

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

עַל	כִּי	לֹא	אָשֶׁר	דְּבָרִים	יִשְׁבָּא	לְ	בְּנֵי	יְיַחְזָקָא	וְ		
did secretly	And the children	of Israel	those things					H834	H3808	H3651	H5921
H2644	H1121	H3478	H1697								

לֹא	יָבֹן	מִלְּפָנֵי	מִלְּפָנֵי	לֹא	יְהִי	הַיְהִי	מִלְּפָנֵי	לֹא	יְהִי	הַיְהִי	מִלְּפָנֵי
that were not right against the LORD		their God	and they built		H3068	H430	H1129		H0		

עַד	עִיר	בְּמָוֹת	מִמְּגַדֵּל	עִיר	בְּכָל	נֹצֶרֶת	יִם	מִמְּגַדֵּל	לְ	בְּמָוֹת	בְּמָוֹת
city	city	from the tower	of the watchmen	city	in	city	city	city	to	city	city
H5704	H5892	H4026	H5341	H3605		H1116				H5892	

מִבְּצָרָה:
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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