

2 Kings 17:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

Analysis

Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

לְאֹמֶר	לְמִן	לְגַם	אֲשֶׁר	לְאֹמֶר	לְגַם
Wherefore they speake	to the king	of Assyria	Wherefore they speake	The nations	
H559	H4428	H804	H559	H1471	
אֲשֶׁר	הָגֵל יְתִת	וְתַּחֲבֵב	וְתַּחֲבֵב	לֹא	שְׁמֹר וּן
H834	which thou hast removed	and placed	in the cities	of Samaria	H3808
	H1540	H3427	H5892	H8111	
אַתָּה יְדַעַת	מְשִׁפְט	אֱלֹהִים	בָּאָרֶץ	לִשְׁלָחַ	
know	not the manner	of the God	of the land	therefore he hath sent	
H3045	H853	H4941	H430	H776	H7971
בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ
אַתָּה יְדַעַת	וְתַּחֲבֵב	וְתַּחֲבֵב	מְמִיתִים	אַתָּה יְדַעַת	אַתָּה יְדַעַת
H0	H853	H738	H2009	H4191	H853
לִוְתָנָהּ	לְ	לְ	מִתְּמִימָה	לְ	לְ
אַתָּה יְדַעַת	מְשִׁפְט	אֱלֹהִים	בָּאָרֶץ	אַתָּה יְדַעַת	אַתָּה יְדַעַת
H834	H369	H3045	H853	H4941	H430
אַתָּה יְדַעַת	מְשִׁפְט	אֱלֹהִים	בָּאָרֶץ	אַתָּה יְדַעַת	אַתָּה יְדַעַת
H776					

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org