

“A Prince of God, The King of a False Christ and The Synagogue of Satan”*

© Copyright 2003, 2007 James C. Farley — Ephesians3seven.com

Text: II Kings 17

Thesis Statement: Although many believers fear the Lord with the faith of Christ and worship Him in truth, the vast majority of modern day “Christianity” do not understand Who the Lord really is, what the Bible truly teaches about the fear of the Lord, and how He intends to be worshiped. They fear the Lord, that is, another lord, and serve other gods.

Proposition: Through a proper Bible History of **II Kings 17** and a clear exposition of this chapter, the Word of God reveals unto us the true nature of the religions of man, and thus, modern day “Christianity.”

Interrogative Sentence: How can the one, who is entangled in the web of deceit, come to truly know the Lord and the proper worship of Him?

Transitional Sentence: The passage here, in **II Kings chapter 17**, is part one of the answer. It will reveal to you the nature of the web of deceit with which one becomes entangled. Part two will be the message preached tonight, from **chapter 4** of the **Gospel of John**, where we will see the Lord Jesus Christ pluck one from this same web.

Introduction:

- I. Historical Background [Of Israel (The Ten Northern Tribes) & It's King]:
 - A. The Foundational History of the Judgment Upon David's Seed in Judah (**I Kings 11:1-12:15**)
 1. The Spiritual Adultery of the Nations King (**11:1-8**)
 2. The Spoken Word of the LORD Unheeded (**11:9-13**)
 - a. Past Commandment and Warning (**9-10**)

I Kings 3:5, 14, “In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. ...And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.”

I Kings 9:2-9, “That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon. And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel. But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people: And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house? And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.”

This commandment and warning were directly tied to the True Christ and His atonement. In the first instance, it follows Solomon's faithful observance of the offerings, which prophetically pictured the offering of Christ, the Messiah, on the cross. In the second instance, it is immediately after the completion of the Temple, the House of the LORD, which again pictured the Person of Christ and was prophetic of His atoning work in every aspect. The LORD commanded a worship which would be in Spirit and in Truth. The LORD, the One True God, will not tolerate worship of false gods in place of Him or alongside Him.

b. Promised Judgment Impending (**11-13**)

Since the LORD's past commandment and warning were unheeded, impending judgment was promised. Unfortunately, as we see unfold, this promise of impending judgment too is unheeded.

3. The Sent Adversaries From the LORD - Present Judgment Disregarded (**11:14-25**)
4. The Selected Judge From the LORD - Prophesied Judgment Rejected, Yet Unthwarted (**11:26-42**)
5. The Sovereignty of Man Chosen Rather than the Counsel of God (**11:43-12:15**)

B. The Formation of Israel (**I Kings 12:16-24**)

C. The Forging of a False Christ (**I Kings 12:25-33**)

“Forging” means, “to make or imitate falsely; to produce or devise (that which is untrue or not genuine); to fabricate; to counterfeit.” (Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Second Edition)

II. Historical Conclusion: The Kings of the Nation of Israel Bring Forth The King of a False Christ:

- A. The King of Man's Choosing (Saul) Becomes the King of War Against God's Anointed
- B. The King of God's Choosing (David) Becomes the King of Sorrow in Jerusalem
- C. The King of Wisdom (Solomon) Becomes the King of Spiritual Adultery in the Nation of Israel
- D. The King of Man's Sovereignty (Rehoboam) Becomes the King of Division in the Nation of Israel

The reasons are clear, from the historical Bible context, why God chose a man to become King of Israel (that is, the Ten Northern Tribes), to judge the seed of David in Judah (**I Kings 11:39**), but it is ultimately the transgressions of these four kings of the nation of Israel, that bring forth Jeroboam, whose epitaph is thus:

The King of the LORD's Judgment Against Judah Becomes the King of a False Christ (and False Redemption)

III. Historical Succession: The Sins of Jeroboam Pervade in Israel (The Ten Northern Tribes)

Jehu - **II Kings 10:28-31**, “Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel. Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan. And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy chil-

dren of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel. But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.”

- Jehoahaz - **II Kings 13:1-2**, “In the three and twentieth year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.”
- Joash (Jehoash) - **II Kings 13:10-11**, “In the thirty and seventh year of Joash king of Judah began Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin: but he walked therein.”
- Jeroboam - **II Kings 14:23-24**, “In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.”
- Zachariah - **II Kings 15:8-10 & 12**, “In the thirty and eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zachariah the son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. And Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and smote him before the people, and slew him, and reigned in his stead. This was the word of the LORD which he spake unto Jehu, saying, Thy sons shall sit on the throne of Israel unto the fourth generation. And so it came to pass.”
- Menahem - **II Kings 15: 17-18**, “In the nine and thirtieth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.”
- Pekahiah - **II Kings 15:23-25**, “In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. But Pekah the son of Remaliah, a captain of his, conspired against him, and smote him in Samaria, in the palace of the king's house, with Argob and Arieah, and with him fifty men of the Gileadites: and he killed him, and reigned in his room.”
- Pekah - **II Kings 15:27-30**, “In the two and fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-beth-maachah, and Jonoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria. And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.”

Overview of II Kings 17:

The Rebellion of Israel, Led by Man's King (**Verses 1-12**)

The Rebuke of the LORD, through His Prophets (**Verse 13**)

The Rejection of the Message of the LORD (**Verses 14-17**)

The Resulting Demise of Israel (**Verses 18-20**)

The Removal of Israel Clearly Justified of the LORD (**Verses 21-23**)

The Re-establishment of the Pagans in Samaria (**Verse 24**)

The Replacement of Paganism in Samaria (**Verses 25-26**)

The Reconciling of Opposing Systems of Belief (**Verses 27-33**)

The Reverting Back To Old Superstitions In Disregard of the LORD's Word (**Verse 34**)

The Reminder of the Covenant Between the LORD and His People (**Verses 35-39**)

The Remorseful Declaration Repeated, the Pagan's Refusal to Hear and Heed the Word of the LORD (**Verse 40**)

The Re-iteration of Syncretism in Land of Samaria, the Result of Israel's Rebellion (**Verse 41**)

Outline of II Kings 17:

- I. The Rebellion of Israel, Led by Man's King (**Verses 1-12**)
 - A. Paid tribute to Assyria, rather than trust in the Lord (**3**)
 - B. Pursued alliance with Egypt, as further unbelief (**4**)
 - C. Profusely sinned against the Lord, which was the result of their unbelief (**7-12**)
 1. Sin Done In The Open (**7-8**)
 - “feared other gods” (**7**)
 - “walked in the statutes of the heathen” (**8**)
 2. Sin Done In “Secret” (**9-12**)
 - “they built them high places” (**9**)
 - “they set them up images and groves” (**10**)
 - “they burnt incense in all the high places” (**11**)
 - “wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger: for they served idols” (**11**)
- II. The Rebuke of the LORD, through His Prophets (**Verse 13**)
 - A. His Messenger
 - “Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah”

B. His Mouth Piece(s)

“by all the prophets, and by all the seers”

C. His Message

“Turn ye from your evil ways”

“Keep my commandments and my statutes,” not according to their own thinking or feelings, but, “according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.”

III. The Rejection of the Message of the LORD, Provoking the Demise (**Verses 14-17**)A. Unreceptive (**14**)

“they would not hear”

B. Unrepentant (**14**)

“but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers”

C. Unbelieving (**14**)

“like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.”

D. Unyielding (**15**)

“they rejected his statutes, and his covenant” and “his testimonies”

They would not yield to Him, even when He testified against them.

E. Unprofitable (**15**)

“they followed vanity, and became vain”

Romans 1:21, “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

F. Unwise (**15**)

“went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them”

In light of the judgment that would come against them, they were unwise.

G. Unholy (**16**)

“left all the commandments of the LORD their God”

“made them molten images, even two calves”

“made a grove”

“worshipped all the host of heaven”

“served Baal”

- H. Ungodly (or Unrighteous) (17)
 - “they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire”
 - “used divination and enchantments”
 - “sold themselves to do evil”

- I. Unhidden (17)
 - “in the sight of the LORD”

- J. Unrelenting (17)
 - “to provoke him to anger”

IV. The Resulting Demise of Israel (**Verses 18-20**)

- A. Removed Israel (18)
 - “Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.”
- B. Rejected the seed of Israel (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.”

V. The Removal of Israel Clearly Justified of the LORD (**Verses 21-23**)

- A. The Purpose Corrupted (21) - Refer to **I Kings 11:39**
- B. The People Unrepentant (22)
- C. The Promise Fulfilled (23)

VI. The Re-establishment of Pagans in Samaria (**Verse 24**)

- A. The Placement of the Pagans
 - “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:”
- B. The Possession by the Pagans
 - “and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.”

VII. The Replacement of Paganism in Samaria (**Verses 25-26**)

- A. The Practice of Pagans & The Judgment of God: Objective Truth From the LORD (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.”
- B. The Philosophy of Pagans & The Judgment of Men: Subjective False Reasoning of Men (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.”

There false reasoning is based on superstitions, because of they were vain in their imaginations and because of their darkened foolish heart. (**Romans 1:21**)

VIII. The Reconciling of Opposing Systems of Belief (**Verses 27-33**)

A. Perverse Form of the Fear of the LORD Taught (**27-28**)

1. Commandment of Superstition from a Pagan King (**27**)

“let him teach them the manner of the God of the land”

2. Corrupted Teaching from a Rebellious Priest (**28**)

a. The Abhorrent Background of the Priest (**I Kings 12:31**)

“And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.”

b. The Abominable Practices of the Priest (**I Kings 12:32**)

“And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.”

c. The Abortive Message of the Priest (**I Kings 12:28, 31-33; II Kings 17:28**)

“Abortive” is defined as “unsuccessful” or “stillborn.” The message this priest taught could not bring forth life, the new birth, in these pagans. This priest taught the pagans about:

i. A False God (A False Christ / Messiah) (**I Kings 12:28**)

“Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”

ii. A False Mediator (A False Priest) (**I Kings 12:31-32**)

“And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.”

The Levitical priests themselves were to be a picture of Christ, as our Great High Priest. Their false mediation could only add to the abortive message of the priest in **II Kings 17**, who was of their line.

iii. A False Sacrifice and Atonement (A False Propitiation) (**I Kings 12:33**)

“So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.”

The teaching of “how they should fear the LORD,” first had a totally corrupt foundation. The “LORD” offered to these pagans simply was not the “LORD of the Scriptures (Torah). Second, notice that it says, “how” rather than “that.” The “fear of the LORD” is not process to be taught, but a command to be believed. A true fear of the Lord, will of course produce a changed life, however, the changed life itself is not to be defined as “the fear of the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 6:13 says, “Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.”

Deuteronomy 10:20 says, “Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.”

B. Production and Worship of Other gods (**29-31**)

“the men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth” - “Succoth-benoth” in the Hebrew means, “booths of the daughters”; brothels, i.e., idolatrous tents for impure purposes. (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance)

“the men of Cuth made Nergal”

“the men of Hamath made Ashima”

“the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak”

“the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Annammelech”

C. Pernicious Syncretism Exposed in the Word of God (**32-33**)

“Syncretism” comes from the Greek word, “synkretismos,” and is defined as “1. The reconciliation or union of conflicting beliefs, esp. religious beliefs, or a movement or effort intending such. 2. In the development of a religion, the process of growth through coalescence (by the union) of different forms of faith and worship (into one body) or through accretions (forcing increase or extension of the boundaries) of tenets, rites, etc., from (upon) those religions which are being superseded.” (Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Second Edition) [PARENTHESIS MINE]

1. Delineated Clearly by the LORD in Scripture

2 Kings 17:32-33, 41, “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. They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence. ...So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children’s children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.”

John 9:1-2, “And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?” (Disciples had reincarnation mixed in with their beliefs)

2. Division Commanded by the LORD in Scripture

Leviticus 10:8-11, “And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as

God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

3. Destruction Promised by the LORD in Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:14-15, “Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.”

Revelation 18:21, “And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.”

IX. The Reverting Back To Old Superstitions In Disregard of the LORD's Word (**Verse 34**)

“they do after the former manners” and “they fear not the LORD” according to His Word, which is restated here in this verse, “after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel;”

X. The Reminder of the Covenant Between the LORD and His People (**Verses 35-39**)

A. The Proclamation of a Charge (**35-39a**)

B. The Promise of Deliverance (**39b**)

1. The Foundation of the Faithful Deliverer - Past Deliverance (**36**)

“But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm...”

2. The Fulfillment Upon Faithful Obedience - Promised Deliverance (**39b**)

“And he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies”

Based on this condition: “But the LORD your God ye shall fear”

XI. The Remorseful Declaration of the Pagan's Refusal to Hear and Heed the Word of the LORD (**Verse 40**)

“They” who “did not hearken” refers back to **verse 29**, where the pagans did not hearken, to truly fear the LORD. But, how could they, without a true priest to preach unto them the True God, and His true redemption?

“They,” the pagans, “did after their former manner,” which would be according to **verse 34**, “they fear not the LORD,” which refers back to **verse 25**, “And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD.” How could they do anything but their former manner, without a true priest to preach unto them the True God, and His true Redemption?

Romans 10:13-17, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But, they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”

XII. The Re-iteration of Syncretism in Land of Samaria, the Result of Israel's Rebellion (**Verse 41**)

“So these nations feared the LORD” is not in contradiction with **verse 34**, since, this fear in **verse 41** is according to the false concept of the fear of the LORD as taught by the priest in **verse 28**.

Colossians 2:6-10, “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power”

Please be sure to visit our site to download the PDF transcript at: www.ephesians3seven.com/materials
We also have the MP3 Sermon available for you to listen to: www.ephesians3seven.com/sermons

If you have any questions, concerning this outline, e-mail us at the following address: info@ephesians3seven.com

* © Copyright 2003, 2007 James C. Farley — Ephesians3seven.com