

2 Kings 17:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

Analysis

And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 17: Covenant judgment and exile. 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וּבְאֵל	מֶלֶךְ	אֲשׁוּר	מִבָּבֶל	וּמִכּוּתָהּ	
brought	And the king	of Assyria	men from Babylon	and from Cuthah	
H935	H4428	H804	H894	H3575	
וּמֵעָוָה	וּמִחַמַּת	וּמִסְפָּרַיִם	וַיָּשֶׁב	בְּעָרֶיהָ:	
and from Ava	and from Hamath	and from Sepharvaim	and dwelt	in the cities	
H5755	H2574	H5617	H3427	H5892	
שָׁמָר וְ	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיִּשְׁרָא	וַיִּשְׁאוּ	אֶת	
Samaria	instead of the children	of Israel	and they possessed		H853
H8111	H1121	H3478	H3423		
שָׁמָר וַיָּשֶׁב	בְּעָרֶיהָ:				
Samaria	and dwelt	in the cities			
H8111	H3427	H5892			

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 18:34 (Parallel theme): Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand?

2 Kings 19:13 (Kingdom): Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivah?