

2 Kings 17:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 17: Covenant judgment and exile. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. This passage occurs during the decline toward Israel's exile, demonstrating how persistent covenant unfaithfulness leads to national disaster.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 17 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Fall of the Northern Kingdom) reflects the historical reality of the fulfillment of prophetic warnings as the northern kingdom fell to Assyria due to persistent covenant unfaithfulness. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 17 regarding covenant judgment and exile?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

Interlinear Text

שָׁנִים:	מִלְּבָד	יְהוָה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה	וְשָׁנִים:
year	In the twelfth		of Ahaz	king	of Judah	to reign
H8141	H8147		H271	H4428	H3063	H4427
בָּשָׁמָר	וְעַל	לְעֹלָה	וְשָׁבָא	לְעֹלָה	שָׁנִים:	
began Hoshea	the son	of Elah	in Samaria	over Israel	nine	year
H1954	H1121	H425	H8111	H3478	H8672	H8141

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org