

2 Kings 17:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

כָּל	בְּיָד	וּבִיהוּדָה	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל	יְהוָה הִוא	וַיַּעֲד
	by	and against Judah	against Israel	Yet the LORD	testified
H3605	H3027	H3063	H3478	H3068	H5749
מִדְרָכֶיךָ מִשְׁ	שׁ בּוֹ	יֵאמַר ר	חֵץ הִוא	כָּל	הַנְּבִיאִים:
ways	Turn	saying	and by all the seers		all the prophets
H1870	H7725	H559	H2374	H3605	H5030
כָּךְ ל	חֻקֹּתַי	מִצְוֹתַי	וְשָׁמְרוּ	הַרְעִים	
H3605	and my statutes	my commandments	and keep	ye from your evil	
	H2708	H4687	H8104	H7451	
וְאֲשֶׁר	אֲבֹתֶיךָ מִן	אֶת	צִוִּיתִי	אֲשֶׁר ר	הַתּוֹכָה הִוא
H834	your fathers	H853	which I commanded	H834	according to all the law
	H1		H6680		H8451
הַנְּבִיאִים:	עֲבָדַי	בְּיָד	אֵלַיךְ מִן	שְׁלִי חֲתִי	
all the prophets	my servants	by	H413	and which I sent	
H5030	H5650	H3027		H7971	

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 35:15 (Prophecy): I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

1 Samuel 9:9 (Prophecy): (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)

Jeremiah 18:11 (Evil): Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.

Deuteronomy 31:21 (Evil): And it shall come to pass, when many evils and troubles are befallen them, that this song shall testify against them as a witness; for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed: for I know their imagination which they go about, even now, before I have brought them into the land which I sware.

Ezekiel 18:31 (References Israel): Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

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