

Theme: God’s anger was stirred by persistent unfaithfulness and the refusal to answer the call to repentance. The Lord judged Israel – his people in name only – but his covenant was not broken. God will judge all who refuse to believe in his name; he will deliver all those who truly fear the Lord.

Background: Back to Israel (Northern Kingdom)

Introduction: Paying attention to the warnings and signs

I. From Monarchy to Anarchy (2 Kings 15:8-31)

A. Jehu’s legacy ends

1. Jeroboam II reigns 41 years – never forsakes the sins of Jeroboam I
2. Zechariah succeeds his father – Jehu’s fourth generation – lasts only 6 months
- Assassinated

B. A dramatic downward spiral

1. Shallum – 1 month
- Assassinated
2. Menahem – 10 years
 - a. Ruthless treatment of those who questioned his authority (16)
 - b. He needs the help of Pul (Tiglath-Pileser) to maintain his power (19)
3. Pekahiah, Menahem’s son – 2 years (23)
4. Pekah – 20 years
- Plagued with the rising power of Assyria
- Assassinated
5. Hoshea – 9 years from Samaria (for not much else is left to Israel)

II. The Fall of Israel (2 Kings 17)

A. Too little, too late

1. Hoshea – not the worst of the kings (2)
2. Treacherous
- Vassal state of Assyria, he turns to Egypt
3. Samaria is captured after 3 year siege
4. Israel is carried away (6)
- God removed them out of his sight (18)

NOTE: The Kingdom of Israel ceases to exist.

B. The Lord’s indictment of Israel (17:7-23;34-41)

1. God is jealous for his people! (7a)
 - a. Recounting the Lord’s faithfulness
 - b. Remembering God’s covenant (35-40)
 - c. Holding out his promise! Return to me! (**13**)

2. His people were not jealous for their God!
 - a. The “people” sinned against the LORD! (7)

NOTE: They got the *kings* they *deserved* and *wanted*!

 - Worshiped the god’s of the nations (8)
 - Establishing high places and Asherim (9,10)
 - Ignoring the Lord’s warnings (13)
 - Despising the Lord’s statutes and covenant (15)
 - Sacrificed their children to their “gods” (16,17)
 - Provoking God to anger! (11, 17,18)
 - b. They did not “fear the LORD”
 - They “feared other God’s” (7) (Love, devotion)
 - Like the nations that would flood Israel (41)
3. They were judged!
 - Their hearts did not belong to the LORD!
 - They were no longer “Israel” (strives with God)
 - No fear of the LORD! (34-36)

C. The *Samaritans* are born (24-33)

1. Assyria’s practice – assimilation! Their religions came with them. (29,33)
2. A sign of hope?
 - Sensing the LORD’s punishment
 - Bringing in a priest of the Lord (Jeroboam style)
 - God Name is not forgotten

III. Finding Hope

A. In God’s covenant promise (faithfulness?)

1. The promise is God’s (Deuteronomy 7:6; Genesis 17:7)
2. His promise didn’t fail
 - Keeping His promise to Abraham, to David
3. Secured/fulfilled in Christ
 - As son of David, and Son of God
 - A new covenant in his blood
 - Jesus=Immanuel (God with us) (cf. Isaiah 7:8; Matthew 1:23)
 - Gathering Jews and Gentiles (Acts 15:14-17)
 - Christ’s “treasured possession” (1 Peter 2:9-10)

B. In the fear of the LORD

1. Not just obedience! Jesus Christ fulfills what we cannot
 - Cf. Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:9,10)
2. Loving God (Deuteronomy 6:5)

NOTE: This is what the LORD has always sought from his people.

C. In Christ alone – Guarding our hearts to give allegiance to him alone

D. In covenant faithfulness

Next week: 2 Kings 15:32-16:20