

2 Kings 17:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

Analysis

For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

כִּי	עָרֵן	קָרְבָּן	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מַעַל	בְּיַתְּרָה	לְדוֹדָה	אֶת	וְמֶלֶךְ	יְהוָה
H3588	For he rent	H7167	H3478	H5921	H1004	H1732	of David	king	H853
וְיַרְבָּעַ	מִ	בְּנֵי	נְבָטָה	וְיַרְבָּעַ	מִ	אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל		
and Jeroboam	the son	of Nebat	H5077	H3379	H853	and Jeroboam	Israel		
H3379	H1121	H5028					H3478		
מִאָחָר	וְ	הָיָה	וְיַעֲשֵׂה	הַ	סְפָא	הַ	גְּדוּלָה		
from following	the LORD		and made them sin	sin			a great		
H310	H3068		H2398	H2401			H1419		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:11 (Kingdom): Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

1 Kings 11:31 (Kingdom): And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

1 Kings 14:16 (Creation): And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.

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