

2 Kings 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents.

Analysis

Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

עַל יוֹ	עַל הַ	שַׁלְמָנֶאֱסֶר	מֶלֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר	וַיְהִי	לֹ
H5921	Against him came up	Shalmaneser	king	of Assyria	H1961	H0
	H5927	H8022	H4428	H804		
הוֹשֵׁעַ	עָבָד	וַיִּשָּׁב	לֹ	מִנְחָה:		
and Hoshea	became his servant	and gave	H0	him presents		
H1954	H5650	H7725		H4503		

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 10:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall a tumult arise among thy people, and all thy fortresses shall be spoiled, as Shalman spoiled Beth-arbel in the day of battle: the mother was dashed in pieces upon her children.