

2 Kings 17:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

Analysis

And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וַיִּחְפָּא וְ	בְנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	דְּבָרִים	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	כִּי	עַל
did secretly	And the children	of Israel	those things	H834	H3808	H3651	H5921
H2644	H1121	H3478	H1697				

יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	וַיִּבְנוּ	לֵהֶם
that were not right against the LORD	their God	and they built	H0
H3068	H430	H1129	

בָּמוֹת	בְּכָל	עַיָּר	מִמִּגְדָּל	נוֹצְרִים	עַד	עַיָּר
them high places	H3605	city	from the tower	of the watchmen	H5704	city
H1116		H5892	H4026	H5341		H5892

מִבְצָר:
to the fenced
H4013

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 18:8 (Parallel theme): He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

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