

**GOD'S COVENANT IN ISRAEL (Northern Kingdom)  
2 Kings 17; 18:19-22**

**Memory Verse:** *Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry* (1 Cor. 10:14 ESV).

**Background Helps:**

This week's readings narrate the exile of the northern kingdom of Israel and the reasons for its exile—in one word, idolatry. Notice four specific references to the “covenant” in 2 Kings 17:15, 35, 38; 18:12. In this case, the covenant referred to is the Mosaic Covenant, the covenant God made with Israel through Moses at Mt. Sinai, sometimes called the Old Covenant. Notice also the references to the law or commandments of Moses in 2 Kings 17:12-13, 15-16, 19, 34-39; 18:12.

Outline of the readings:

- The fall of Israel (17:1-6; 18:9-12)
- Reasons for the fall of Israel (17:7-23)
- Syncretism in the resettled land of Samaria (17:24-41)

**Lesson Helps:**

A possible lesson aim: My students will learn about the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel, so that they will flee from idolatry in their own lives.

A few tips for your lesson:

- Review the first two of the Ten Commandments, which Israel violated throughout their history (Ex. 20:1-4).
- To include narrative in your lesson, relate the story of the closing years of Israel's history in 2 Kings 17:1-6; 18:9-12. Specific reference to the sins of Jeroboam in 17:21-23 gives you opportunity to review that story as well (1 Kings 12:20, 25-33).
- Show from the Scriptures how Israel's violation of God's covenant through Moses resulted in the nation's exile.
- Define and discuss the “syncretism” of 2 Kings 17:24-41.
- Lesson applications: (1) What “idols” are we tempted to worship in our lives? Prime the pump with age appropriate suggestions. (2) How are we tempted to practice syncretism today?
- Review the memory verse, 1 Corinthians 10:14. How can we flee idols in our own lives? Review the provisions of the New Covenant, particularly forgiveness of past sins (including idolatry) through the death of Christ and ability to flee from future sins (including idolatry) through the power of the Spirit of Christ.
- Close the lesson with prayer, confessing the sin of idolatry, claiming forgiveness through the blood of Christ, and asking for the filling of the Spirit to avoid idolatry in the future.

**Home Assignment:**

 Read 2 Kings 22–23; 2 Chronicles 34–36.

 Memorize Isaiah 66:2b ESV.