

# The Settlement of Foreigners in the Cities of Samaria: A Clear Warning 2 Kings 17:24–41

***The settlement of foreign  
refugees in the land of Israel:  
A clear warning to the reader***

- a. The foreigners resettled in Israel to replace the Israelites
- b. The immediate problem faced by the settlers
  - 1) Their ignorance of the LORD:  
Lions killed people due to God’s judgment
  - 2) Their appeal to the king
    - Stated that they were foreigners who did not know how to worship the god of that land
    - Felt that the god was displeased and had sent lions to punish and kill them off
- c. The settlers’ request for help granted by the Assyrian king: He sent a priest to help them
  - The priest was an Israelite who had been taken from Samaria
  - The priest settled in Bethel and taught the people how to worship the LORD
- d. The settlers’ corruption of the true worship of the LORD
  - 1) They continued to worship their own gods and shrines

24 The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Kuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They took over Samaria and lived in its towns.

25 When they first lived there, they did not worship the LORD; so he sent lions among them and they killed some of the people.

26 It was reported to the king of Assyria: “The people you deported and resettled in the towns of Samaria do not know what the god of that country requires. He has sent lions among them, which are killing them off, because the people do not know what he requires.”

27 Then the king of Assyria gave this order: “Have one of the priests you took captive from Samaria go back to live there and teach the people what the god of the land requires.”

28 So one of the priests who had been exiled from Samaria came to live in Bethel and taught them how to worship the LORD.

29 Nevertheless, each national group made its own gods in the several towns where they settled, and set them up in the shrines the people of Samaria had made at the high places.

- Babylonians worshipped Succoth Benoth
- Cuthahians worshipped Nergal
- Hamath citizens worshipped Ashima
- Avvites worshipped Nibhaz and Tartak
- Sepharvites offered human sacrifices to Adrammelech and Anammelech

2) They worshipped the LORD but were led by false priests

3) They combined the worship of the LORD with the worship of their own false gods

4) They continued living sinful, wicked lives

- Did not fear nor worship the LORD
- Did not obey God, His Word and commandments
- Ignored the fact that God had given His Word to the world through Israel

e. The warning to the reader

1) The reader must remember God's covenant, His basic commandment

- Must not worship false gods

30 The people from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, those from Kuthah made Nergal, and those from Hamath made Ashima;

31 the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelek and Anammelek, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 They worshipped the LORD, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to officiate for them as priests in the shrines at the high places.

33 They worshipped the LORD, but they also served their own gods in accordance with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought.

34 To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the LORD nor adhere to the decrees and regulations, the laws and commands that the LORD gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel.

35 When the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites, he commanded them: "Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them.

- Must remember: the LORD who alone saves and delivers His people
- Must worship the LORD alone

2) The reader must always obey God's Word

- Must keep all His Word
- Must heed this command above all: Must not worship false gods

3) The reader must heed and never forget God's covenant

- Must not worship false gods
- Must worship the LORD God and Him alone
- Must know that the LORD alone saves

4) The reader must remember Israel's failure:  
They would not listen

- They worshipped the Lord but also their false gods
- Their descendants have continued to follow this false, empty religion of syncretism to this day

36 But the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt with mighty power and outstretched arm, is the one you must worship. To him you shall bow down and to him offer sacrifices.

37 You must always be careful to keep the decrees and regulations, the laws and commands he wrote for you. Do not worship other gods.

38 Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods.

39 Rather, worship the LORD your God; it is he who will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.”

40 They would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices.

41 Even while these people were worshipping the LORD, they were serving their idols. To this day their children and grandchildren continue to do as their ancestors did.