

# 2 Kings 17:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

## Analysis

**So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.**

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. 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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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וְאַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים הָג֔וּ מִתְּנִתְנִיתִי אֶל־  
H1961 So these nations H1471 H428 H3372 H853 the LORD H853 H3068

בְּנֵיכֶם עָבֹד יְמִינְךָ פָּסִילִיתָם  
H6456 their graven images H1961 H5647 H1571 and served H1121 and their children's

בְּנֵיכֶם בְּנֵיכֶם רְכָאָשׁ יְמִינְךָ עָשָׂה  
H1121 and their children's H1121 H834 as did H6213 their fathers H1 H1992

בְּזַהֲזָה כִּי וּמְעַד עָשָׂה יְמִינְךָ  
H2088 as did H5704 they unto this day H3117

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zephaniah 1:5** (References Lord): And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham;

**Matthew 6:24** (Parallel theme): No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

**1 Kings 18:21** (References Lord): And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

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