



## Exclusive Worship

### 2 KINGS 17:24-41

### 2 Kings 17

- A. The Deportation of Israel (17:1-23)
  - 1. The account (v.1-6) – *what happened*
  - 2. The reflection (v.7-23) – *why it happened*
- B. The Importation of Nations (17:24-41)
  - 1. The account (v.24-33)
  - 2. The reflection (v.34-41)

### 2 Kings 17:24-41

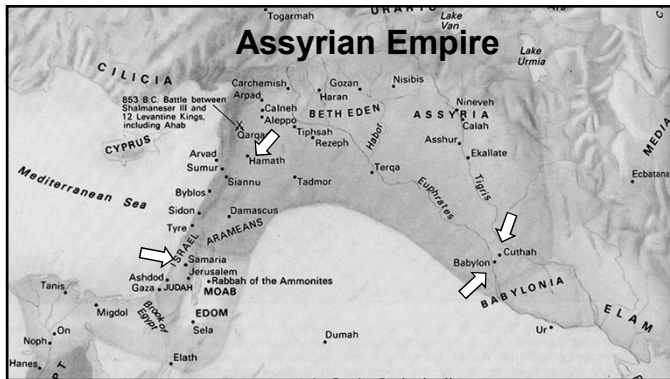
<sup>24</sup> The king of Assyria brought *men* from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sepharvaim, and settled *them* in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they possessed Samaria and lived in its cities. <sup>25</sup> At the beginning of their living there, they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them which killed some of them. <sup>26</sup> So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have carried away into exile in the cities of Samaria do not know the custom of the god of the land; so he has sent lions among them, and behold, they kill them because they do not know the custom of the god of the land."

<sup>27</sup> Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Take there one of the priests whom you carried away into exile and let him go and live there; and let him teach them the custom of the god of the land."

<sup>28</sup> So one of the priests whom they had carried away into exile from Samaria came and lived at Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD. <sup>29</sup> But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the houses of the high places which the people of Samaria had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived.

<sup>30</sup> The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, <sup>31</sup> and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech the gods of Sepharvaim.

<sup>32</sup> They also feared the LORD and appointed from among themselves priests of the high places, who acted for them in the houses of the high places. <sup>33</sup> They feared the LORD and served their own gods according to the custom of the nations from among whom they had been carried away into exile.



<sup>34</sup> To this day they do according to the earlier customs: they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances or the law, or the commandments which the LORD commanded the sons of Jacob, whom He named Israel; <sup>35</sup> with whom the LORD made a covenant and commanded them, saying, "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down yourselves to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them. <sup>36</sup> But the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall bow yourselves down, and to Him you shall sacrifice. <sup>37</sup> The statutes and the ordinances and the law and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall observe to do forever; and you shall not fear other gods.

<sup>38</sup> The covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. <sup>39</sup> But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

<sup>40</sup> However, they did not listen, but they did according to their earlier custom. <sup>41</sup> So while these nations feared the LORD, they also served their idols; their children likewise and their grandchildren, as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

## Israel-Like Nations

➤ *The nations resemble Israel in the land of Canaan – no distinction*

- like Israel, these nations failed to follow the covenant and to fear Yahweh alone
- reverse conquest – the land is back to its pre-conquest state

## Israel-Like Nations

### 1. The Failure of Israel's Mission

- Israel failed as a "light to the nations" and a means of salvation-blessing

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*salvation of the nations comes only through  
God's Son, King Jesus*

## Israel-Like Nations

### 2. The Danger of Syncretism

- mixing the worship of God with other forms and beliefs distorts a true knowledge of God

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*"pagan religion creates what it likes; biblical faith  
receives what is revealed" (D. Davis)*

### **Israel-Like Nations**

#### **3. The Demand of Exclusive Worship**

- in contrast to all pagan religions, Yahweh alone demanded exclusive devotion

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*the worship of God today is only through the confession that "Jesus is Lord"*