

Clarence Park Baptist Church

Question following sermon 7th February 2021.



Big Idea of the Series

The book of 2 Kings covers almost 250 years of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, focusing on rulers, prophets, and the many different currents that ultimately led the Hebrew people to the Babylonian exile. This series will consider six people whose chose to remain with God or to turn away from him.

Week 4 – Hoshea Reading 2 Kings 17:1-23

Preparation

1. Watch the sermon from the church YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/1iq6vt06BC0>
2. Read 2 Kings chapters 13-17 to gain more of an insight into the whole of the book of 2 Kings.

Group Study

- Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new

Reading:

2 Kings 17:1-23 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Hoshea last king of Israel

17 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned for nine years. ² He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, but not like the kings of Israel who preceded him.

³ Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea, who had been Shalmaneser's vassal and had paid him tribute. ⁴ But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So king of Egypt, and he no longer entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. ⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the River Habor and in the towns of the Medes.

Israel exiled because of sin

⁷ All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshipped other gods ⁸ and followed the practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before them, as well as the practices that the kings of Israel had introduced. ⁹ The Israelites secretly did things against the LORD their God that were not right. From watch-tower to fortified city they built themselves high places in all their towns. ¹⁰ They set up sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. ¹¹ At every high place they burned incense, as the nations whom the LORD had driven out before them had done. They did wicked things that aroused the LORD's anger. ¹² They worshipped idols, though the LORD had said, 'You shall not do this.'

¹³ The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: 'Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.' ¹⁴ But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their ancestors, who did not trust in the LORD their God. ¹⁵ They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors and the statutes he had warned them to keep. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the LORD had ordered them, 'Do not do as they do.' ¹⁶ They forsook all the commands of the LORD their God and made for themselves two idols cast in the shape of calves, and an Asherah pole. They bowed down to all the starry hosts, and they worshipped Baal. ¹⁷ They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practised divination and sought omens and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger.

¹⁸ So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left, ¹⁹ and even Judah did not keep the commands of the LORD their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. ²⁰ Therefore the LORD rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence.

²¹ When he tore Israel away from the house of David, they made Jeroboam son of Nebat their king. Jeroboam enticed Israel away from following the LORD and caused them to commit a great sin. ²² The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them ²³ until the LORD removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there. paid tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison. ⁵ The king of Assyria invaded the

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Questions for discussion

Take time to talk through as many of the questions as time allows for your group.

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What do these verses say about God as a judge?
3. In what ways did Israel and Judah both fail to honour God's expectations?
4. Why do so many Christians often gravitate towards finding their own wisdom or solutions rather than Gods in difficult situations? How have you avoided this in your life?
5. In what ways would you say the same failures are either present in the church or at least seem to be going in the same direction? What do you think God's warning to us today would be?
6. What idols do you think we might be guilty of worshiping in our lives? How would we go about destroying them?
7. In our gathered worship as a Church (online or in person)...
 - Does contemporary worship increase or decrease the temptation of making worship about self?
 - How is this different or is it not to traditional worship?
 - How do we ensure that Jesus is kept at the centre of our worship and worship experience?
8. How can we pray for you?

Big Idea of the Message:

Disobeying God's expectations is a recipe for disaster.

Application Point:

The line between worshipping God and other gods can be easily crossed when we fail to commit fully to trusting him