

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְיֹאכִילָה	בְּחֻקָּת	מִתְּגָנָה	אֲשֶׁר	וְהַזְּרִיעַ	הָיָה
H1980	in the statutes	of the heathen	H834	cast out	whom the LORD
H2708		H1471	H3423		H3068
מִפְנֵי	בָּנִים	וּמֶלֶךְ	וְשָׁבָא לְ	אֲשֶׁר	וְשָׁבָא לְ
from before	the children	of Israel	and of the kings	of Israel	H834
H6440	H1121	H3478	H4428	H3478	
בָּשָׂר:					
which they had made					
H6213					

Additional Cross-References

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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