

2 Kings 17:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

Analysis

And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

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 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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

וַיַּעַשׂ	הַב ע	בְּעֵינֵי י	יְהוָה	כ ק	ל א
And he did	that which was evil	in the sight	of the LORD	H7535	H3808
H6213	H7451	H5869	H3068		
בְּמִלְכֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֲשֶׁר	הָיוּ	לְפָנָיו:	
but not as the kings	of Israel	H834	H1961	that were before	
H4428	H3478			H6440	

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