

2 Kings 17:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וַיִּמָּאָסוּ	אֶת	חֻקֵּי יְיָ	וְאֶת	בְּרִיתוֹ	אֲשֶׁר
And they rejected	H853	his statutes	H853	and his covenant	H834
H3988		H2706		H1285	
כִּי עָשָׂה	אֶת	אֲבוֹתָם	וְאֶת	עֲדוּתֵי יְיָ	אֲשֶׁר
that he made	H854	with their fathers	H853	and his testimonies	H834
H3772		H1		H5715	
הָעֵד	וַיֵּלֶכְוּ	בָּהֶם	וַאֲחֵרֵי	הָהֶבֶל	וַהֲבֵלֻ
which he testified	H0	H1980	and went after	vanity	and became vain
H5749			H310	H1892	H1891
וַאֲחֵרֵי	הַגּוֹיִם	אֲשֶׁר	סְבִיבֹתָם	אֲשֶׁר	צָוָה
and went after	the heathen	H834	that were round about	H834	had charged
H310	H1471		H5439		H6680
יְהוָה	לְבַלְתָּ יְיָ	אֶת	עַשׂוֹת		
them concerning whom the LORD	H853	H1115	them that they should not do		
H3068			H6213		
כֹּה־					
H0					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 32:21 (Parallel theme): They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

Jeremiah 2:5 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

Jeremiah 8:9 (References Lord): The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?

1 Kings 16:13 (Creation): For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

Psalms 115:8 (Parallel theme): They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.

Jeremiah 44:4 (Parallel theme): Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate.

Jeremiah 44:23 (References Lord): Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day.

Jeremiah 10:8 (Parallel theme): But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities.

Jeremiah 10:15 (Parallel theme): They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

Jeremiah 31:32 (Covenant): Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: