

## Mongrel Religion

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**2Kings 17:1** In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years.

**2Kings 17:2** And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

We want to begin this message by reminding everyone that Samaria was essentially the government center of Israel - as opposed to Judah, that other part of what we usually think of as part of Israel. Its government center was in the city of Jerusalem. Some of you may remember that God split up the nation of Israel into Israel and Judah. He did this because of Solomon's sin. He took Israel away from Solomon's family and left only Judah for them.

Samaria is talked about in the bible as both a city and a province or country. You will be able to see a record of Samaria being the center of government in 1Kings 16:29 where Ahab begins to reign over Israel and his seat of government is in Samaria (as is also mentioned regarding Hoshea in our text).

I want us to think of Samaria as the ancient nation of Israel because I want to use Samaria/Israel as a type to show in this message how a nation can be carried away from the Lord by the displacement of that part of its people who know about the one true God.

What happened to Israel in this account is something that is happening very subtly to America right now in this generation. Because that is so, we can look at the spiritual degradation which happened to that great nation and get a preview of exactly where we are going here in the United States.

I think this is the age when the people of God need to pay close attention to what direction organized religion is moving in. We need to be on guard to make sure we don't go there ourselves. Have you ever noticed that when there is a pack of dogs out in somebody's yard and a fight springs up between two of those dogs that it isn't but a few seconds until every dog in that pack is fighting. And have you ever noticed that a herd of wild deer is out there in the field and one of them starts running that most of the time every animal in that herd will start running also?

This kind of behavior is typical of God's creatures and for the most part, man is no exception. I think we all know how people act at Wal Mart and other large stores on Black Friday. This tendency to do things like a flock of birds can and will play a major part in how America will see the death of Christianity as a guiding force in this century. It is important...critical...for the Lord's people to be ready to stand fast in the faith as these times are at hand.

Let's look at these verses and go home with a sobering lesson in our minds about how attention to God can evaporate when certain destructive elements are in place.

I. National leaders and the people of the land abandon righteousness

2Kings 17:13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, *and by* all the seers, saying, Turn ye 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.

2Kings 17:14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.

◆ Today, there is a lot of preaching about serving the Lord, about being obedient to the Lord's principles, about not just reading and hearing Jesus' teachings, but doing them. But, for all the preaching, how much doing is going on?

◆ "Why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things I say."

2Kings 17:15-16 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that *were* round about them, *concerning* whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. 16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God,

◆ Can you tell the difference today between a professing Christian and a lost person?

- The bars and honkytonks are full of professing Christians today
- The local beaches are full of professing Christians walking around in underwear
- The rock concerts with their drugs and booze and unrestrained wildness are full of professing Christians
- The big sporting events like football, basketball, and baseball games are full of professing Christians on Sunday
- The abortion clinics are full of professing Christian women today
- The language of professing Christians today is indistinguishable from the language of the admittedly lost today

- The divorce courts are full of professing Christians today

2Kings 17:16 "... and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

- ◆ Whether we actually consider the habit of putting something before God (as far as importance) is idolatry.
- ◆ In the U.S. millions of professing Christians:
  - Skip church to go fishing, to the beach, to a sports event, to visit with family
  - Refuse to tithe: in order to have more money to buy things they like; feel they can't tithe because they owe that allegiance to their debts

2Kings 17:17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

- ◆ "passed through the fire" = sacrifice their children to false gods by having them burnt as a sacrifice
- ◆ Is there a modern equivalent? Yes! Many professed American parents push their kids to give their time and energy to competitive sports, to special career aspirations, to some earthly pursuit that has no spiritual relevance (examples: the summertime kids ball games; beauty pageants; education focused on a high paying career)
- ◆ Divination and enchantments: witchcraft and astrology – one astrology site on the web boasts 5 million visitors a year. Many of these are no doubt professing Christians
  - Around 52 million adult Americans who profess some Christian affiliation believe in astrology.

2Kings 17:20 And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

2Kings 17:21 For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

2Kings 17:22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;

- ◆ True believers have the promise from the Lord that He will never leave us nor forsake us, but what about the seed of Americans as a class of people? Isn't God rejecting them right now, and aren't they going through afflictions (recession, depression, bizarre weather events, terrorist threats, no jobs for the college educated)

◆ Jeroboam pushes Israel into sin and the people adopt those sins and continue in them. How many sins are the leaders of our country making us a part of? How many transgressions are the American people emboldened to do by the lawlessness and corruption of our own leaders?

2Kings 17:23 Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

◆ We don't have a foreign power rounding up Americans and hauling them off to a foreign land, but let me tell you what we do have!

◆ Since the Obama administration overthrew the American people more than 5 million American citizens have left the U.S. and renounced their American citizenship. They are gone. And at the rate U.S. citizens are leaving, give us another 10 years of lawless government and a hundred million will have fled if they can! These Americans will have been carried away out of their own land into some Assyria somewhere!

◆ But remember that work like this is the doing of the Lord for the transgressions of a nation.

## II. God allows repopulation of part of the promised land with aliens

2Kings 17:24 And the king of Assyria brought *men* from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed *them* in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

◆ Our lawless government has assisted more than 20 million illegal aliens to move into America. They move about unhindered and are taking over the country as American citizens leave.

◆ Obama is attempting to transfer at least 250,000-300,000 Muslims per year into the U.S. They establish their own communities which are already outside the laws of the U.S. and will become nations within themselves here in the U.S.

- There are at least 3.3 million Muslims now in the U.S.
- Before 2040, Muslims are projected to become the second-largest religious group in the U.S., after Christians

◆ But remember that this event is approved of by the Lord as judgment on a nation which abandons righteousness and perverts its own religion.

## III. The foreigners who were put in the land knew nothing about the one true God

2Kings 17:25 And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, *that* **they feared not the LORD**: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew *some* of them.

2Kings 17:26 Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, **know not the manner of the God of the land**: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

◆ But religious leaders of Israel thought to educate them

2Kings 17:27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land.

2Kings 17:28 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.

◆ Do you know what group in America has more contact with illegal aliens and even other legal immigrants, than anyone else? No, it is not the government! It is faith-based organizations – we call them churches.

◆ Almost all of these religious institutions make an effort to evangelize these illegal aliens – teach them how they should fear the Lord.

◆ These religious institutions are empowered and sanctioned in what they do by the government (see v. 27).

IV. The corrupted religion of America will only generate a more corrupted religion in the foreigners who invade the land

2Kings 17:29 Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put *them* in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.

2Kings 17:30 And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima,

2Kings 17:31 And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

2Kings 17:32 So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.

2Kings 17:33 They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.

2Kings 17:34 Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;

