

# 2 Kings 17:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 17: Covenant judgment and exile. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. 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

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**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

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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וַעֲבָדוּ	הַגִּלְלִים	אָשׁוּר	אָמַר	יְהוָה	לֵאמֹר	לֵא
<b>For they served</b>	<b>idols</b>	H834	<b>had said</b>	<b>whereof the LORD</b>	H0	H3808
H5647	H1544		H559	H3068		
תַּעֲשׂוּ	אֶת	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה:			
<b>unto them Ye shall not do</b>	H853	<b>this thing</b>	H2088			
H6213		H1697				

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