

## 2 Kings 17:1-41 **Last King of Israel – Assyrian Captivity begins – The Samaritans**

### Hoshea – Last king of Israel

<sup>1</sup> In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years.

<sup>2</sup> And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

<sup>3</sup> Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him; and Hoshea became his vassal, and paid him tribute money.

<sup>4</sup> And the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

### Israel Carried Captive to Assyria

<sup>5</sup> Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. <sup>6</sup> In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

### Reason for Captivity in Assyria

<sup>7</sup> For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods, <sup>8</sup> and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the Lord had cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. <sup>9</sup> Also the children of Israel secretly did against the Lord their God things that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city. <sup>10</sup> They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. <sup>11</sup> There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the Lord had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger, <sup>12</sup> for they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

<sup>13</sup> Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."

<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God. <sup>15</sup> And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them that they should not do like them. <sup>16</sup> So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. <sup>17</sup> And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

19 Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

20 And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight.

21 For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord, and made them commit a great sin.

22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, 23 until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.

### Assyria Resettles Samaria

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

25 And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land."

27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land." 28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord.

29 However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt. 30 The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, 31 and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 So they feared the Lord, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods — according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

### The Samaritans from that time and on

34 To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the Lord had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel, 35 with whom the Lord had made a covenant and charged them, saying:

"You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them; 36 but the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice. 37 And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He

wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods. <sup>38</sup> And 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 obey, but they followed their former rituals. <sup>41</sup> So these nations feared the Lord, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.

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Facts Revealed:

### Hoshea – Last king of Israel

- ✧ In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. [2 Kings 17:1]
- ✧ Hoshea the son of Elah led a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and struck and killed him; so he reigned in his place in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah. [2 Kings 15:30]
- ✧ Since Jotham son of Uzziah only reigned 16 years, it seems the text of 2 Kings 7:1 would be more accurate.
- ✧ Hoshea did evil in the sight of Yahweh, though not as bad as the kings of Israel who were before him. [2 Kings 17:2]
- ✧ Tiglath Pileser carried to Assyria all of eastern Israel along with Northern Israel which included the golden calf in Dan thus removing one of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat which the former kings of Israel followed. [2 Kings 15:27-29]
- ✧ Tiglath Pileser claimed responsibility for the assignation of Pekah by the hand of Hoshea and instrumental in Hoshea becoming satrap king of Israel. [2 Kings 15:30, according to the annals of Tiglath Pileser king of Assyria]
- ✧ Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him; and Hoshea became his vassal, and paid him tribute money. [2 Kings 17:3]
- ✧ Apparently there arose a problem in receiving taxes from Hoshea the satrap of Assyria and king of Israel which prompted Shalmaneser the king of Assyria to come against Hosea and make him a vassal to the king of Assyria responsible for collecting and paying tribute money to Assyria.
- ✧ It also appears that Hoshea attempted to remove himself from the oppression of Assyria by seeking help from So the king of Egypt.
- ✧ The conspiracy was discovered by the king of Assyria who then shut up Hoshea bound in prison. [2 Kings 17:4]

### Israel Carried Captive to Assyria

- ✧ The king of Assyria occupied all that remained of the kingdom of Israel and besieged Samaria for three years. Samaria fell in the ninth year of Hoshea and all the rest of his kingdom was carried away to Assyria and to other lands and cities previously captured by the Assyrians. [2 Kings 17:5-6]

### Reason for Captivity in Assyria

- ✧ All of this came because the Children of Israel had forsaken Yahweh Eloheyhem (the Lord their God) Who had done so many miraculous works when he brought them out of the land of Egypt and bondage, and gave them the promised land. They had followed other gods and walked in the ways of the nations Yahweh had cast out before them, the kings of Israel had also caused them to worship the golden calves they had made. The entire land was filled with

idolatry and the abominations of the nations who were before Israel and the land was defiled by their ways. They did those things that Yahweh had said "You shall not do this thing."  
[2 Kings 17:7-12]

- ✧ Yahweh had proved His faithfulness by sending His prophets to both Israel and Judah calling for repentance and obedience to His commandments and statutes in the Law given by Moses and the prophets. [2 Kings 17:13]
- ✧ The people refused to hear the prophets and rejected all the commandments of Yahweh:
  - ✧ Forsook the Lord their God.
  - ✧ Followed idols and became idolaters
  - ✧ Followed all the forbidden practices of the nations all around them.
  - ✧ Made two gold calves and a wooden image.
  - ✧ Worshiped all the host of heaven.
  - ✧ Served Baal.
  - ✧ Caused their children to pass through the fire.
  - ✧ Practiced witchcraft and soothsaying.
  - ✧ Sold themselves to do evil in the sight of Yahweh, to provoke Him to anger.  
[2 Kings 17:14-17]
- ✧ Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone. [2 Kings 17:18]
- ✧ By this time, even Judah had kings that led the people to depart from Yahweh Eloheyhm (The Lord their God). [2 Kings 17:19]
  - ✧ Beginning with Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijam, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah, Jehoash (partly), and Ahaz, but others called them back to Yahweh.
- ✧ And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight. [2 Kings 17:20]
  - ✧ For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord, and made them commit a great sin.  
For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. **So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.** [2 Kings 17:21-23]

### Assyria Resettles Samaria

- ✧ The king of Assyria resettled the land with people from other lands he had conquered, from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, these he placed in the cities of Samaria and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities. [2 Kings 17:24]
  - ✧ From that time until the time of Christ Jesus, the residents of Samaria were not of the Children of Israel, but transplanted gentiles.
- ✧ They learned about the God of Israel in the following way: [2 Kings 17:25-41]
  - ✧ At the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them. [2 Kings 17:25]
  - ✧ So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land." [2 Kings 17:26]
  - ✧ Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the

God of the land." Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord. [2 Kings 17:27-28]

✧ However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt. <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 Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. [2 Kings 17:29-31]

✧ So they feared the Lord, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.

They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods — according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. [2 Kings 17:32-33]

### The Samaritans from that time and on

✧ To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the Lord had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel, with whom the Lord had made a covenant and charged them, saying:

"You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down 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 an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice.

And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods.

And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods.

But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies." [2 Kings 17:34-39]

✧ However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals.

So these nations feared the Lord, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day. [2 Kings 17:40-41]