

Our Counterfeit Gods 2 Kings 17:6-23

2 Kings 17 provides three truths that will help us avoid turning to counterfeit gods.

- **Truth #1: THOUGH GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PEOPLE, THE CHOICE TO REPLACE HIM WITH OTHER “GODS” IS ALWAYS AN OPTION.**

In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. ⁷And this occurred because the people 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 had feared other gods ⁸and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. ⁹And the people of Israel did secretly against the LORD their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. ¹⁰They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, ¹¹and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the LORD carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the LORD to anger, ¹²and they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, “You shall not do this.” 2 Kings 17:6-12 (English Standard Version)

Definition of an idol: anything that replaces God in our lives.

. . . these men have set up idols in their hearts . . .
Ezekiel 14:3a (New International Version)

- **Truth #2: GOD ALWAYS WARNS HIS PEOPLE OF THE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD THEY CHOOSE OTHER GODS.**

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 fathers to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.” ¹⁴But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who did not trust in the LORD their God. ¹⁵They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their fathers and the warnings he had given them. 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,” and they did the things the LORD had forbidden them to do. ¹⁶They forsook all the commands of the LORD their God . . . 2 Kings 17:13-16a (NIV)

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. Hebrews 12:25 (ESV)

- **Truth #3: GOD JUDGES IDOLATRY WITH THE REMOVAL OF HIS FELLOWSHIP.**

Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only . . . ²⁰And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had cast them out of his sight . . . ²²The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, ²³until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day. 2 Kings 17:18, 20, 22-23 (ESV)