and commandment, which Yahweh had commanded the children of Jacob.

Him, he named its real. With whom y'all had made a covenant and charged them saying you shall not fear other gods. Nor bad end to them nor serve them or sacrifice to them. But Yahweh who brought you up out from the land of Egypt. With great power and an outstretched arm, him yourself here.

Him, you saw worship to him, you shall offer sacrifices. And the statutes the ordinances, the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you. You shall be careful to observe forever. You shall not fear other gods and the commandment that I have made with you. Sorry, and the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget.

Marshall, you fear other dots. But y'all were your god, you shall fear and he will deliver you. From the hand of all your enemies. However, they did not obey but they followed their former rituals. So these nations feared Yahweh, yet served their carved images. Also, their children and their children's children.

Have continued doing as their fathers did. Even. To this day. So far the reading of god's inspired at it, Aaron's work. No, in this, passage the Holy spirit. Pulls back the curtain for us a little bit and gives us a hint so that we may understand a little bit more of why second kings is written.

It is a historical account, it's too late. For the nation of Israel. And the north of the divided kingdom, or the nation of Judah, and the south of the divided kingdom. The passage itself says that Judah. I also did not keep the commandments, but did the same and that they were exiled in verse 19 in following, And yet, we have The inverse 23 as it is to this day.

And we have in verse 34 to this day, they continue practicing their former rituals. And you have in verse 41. And their children and their children's children have continued doing us their fathers did even to this day. And so you see that second king 17 and 2nd Kings is a hole is a book written out of God's mercy to Samaritans.

God's mercy to the mixed breed in the northern kingdom. That is descended from what few Israelites were left in the land or returned to the land and those other nations that Assyria had brought in and settled the land Mixed race people with mixed religion. Which is why when you get to the time of Jesus, the Judeans, the Jews.

I had nothing to do with Samaritans. They thought they were so much better, although this passage tells us that the Jews were just as bad as those from the north. And yet the Jews did at least have the word of God. But Will deal with Jews and Samaritans in another passage here.

The first thing to see is that this passage is A merciful scripture by the Holy Spirit to the children and grandchildren. Of this mixed people with the mixed religion, urging them. To abandon, not only the worship that had come from those other nations into the northern kingdom. But to abandon the worship that was

taught to them when they arrived in the northern kingdom.

Because, What happened when they arrived in the northern kingdom? And they weren't doing any all-way worship at all. And God was sending lions to tear them to pieces and eat them. What did they do? They retrieved one of the priests who had been exiled. From. The northern kingdom. Was this a priest from the tribe of Levi?

No. How do we know? Because in first Kings 12, 26 to 33 where the geroboam religion was made up and Bethel and Dan And in 2nd Corinthians, 11:13 and 14. It tells us that when Gerardo made up his religion, he decided to make priests from other tribes than the Levites.

After all. If you do things, God's way it's very narrow-minded. It's overly precise in particular. Why shouldn't people from the other tribes get to be priests? But when he did that second Corinthians 11:13 and sorry, Corinthians 2nd Chronicles 11 versus 13. And 14 tells us that the little Levitical priests all moved south, they went to Judah.

So who are these priests that have been exiled for from Samaria? And then brought back by the Assyrians to stop the lion plague, Well. They're priests from the cult of Jarboa. They're priests who are under the name. Yahweh who brought you up from the land of Egypt. That's what duraboa said.

The calf worship in Bethle and Dan was for, you know, where he learned that. You learned it from Aaron who had said that about the calf worship at Mount Sinai in Exodus, chapter 32, And so it was very traditional and very ancient and it was in the name of Yahweh and it was to celebrate the saving work of your way and bringing them up out of Egypt.

But just, as the scripture tells us in Romans 9, not all who are descended from Israel are from Israel. So, the scripture tells us the second Kings 17, not all fearing of Yahweh is fearing of Yahweh. Great. It says they feared y'all hey. And then it describes how they feared.

Y'all they as instructed by this false priest, from the false cult of gerbaum, the son of Nibette who was imitating. The, the cult or the religion that was invented. By Aaron. At Sinai. And so where it says they did fear all day. It also says They did not fear off a verse 34 to this day, they continue practicing formal rituals.

They do not fear your way. And so it gives us several times this if you're violating the second, commandment your violating, the first commandment If you're worshiping the Lord in your own way, it's not actually the Lord that you're worshiping. Kind of like if you have bread and wine and you read the words of the institution, Words of institution and you do it on the Lord's day in the assembly.

The apostle under the inspiration of the Holy spirit, might give you some surprising news when he says, actually it's not the Lord's supper. That you're eating it, although you're calling it that You're eating and drinking judgment. You're not. Feeding upon the body. And the blunt. Of the Lord. Jesus Christ by faith.

And so if we come and we say, we're worshiping God, we're just keeping our own day that we have set apart to remember these saving acts of God. And we're in the service. Having these additional ways of praising him that are very worshipful and meaningful to us. And they've been worshipful and meaningful to the church for hundreds of years.

How can you say that they're wrong? Yes, I will. 2 Kings 17 says, not all fearing of Yahweh. Is actually fearing of Yahai. And God and his mercy to Samaritans. Wrote them. This chapter hundreds of years. After Israel was already exiled after Judah was already exiled. So that he would turn them from false worship and they wouldn't say things like, But the worship is traditional.

But it feels worshipful to us. But this is how it connects with our culture that we are from. Because that is the way of thinking. That provokes God Tirath. When he is patient. There comes a day, when the time of patients has run out. Isn't it very interesting? That the one king of the northern kingdom.

About whom it says, Not quite as evil as the other guys. He was the one. From whom and under whom the Lord, finally brought the exile of the northern kingdom. It was too late. Although Josea. Was not so bad as the kings that came before him. Yet, it was too late.

And the Lord. Gave the northern kingdom. Into the hands. Of the king of Assyria. And so he had showed the mercy, he had showed the mercy to begin with, right? He describes himself as the god who brought them out of Egypt. He describes himself as the god who had cast out the other nations of the land, we're about to sing it about it.

That's the song that we're singing this week, Psalm 80, right?

In Psalm 80, you're saying about the vine being brought out of Egypt and the Lord casting others out so that he could plant it there. The Lord was merciful. The Lord was gracious. At the beginning, the Lord was merciful to give them good commandments. The ordinance isn't law on commandments, which you always had commanded, the, the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel.

The Covenant. That he had given them, the statutes and ordinances, and law, and commandment, which he wrote for them. To be careful to observe forever, the covenant that he made with them. And so verse, 34, and 35, and 36 and 37. So the Lord had been gracious in redeeming them, the Lord have been gracious and establishing them, the Lord had been gracious and giving them good commandments, the Lord had been gracious and being patient with them.

And what does Romans 2 say? It says Just because the Lord hasn't punished you yet, it doesn't mean that what you're doing is, okay, it means you should see how patient the Lord is and say, look at the riches of his grace. Look at the riches of his patients.

Look at the riches of his mercy. Shouldn't we love and obey a God who is so patient with us? Don't you not see that that kindness? And the forbearance of God is meant to lead you to repentance. And so if it's been 100 hundreds of years, Of the Lord being patient.

Well, the church is in wickedness, observe advent season. Well, the church is in wickedness. Observe A season in the name of a pagan goddess in celebration of death and resurrection of Christ as they say that it is. Yes, I know. If you celebrate it your way, you're not fearing your way.

You're not praising Jesus. Not all fearing. Yahweh is fearing Yahwe. You don't say, God must be okay with it. You say, look at how patient God has been. Does not a god. Who shows such patience and bears with us in such mercy and such grace is he not worthy?

Of our repentance and our love. And our obedience, he's been merciful to deliver us to begin with. He's been merciful to give us good instructions for how to worship him. He's been merciful to bear patiently with our sin. He's even been merciful to give us Bad examples and what he's done to them.

Israel and Judah should have Should have learned. From what God did to Egypt and what God did to the Canaanites. Israel in the north should have learned from what God did to the house of David. And yet what was the the first king of Israel in the north was who Jeroboam He didn't learn from what happened to the line of David.

He immediately instituted false religion, Judah should have learned from what happened to the northern kingdom. What God did to the northern to the northern kingdom. But Judah didn't learn. They did, as the kings of Israel had dead had done. The people came into the land. Should have gotten a clue and said, not.

Let's retrieve one of the Israelites whom we have exiled.

Let's go, south. Find one of the Levites. Who could tell us what the law of God says. About how to worship Yahweh. And the Samaritans should have learned that's what second king 17 is for, isn't it? This Samaritan should have learned from what happened to Israel and Judah. The Samaritans, didn't.

So, why is it written here? Well, first Corinthians 10 tells us All these things. Came upon them but they were written down for whose instruction For our instruction upon whom the ends of the ages of come. Is God not merciful? To give us these examples. And should we not respond?

To the display of his mercy. By repenting. Of our own sin. Isn't that what Jesus is saying in John 4? When he's sitting at the well, with a woman from Samaria. And they're having a conversation about. Worship. And he says, An answer to her question. No, actually, you guys were wrong.

And the Jews were right? They had the Bible. You should have been going to Jerusalem the whole time. You should have been worshipping at the temple the whole time. You should have been worshipping only under the priesthood and through the sacrifices and in the place that God has given to worship.

Their worship is expiring. Because Jesus is here now. And the place of worship is through Jesus Christ in heaven. And the sacrifice of worship is only the ones for all sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. There are no more priests. There are no more sacrifices, there's not the Roman mass, there's nothing altar in the front of the church where you go up to the altar, there's not some, some new class of priests in the Church of Jesus christ.

There's not a new class of instrumentalists, like the sons of Korra, there's not a new class of singers, like the sons of ASAP. There's not a new class of those who offer the sacrifice. Like the sons of Aaron. No, no. You worship through Christ. Only in the way that the Lord has commanded the recipe principle of worship to take the language from our passage in the Lord's day evening.

Sermon This was written for us. So that we would only come through Jesus. In the public worship. Only joined that worship that is in heaven. And not do. What comes from the minds of men on earth? Because it connects better. With the cultures, from which We have come. Got a spirit that he has sent Christ.

And we must worship only through Jesus. In the worship that he leads from heaven. Let's pray.

Our Father in heaven. We pray that you had blessed to us. This passage we thank you for your mercy and patience. With Israel and Judah. We thank you for your mercy and patience with Samaritans. We thank you for your mercy and patience, even with us. And we pray. Oh Lord.

That the riches of your goodness and your kindness and forbearance. Would lead us to repentance. And that we would not store up wrath weather against ourselves individually for the day of wrath. That comes in the last day. Or against our congregations corporately. For the day of wrath, that might come in the removing of a lampstand.

We thank you that all those these things happened to them. That you have caused them to be written down for our instruction. Upon whom the ends of the ages have come. And so by your spirit, we pray that you would give us repentance and faith and love and obedience in Jesus Christ through Jesus Christ and even to Jesus Christ.

And his name, we ask it. Amen.