

2 KN. 17:1-3 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.

### 1. Hoshea, the last king of Israel

- a. Hoshea had taken over via a military coup
  - a1. As long as Tiglath-Peleser was alive, he continued to pay tribute to Assyria
  - a2. When TP died, Hoshea stopped paying tribute
- b. Hoshea sent to So to Pharaoh Tefnekht for an alliance
  - a1. Egypt proved to be the bruised reed that Assyria claimed her to be, & was no aid
  - a2. Tefnekht could not even defend his throne
- c. Shalmaneser captured Hoshea & imprisoned him

<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.

### 2. Israel captured & removed

- a. Assyria began conquering cities in the land and removing large parts of the population to lands in the east
  - a1. People were settled from Halah near the Habor & Gozan Rivers, flowing into the Euphrates to Media in south Persia
  - a2. This is how there were Jews in Persia during the times of Daniel & Esther
- b. In 725 BC, Shalmaneser began to lay siege to Samaria
  - a1. In 722 BC, Samaria surrendered
  - a2. General Sargon, who took over after Shal.'s death, led the captives out of the land (acc. to Sargon's records he took 27,290 from Sam.)
- c. The removal was permanent
- d. Assyria moved people from the east into Israel

### 3. At the end of God's patience

- a. Israel had been commanded not to adopt the practices of the people of the land that God cast out before them
  - a1. Worship of idols
  - a2. Immorality & heathen practices
  - a3. Sacrificing their children to idols

<sup>12</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>18</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.

- b. God had sent prophets to warn Israel
  - a1. All the warnings were ignored
  - a2. Israel had adopted a form of pluralism (syncretism) where they worshipped God & the idols
- c. God's covenant was clear
  - a1. God owned the land & the people
  - a2. As long as Israel obeyed they could stay in the land & be blessed
  - a3. They were to worship God alone & obey His commands & live moral godly lives
- d. In accordance to Dt. 24 God sent famine, drought, pestilence, & plagues to punish rebellion & to warn them
  - a1. He then would send invaders into the land
  - a2. When Israel repented God sent deliverers
  - a3. The final step was to remove unrepentant Israel from the land, which He did in 722 BC
- e. God would then deal with Israel in the foreign lands
  - a1. God spent 700 years working with Israel to try to get them to repent
  - a2. Israel tried God's patience until He removed them
- f. Judah also followed in Israel's path & would be removed in 3 waves by Babylon (605, 597, & 586 BC)