

# DECLINE AND CAPTIVITY OF THE TEN TRIBES

## Quote:

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:”

Ezekiel 37:21-22

## Hoshea's Reign and Overthrow

Hoshea conspired against Pekah and ascended the throne with the connivance of Assyria (2 Kg 15:30 - see also Tiglathpileser's inscription which says: “Pekah their king they had overthrown, I placed Hoshea over them. From him I received 10 talents of gold and 1000 talents of silver.”). Thus he had to pay homage and tribute to the Assyrian power. Having successfully conspired against Pekah, he tried to double cross Assyria (2 Kg 17:4) and brought destruction on himself and the nation. He was attacked by Shalmaneser, who died unexpectedly during the siege. Sargon his successor continued the attack. “In the first year of my reign” boasted Sargon in his annals, “I besieged and conquered Samaria”. He claims to have led away into captivity 27290 people. He then settled foreigners in Israel, as 2 Kg 17:24 records. The Annals of Sargon (found in Sargon's palace in the ancient city of Khorsabad) continue: “The town I rebuilt better than it was before and settled therein people from countries which I had conquered. I placed an officer of mine as governor over them and imposed upon them tribute as is customary for Assyrian citizens”.

## Bible Marking - 2 Kings 17

2 Kings 17:1 - **“Hoshea the son of Elah”** - ‘Hoshea’ = salvation, while ‘Elah’ = an oak - a symbol of strength. Israel found neither from Hoshea.

2 Kings 17:2 - **“but not as the kings of Israel who were before him”** - It is ironical that Israel's last king should be the only king of the northern tribes to reject the idols of Jeroboam.

All preceding kings had assiduously pursued it for the same reasons as Jeroboam - political survival (1 Kg 12:26-28). Jeroboam's calf worship was now of little consequence in preserving his kingdom from the effect of Israelites going up to Jerusalem to worship. Of far greater import now was the ominous presence of the super-power Assyria to the north which threatened to swallow up the kingdom of Israel.

2 Kings 17:7 - **“For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand**

### 2 Kings 17 - Israel is Destroyed

- vv1-2 - Hoshea's evil reign.
- vv3-4 - Shalmaneser invades Israel.
- vv5-6 - Israel's defeat and captivity.
- vv7-18 - The cause of Yahweh's great anger.
- vv19-20 - Judah's sin and rejection.
- vv21-23 - Israel's sin and rejection.
- vv24 - Importation of Foreigners to Israel.
- vv25-41 - The mixed worship of the Samaritans.

**of Pharaoh king of Egypt**” - Yahweh had separated Israel from Egypt. Israel had gone back through Jeroboam (the Golden calf was an Egyptian idol - **1 Kg 12**), and now they sought the world (Egypt) for protection from Assyria (**2 Kg 17:4**).

**“had feared other gods”** - had begun in the time of the Judges (**Jud 2:12; 6:10** etc).

**2 Kings 17:8 - “And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel”** -

Israel had been warned against this (**Lev 18:3-4; Deut 12:29-31**) else the land itself would “spue them out” (**Lev 18:27-30**). Israel failed to heed the warning and “mingled among the heathen and learned their works” (**Psa 106:35**).

**“and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.”** - see **Mic 6:16; Hos 5:11**.

**2 Kings 17:9 - “And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God”** - “secretly” = to cover, act covertly. This is how apostasy begins - in secret. **Deuteronomy 13:6** and **27:15** warn of this, and instructed Israel to stamp it out with decisive action at the earliest opportunity. This was not done and **v10** shows the result - widespread idolatry in EVERY high hill and under EVERY green tree.

**1 Kings 17:28 - “one of the priests”** - He would only be able to teach them the apostate worship of the northern kingdom - see **vv32-33; Jn 4:22**.

### *Israel’s Response to the Prophets*

*(2 Kg 17:13-16):*

1. Would not hear (**v14**).
2. Hardened their necks (**v14**).
3. Rejected His statutes (**v15**).
4. Left all the commandments of Yahweh (**v16**).
5. Made them molten images (**v16**).
6. Worshipped and served idols (**v16**).