

2 Kings 17:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,

Analysis

For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

וַיֵּהָיֹוֹה	כִּי	חָטָא ו	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל
H1961	H3588	had sinned	For so it was that the children	of Israel
		H2398	H1121	H3478
לִיהוָה	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	הַמַּעַל	אֹתָם	מֵאֶרֶץ
against the LORD	gods	which had brought them up		out of the land
H3068	H430	H5927	H853	H776
מִצֶּרֶת	מִתַּחַת	יָד	פֶּרַע הַ	מֶלֶךְ
of Egypt		from under the hand	of Pharaoh	king
H4714	H8478	H3027	H6547	H4428
				of Egypt
				H4714
וַיִּירָא ו	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	אֲחֵרִים:		
and had feared	gods	other		
H3372	H430	H312		

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 23:16 (References God): When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.

Jeremiah 10:5 (Parallel theme): They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

Nehemiah 9:26 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.

Exodus 20:2 (References God): I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

