

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

לֵאמֹר	לְמֶלֶךְ	אַשּׁוּר	לֵאמֹר	הַגּוֹיִם
Wherefore they spake	to the king	of Assyria	Wherefore they spake	The nations
H559	H4428	H804	H559	H1471
אֲשֶׁר	הִגֵּל יָתָ	וְאֵת וָשֶׁב	בְּעָרֵי י	שָׁמַר וְ
H834	which thou hast removed	and placed	in the cities	of Samaria
	H1540	H3427	H5892	H8111
וְיָדַע יָם	אֶת יָם	מִשְׁפַּט	אֱלֹהֵי י	הָאָרֶץ:
know	H853	not the manner	of the God	of the land
H3045		H4941	H430	H776
וְיָשַׁלַּח	אֶת יָם	מִמִּיתָם	וְיָשַׁלַּח	אֶת יָם
	H853	among them and behold they slay		H853
	lions	H2009		
	H738	H4191		
וְיָדַע יָם	אֶת יָם	מִשְׁפַּט	אֱלֹהֵי י	הָאָרֶץ:
H834	H369	know	H853	not the manner
		H3045		H4941
			of the God	of the land
			H430	H776