

## Life in the Kingdom

# SIN AND CAPTIVITY

TEXT: 2 Kings 17

INTRODUCTION: We are jumping in our study of 2 Kings for two reasons. The first is that we covered some of the most important parts of these chapters in Payday Someday. God fulfilled His word of judgement not only upon Ahab and Jezebel, but upon their entire sinful family, until every descendant was destroyed.

The second reason is that the other chapters simply present to us a series of wicked kings “who did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.” 2 Kings 17 brings us to God’s dealing with that sin.

## I. SIN TOOK ISRAEL INTO CAPTIVITY.

Notice the progression

### A. They forgot God. (7)

2 Kgs 17:7 For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods,

### B. They disobeyed secretly. (8-9)

2 Kgs 17:9 Also the children of Israel secretly did against the LORD their God things that *were* not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city.

### C. They openly rebelled. (10-12)

2 Kgs 17:10-11 <sup>10</sup> They set up for themselves *sacred* pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. <sup>11</sup> There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the LORD had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger,

### D. They refused to repent. (13-15)

2 Kgs 17:13-14 <sup>13</sup> Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments *and* My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.” <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

**E. They became slaves to sin. (16-17)**

2 Kgs 17:16-17 <sup>16</sup> So they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image *and* two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. <sup>17</sup> And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

**F. God sent them to captivity. (18-23)**

2 Kgs 17:23 until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as *it is* to this day.

**II. SIN TAKES US INTO CAPTIVITY TODAY.****A. Sin follows a similar progression in our lives.****B. Sin still leads to captivity**

1. **Drugs and alcohol addiction** - the voluntary sinner becomes captive to the habit, unable to free himself.
2. **Sexual addiction** – things that fulfill lust can be addictive: pornography, fornication, adultery.
3. Jesus taught that **unforgiveness** makes you captive.
4. If you think through almost any sin, you can see how it makes you captive:
  - a. **lying** - makes you captive to more sustaining lies.
  - b. **dishonesty** - makes you be dishonest again to hide it.
  - c. **gossip** - makes others tell you and ask of you more gossip.

**III. ONLY CHRIST CAN DELIVER FROM THE CAPTIVITY OF SIN.****A. For Israel**

1. Most of Israel remains in captivity.
2. Only a tiny remnant returned from Babylon.
3. Only a small portion today have returned to Israel and they are still not truly free.
4. Israel will be totally regathered and restored only when Christ returns and they "look on Him whom they pierced" and believe.

**B. For Us**

1. Jesus "came to set the captives free."
  - a. by salvation
  - b. by forgiveness of the saved

CONCLUSION:

Are you somewhere on the progression?

Through Christ, you can be delivered if you will repent.