

2 Kings 17:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

Analysis

Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

וַיַּעַל	בְּכָל	פָּא	וְעַל
and went up	Then the king	of Assyria	throughout all the land
H5927	H4428	H804	H776
וְעַל	בְּכָל	פָּא	וְעַל
and went up	throughout all the land	and went up	and went up
H5927	H776	H5927	H5927
שְׁמַר	שְׁלַש	שְׁנַיִם:	וְעַל
to Samaria	and besieged	it three	years
H8111	H6696	H5921	H7969
וְעַל	שְׁלַש	שְׁנַיִם:	וְעַל
and besieged	it three	years	years
H6696	H5921	H7969	H8141

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 13:16 (Parallel theme): Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

