

2 Kings 17 - Annals of Both Kingdoms: Hoshea's evil reign in Israel; Captivity of Israel by Assyria; Assyria Resettles Samaria

II. The divided kingdom from the North-South division until the Assyrian invasion (1 Kings 12:1—2 Kings 17:41)

(31) Hoshea's reign in the North (17:1-6)

(32) Historical and theological explanation for the fall of Israel (17:7-41)

(A) Reasons (17:7-17)

(a) Followed the other gods (17:7-12)

(b) Rejected prophets (17:13-14)

(c) Rejected the covenant (17:15-17)

(B) Results (17:18)

(C) Judah failed to learn from Israel's example (17:19-23)

(D) Syncretism during the Assyrian captivity (17:24-41)

2 Kings 17

(31) Hoshea's reign in the North (17:1-6)

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1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years.

- "...Hoshea" - "Yahweh Saves"

— He became king in 732 BC, the 12th year of Ahaz. Ahaz's reign, which began in 744 BC, included 9 years as vice-regent (744-735 BC), 4 years as co-regent with his father Jotham (735-732 BC), and 16 years as principal king (732-715 BC)

— Hoshea began his reign of 9 years in the 20th year of Jotham (15:30), which was 732 BC. Jotham's 20 years (750-732 BC) included his 16-year reign (750-735 BC) and 4 years

as co-regent with Ahaz (735-732 BC)

— Jotham's reign from 750-732 BC appears to be 18 or 19 years, but it was considered 20 years because he reigned 18 full years and parts of two other years

2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, only not as the kings of Israel who preceded him.

2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, only not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

2 He practiced what the LORD considered to be evil, though not like the kings of Israel who had preceded him.

2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

- Hoshea was an evil king, but not as bad as some of his predecessors

3 Shalmaneser the king of Assyria marched against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute.

3 Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute.

3 King Shalmaneser of Assyria attacked him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid tribute to him.

3 Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents.

- Shalmaneser V (727-722 BC) had succeeded his father Tiglath-Pileser III on the throne of Assyria

— Hoshea became a servant of Assyria rather than a servant of Yahweh

4 But the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea, who had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and had *then* brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year; so the king of Assyria arrested him and confined him in prison.

4 But the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea, who had sent messengers to So king of Egypt and had offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as *he had done* year by year; so the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison.

4 But the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy involving Hoshea, who had sent envoys to King So of Egypt and stopped offering tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done annually. As a result, the king of Assyria placed him under arrest and sent him to prison.

4 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.

- Hoshea was not a faithful servant to Yahweh, or to Shalmaneser

— This led to the end of his freedom and the three-year siege of his capital (v5)

5 Then the king of Assyria invaded the entire land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years.

5 Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land and went up to Samaria and besieged it three years.

5 After this, the king of Assyria invaded the entire land, approached Samaria, and began a three year siege.

5 Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and led *the people of* Israel into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, *on* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, *on* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

6 As a result, during the ninth year of the reign of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and took the Israelis off to Assyria, placing them in Halah, along the Habor River in Gozan, and in cities ruled by the Medes.

6 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.

- It took Shalmaneser three years to capture Samaria

— He took Samaria in Hoshea's ninth year (722 BC) and deported many of the people to Assyria (18:9-11; Cf. Deut 28:64)

— The Israelites were sent to various parts of the Assyrian Empire

The Northern Kingdom's (Israel) Termination as a Nation

After just over two centuries, the Northern Kingdom of Israel ceased to exist as a nation (931-722 BC). Seven of her 20 kings were assassinated. All were judged to be evil by God.

(32) Historical and theological explanation for the fall of Israel (17:7-41)

(A) Reasons (17:7-17)

In this section the writer listed Israel's transgressions of God's Word that resulted in her going into captivity. Ironically, Israel's last king had sought help from Egypt, from which Israel had fled 724 years earlier.

1. They feared other gods (17:7; Cf. Ex 20:3; Judges 6:10)
2. They adopted Canaanite customs (17:8; Cf. Lev 18:3; Deut 18:9)
3. They adopted customs condemned by the Mosaic Law (17:8; Cf. 16:3; 17:19)
4. They practiced secret sins (17:9)

5. They built pagan high places (17:9; Cf. Deut. 12:2-7,13-14)
6. They made many sacred pillars and Asherim (17:10; Cf. Ex 34:12-14)
7. They burned incense to other gods (17:11)
8. They did evil things that provoked Yahweh (17:11)
9. They served idols (17:12; Cf. Ex 20:4)
10. They refused to heed God's warnings (17:13-14)
11. They became obstinate (17:14; Cf. Ex 32:9; 33:3)
12. They rejected God's statutes (17:15)
13. They rejected God's covenant (17:15; Cf. Ex 24:6-8; Deut 29:25).
14. They pursued vanity (17:15; Cf. Deut 32:21)
15. They became vain (17:15)
16. They followed foreign nations (17:15; Cf. Deut 12:30-31)
17. They forsook Yahweh's commandments (17:16)
18. They made molten calves (17:16; Cf. Ex 20:4)
19. They made an Asherah (17:16; Cf. Ex 20:4)
20. They worshipped the stars (17:16; Cf. Deut 4:15,19; Amos 5:26)
21. They served Baal (17:16)
22. They practiced child sacrifice (17:17; Cf. Lev 18:21; Deut 12:31)
23. They practiced witchcraft (17:17; Cf. Lev 19:26; Deut 18:10-12)
24. They sold themselves to do evil (17:17; Cf. 21:20)

Though God allowed Judah to remain, she was not innocent (v19)

The cult of Jeroboam was the major source of Israel's apostasy (v21-22)

(a) Followed the other gods (17:7-12)

7 Now *this* came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods.

7 Now *this* came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods

7 This happened because the Israelis had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt and from the domination of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, because they were fearing other gods,

7 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,

8 They also followed the customs of the nations whom the LORD had driven out from the sons of Israel, and *in the customs* of the kings of Israel which they had introduced.

8 and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel, and *in the customs* of the kings of Israel which they had introduced.

8 and because they were following the rules of the nations whom the LORD had expelled before the Israelis and that the kings of Israel had practiced.

8 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.

- The defeat and deportation of Israel took place because the Israelites sinned against God

— In view of His miraculous liberating redemption of the nation from Egyptian bondage, their sin was even more serious

— How ironic that the last king Hoshea had sought help from Egypt (v4) when 724 years earlier (1446 BC) Israel had finally escaped from Egypt

9 And the sons of Israel did things secretly against the LORD their God which were not right. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.

9 The sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.

9 The Israelis practiced secret things that were not right, offending the LORD their God. In addition, they built high places for use by all their towns, watchtowers, and fortified cities.

9 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.

- Israel did not forsake the LORD completely, but worshiped other gods (idols; Cf. v12; Ex 20:3)

— They compromised with their pagan neighbors and followed the practices of the very nations God dispossessed because of their wickedness

10 And they set up for themselves memorial stones and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree,

10 They set for themselves *sacred* pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree,

10 They set up pillars and Asherim on every high hill and in the shade of every green tree,

10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:

11 and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations *did* that the LORD had taken into exile before them; and they did evil things, provoking the LORD.

11 and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations *did* which the LORD had carried away to exile before them; and they did evil things provoking the LORD.

11 where they made offerings on all the high places, as did the nations whom the LORD had expelled before them. They also practiced other wickedness, provoking the LORD to become angry,

11 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:

12 They served idols, concerning which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

12 They served idols, concerning which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

12 and they served idols, a practice that the LORD had warned them, "You are not to do this."

12 For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

(b) Rejected prophets (17:13-14)

13 Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets *and* every seer, saying, "Turn back from your evil ways and keep My commandments *and* My statutes in accordance with all the Law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets."

13 Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets *and* every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets."

13 Nevertheless, the LORD had warned both Israel and Judah by means of every prophet and seer: "Turn away from your evil practices and keep my commandments and statutes according to the entire Law that I gave your ancestors and that I sent to you through my servants, the prophets."

13 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.

- Their worship involved wicked behavior that angered the LORD (Cf. 13:3; 17:17). Their idolatry involved disobeying a plainly revealed prohibition by God.

— God had sent the prophets Ahijah, Elijah, Micaiah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos, and Hosea to the northern kingdom of Israel; and Shemaiah, Joel, Isaiah and Micah to the southern kingdom of Judah.

- Later on He sent Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah
- Every prophet warned the people of both kingdoms what would take place if they did not return to God and forsake their evil ways
- The Israelites deliberately rejected the covenant God had made with their ancestors as well as His decrees

14 However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

14 However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

14 But they would not listen. Instead, they were stubborn, just like their ancestors had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

14 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.

(c) Rejected the covenant (17:15-17)

15 They rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings which He gave them. And they followed idols and became empty, and followed the nations that surrounded them, *about* which the LORD had commanded them not to do as they *did*.

15 They rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers and His warnings with which He warned them. And they followed vanity and became vain, and *went* after the nations which surrounded them, concerning which the LORD had commanded them not to do like them.

15 They rejected the LORD's statutes, the covenant that he had made with their ancestors, and his warnings that he gave them. They pursued meaninglessness—and became meaningless themselves—as they followed the lifestyles of the nations that surrounded them, a practice that the LORD had warned them not to do.

15 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.

- They took on the characteristics of the idols, which they put first in their lives (Cf. Ps 135:15-18)

— They imitated the godless nations around them in spite of God's order not to follow their example. They practiced the things God had told them not to do.

16 And they abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves cast metal images: two calves. And they made an Asherah, and worshiped all the heavenly lights, and served Baal.

16 They forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves molten images, *even* two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal.

16 They abandoned all of the commands given by the LORD their God, crafted for themselves cast images of two calves, constructed an Asherah, worshipped all of the stars in heaven, and served Baal.

16 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.

- Forsaking all God's commands, they fashioned two calves out of metal and worshiped them at Dan and Bethel (Cf. 1 Kings 12:28-29; Deut 4:14-19)

- In Samaria, their capital city, Israel set up a pole that symbolized the Canaanite fertility goddess Asherah (2 Kings 13:6)

- They worshiped the planets and stellar constellations (Cf. 21:5; 23:4-5) with their neighbors and practiced astrology (Cf. Deut 4:19)

- They also worshiped Baal, the male fertility god of the Near East

17 Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and they practiced divination and interpreting omens, and gave themselves over to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him.

17 Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him.

17 They passed their sons and daughters through fire, practiced divination, cast spells, and sold themselves to practice what the LORD considered to be evil, thereby provoking him.

17 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.

- They even followed the brutal practice of offering their children as human sacrifices to placate the gods (Cf. 16:3; Deut 18:10)

- They practiced divination (witchcraft) and sorcery (consulted evil spirits; Cf. Deut 18:10-11)

- In doing all these things the Israelites sold themselves to sin, thereby provoking the LORD to anger (Cf. 13:3; 17:11)

(B) Results (17:18)

18 So the LORD was very angry with Israel, and He removed them from His sight; no one was left except the tribe of Judah.

18 So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah.

18 As a result, the LORD was angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. No one was left except for the tribe of Judah.

18 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.

- Because they were so rebellious, God in anger at their attitude disciplined His people by deporting them from His presence (i.e., out of the land; Cf. v23, where He had promised to dwell with them)

— Exile was one of the curses (judgments) God said He would bring on the nation if the people disobeyed Him (Deut 28:45-48)

(C) Judah failed to learn from Israel's example (17:19-23)

19 Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God either, but they followed the customs which Israel had introduced.

19 Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced.

19 But Judah, too, did not keep the commands of the LORD their God. Instead, they lived the lifestyle that Israel had chosen,

19 Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

- Even the Southern Kingdom disobeyed the LORD. Many Judahites imitated the Israelites and adopted the practices their brethren had introduced.

— Because of this God punished the Southern Kingdom too. He sent Judah affliction and let the people suffer at the hands of other nations that plundered them till they too were led captive out of their land.

20 So the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and handed them over to plunderers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

20 The LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

20 so the LORD rejected all of the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and handed them over to the control of plunderers until he had thrown them away from his presence.

20 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.

These statements (v18b-20) are editorial comments inserted by the writer of 2 Kings after Judah had been taken into captivity.

21 When He had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel away from following the LORD and misled them into a great sin.

21 When He had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel away from following the LORD and made them commit a great sin.

21 He ripped them away from the heritage of David, even as the people appointed Nebat's son Jeroboam to be king. Jeroboam drove Israel away from following the LORD and made them commit great sin.

21 For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

- God tore Israel away from Judah (the house or dynasty of David) in Rehoboam's day because of the sins of Solomon (1 Kings 11:9-13)

— The Israelites then made Jeroboam their king. He enticed the nation away from God and caused them to worship two golden calves (Cf. 2 Kings 17:16).

22 And the sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he committed; they did not desist from them

22 The sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them

22 The Israelis practiced all the sins that Jeroboam had practiced, and never wavered from them

22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;

23 until the LORD removed Israel from His sight, just as He had spoken through all His servants the prophets. So Israel went into exile from their own land to Assyria until this day.

23 until the LORD removed Israel from His sight, as He spoke through all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away into exile from their own land to Assyria until this day.

23 until the LORD removed Israel from his presence, just as he had warned through all of his prophets who served him. So Israel was carried off into exile from their own land into Assyria, where they remain to this day.

23 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.
- For these reasons—flagrant idolatry, obstinate disobedience, star worship, child sacrifices, and occult practices—the Israelites were removed from the land God had given them as their home into exile in Assyria. They were still in Assyria when the writer penned these words.

(D) Syncretism during the Assyrian captivity (17:24-41)

24 Then the king of Assyria brought *people* from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and settled *them* in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.

24 The king of Assyria brought *men* from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and settled *them* in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they possessed Samaria and lived in its cities.

24 Because the king of Assyria brought captives from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sephar-vaim and settled them in the cities of Samaria to replace the Israelis, the settlers possessed Samaria and lived in its cities.

24 And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

- The king of Assyria was probably Sargon II (722-705 BC). Shalmaneser V died either during or shortly after the siege of Samaria.

- The policy of Assyria toward conquered lands was to deport many of the most influential inhabitants and then import many leading Assyrians to take their places — Sargon brought people from Babylon, Cuthah (a city northeast of Babylon), Avva (between Anah and the Habor River; Cf. v6, on the Euphrates River), Hamath (a city in Aram on the Orontes River), and Sepharvaim (people from Sippar on the Euphrates above Babylon) and settled them in the towns of Israel, now called the Assyrian province of Samaria.

— They took leadership in the province and settled down in various towns. This planted the roots of what later became known as Samaritans (sometimes called “half-Jews”) (Cf. John 4:9)

25 And at the beginning of their living there, they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them that were killing some of them.

25 At the beginning of their living there, they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them which killed some of them.

25 When they first began to live there, the settlers did not fear the LORD, so he sent lions among them, and they killed a few of them.

25 And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them.

- Because the Assyrians who inhabited Samaria did not worship the LORD, He sent lions among them

— The lions already in Israel may have multiplied more quickly because of the reduced human population

— God sometimes used these wild animals as His agents of judgment (Cf. 1 Kings 13:23-26; 20:36); they killed some of the people

26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have taken into exile and settled in the cities of Samaria do not know the custom of the God of the land; so He has sent lions among them, and behold, they are killing them because they do not know the custom of the God of the land."

26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have carried away into exile in the cities of Samaria do not know the custom of the god of the land; so he has sent lions among them, and behold, they kill them because they do not know the custom of the god of the land."

26 As a result, they reported to the king of Assyria, "Because the nations whom you exiled to live in the cities of Samaria don't know the law of the god of the land, he has sent lions among them. Look how the lions are killing them, because they don't know the law of the god of the land!"

26 Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

- The Assyrians interpreted the lions as a punishment from the God of Israel, whom they viewed as a deity who needed to be placated

— Since they did not know how to appease Him they reported the situation to Sargon

27 Then the king of Assyria issued commands, saying, "Take one of the priests there whom you led into exile, and have him go and live there; and have him teach them the custom of the God of the land."

27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Take there one of the priests whom you carried away into exile and let him go and live there; and let him teach them the custom of the god of the land."

27 So the king of Assyria issued this order: "Take one of the priests whom you carried away and let him go back and live there. Let him teach them the law of the god of the land."

27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land.

28 So one of the priests whom they had led into exile from Samaria came and lived in Bethel, and taught them how they were to fear the LORD.

28 So one of the priests whom they had carried away into exile from Samaria came and lived at Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

28 So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria went to live in Bethel to teach them how they ought to fear the LORD.

28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

- The priest moved to Bethel. If this had been his former dwelling place he was probably one of the priests involved in worshipping the golden calf there.

Assyrian Settlers Create Lasting Corruption

29 But every nation was *still* making gods of its own, and they put them in the houses of the high places which the people of Samaria had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived.

29 But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the houses of the high places which the people of Samaria had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived.

29 Nevertheless, each nation continued to craft their own gods and install them in the temples on the high places that the people of Samaria had constructed—every nation in their own cities where they continued to live.

29 Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.

- Each national group of Assyrian immigrants set up shrines for the worship of their own pagan gods wherever they settled, using the high places the Israelites had frequented

— The national groups (Cf. v24) and their idols are listed (v30-31) along with some of their pagan practices

30 The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

30 The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

30 Settlers from Babylon built Succoth-benoth, settlers from Cuth built Nergal, settlers from Hamath built Ashima,

30 And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima,

31 and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites were burning their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

31 and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech the gods of Sepharvaim.

31 and settlers from Avva built Nibhaz and Tartak. The residents of Sephar-vaim burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sephar-vaim.

31 And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 They also feared the LORD and appointed from their entire population priests of the high places, who acted for them in the houses of the high places.

32 They also feared the LORD and appointed from among themselves priests of the high places, who acted for them in the houses of the high places.

32 Because they feared the LORD, they also appointed from among themselves priests for the high places who acted on their behalf in the temples on the high places.

32 So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.

33 They feared the LORD, yet they were serving their own gods in accordance with the custom of the nations from among whom they had been taken into exile.

33 They feared the LORD and served their own gods according to the custom of the nations from among whom they had been carried away into exile.

33 While they continued to fear the LORD, they served their own gods, following the custom of the nations whom they had carried away from there.

33 They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.

- The writer wrote that these people worshiped the LORD as well as their own gods

— They were polytheists, so they did not hesitate to worship Yahweh as well as their other gods

- This was forbidden by the Lord (Ex 20:3)

The Continuing Result of the Captivity (v34-41)

34 To this day they act in accordance with the earlier customs: they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes, their ordinances, the Law, or the commandments which the LORD commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel.

34 To this day they do according to the earlier customs: they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances or the law, or the commandments which the LORD commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel;

34 To this very day, they still follow the former customs: they don't fear the LORD and they don't live in accordance with the statutes, ordinances, laws, or commandments that the LORD had given to the descendants of Jacob—whom he renamed Israel—

34 Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;

God had changed Jacob's name to Israel to show that he and his descendants were to become a distinct people in the world. This distinctiveness was being broken down by the Samaritans. In v35-39 there are several loose quotations of passages from the Mosaic Law that shows the distinctiveness of Israel in God's eyes: Ex 6:6; 9:15; 14:15-30; 20:4-5,23; Lev 19:32; Deut 4:23,34; 5:6,15,32; 6:12-13; 7:11, 25. These passages warned the Israelites what they could expect if they broke the Mosaic Covenant.

35 The LORD made a covenant with them and commanded them, saying, "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them.

35 with whom the LORD made a covenant and commanded them, saying, "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down yourselves to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them.

35 and with whom the LORD had made a covenant when he gave these orders to them: "You are not to fear other gods, bow down to them, serve them, or sacrifice to them.

35 With whom the LORD had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them:

36 But the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall bow down, and to Him you shall sacrifice.

36 But the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall bow yourselves down, and to Him you shall sacrifice.

36 Instead, it is to be the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, showing great power and public demonstrations of might, whom you are to fear, worship, and to whom

you are to offer sacrifice.

36 But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.

37 And the statutes, the ordinances, the Law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall take care to do always; and you shall not fear other gods.

37 The statutes and the ordinances and the law and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall observe to do forever; and you shall not fear other gods.

37 Furthermore, you are to be careful to observe forever the statutes, ordinances, law, and the commandment that he wrote for you. And you are not to fear other gods.

37 And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods.

38 The covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods.

38 The covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods.

38 You are not to forget the covenant that I've made with you, and you are not to fear other gods.

38 And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods.

39 But you shall fear the LORD your God; and He will save you from the hand of all your enemies."

39 But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

39 But you are to fear the LORD, and he will deliver you from the control of all your enemies."

39 But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.

40 However, they did not listen, but they kept acting in accordance with their earlier custom.

40 However, they did not listen, but they did according to their earlier custom.

40 But they wouldn't listen. Instead, they did what they had been doing before.

40 Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner.

41 So while these nations feared the LORD, they also served their idols; their children likewise and their grandchildren, just as their fathers did, they do to this day.

41 So while these nations feared the LORD, they also served their idols; their children likewise and their grandchildren, as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

41 These nations feared the LORD and also served their carved images. Their descendants did the same thing, as did their grandchildren. Just as their ancestors had done, they also do the same thing to this day.

41 So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.