

2 Kings 17:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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

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

גַּם	יְהוּדָה	לֹא	אֶת שְׁמִרָת	מִצְוֹת	יְהוָה
H1571	Also Judah	H3808	kept	H853 not the commandments	of the LORD
	H3063		H8104	H4687	H3068
אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	וַיַּלְכּוּ	בְּחֻקֹּת	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	אֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ:
their God	H1980	in the statutes	of Israel	H834	which they made
H430		H2708	H3478		H6213

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 16:3 (Creation): But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel.

2 Chronicles 21:11 (Creation): Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah thereto.

2 Chronicles 21:13 (Creation): But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, which were better than thyself:

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