

# 2 Kings 17:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

## Analysis

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**And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.**

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

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**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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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## 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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וְלָכֹ

H1980

בְּחֻקֵּי וְתֹ

**in the statutes**

H2708

הַגּוֹיִם

**of the heathen**

H1471

הוֹךְ יֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר

H834

**cast out**

H3423

יְהוָה

**whom the LORD**

H3068

מִפְּנֵי

**from before**

H6440

בְּנֵי

**the children**

H1121

יִשְׂרָאֵל

**of Israel**

H3478

וּמִלְכֵי

**and of the kings**

H4428

יִשְׂרָאֵל

**of Israel**

H3478

אֲשֶׁר

H834

עָשׂוּ:

**which they had made**

H6213

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 18:9** (References Lord): When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

**Leviticus 18:3** (Parallel theme): After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.

**2 Kings 16:3** (Kingdom): But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel.

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