

A NEW POPULATION IN SAMARIA
(2 Kings 17:24-41)

- I. Assyria's RE-SETTLEMENT Program (2 Kings 17:24-28)
 - A. A DIVERSE population
 - B. A DISTRESSED population
 - 1. Marauding LIONS were KILLING some
 - 2. They asked for INSTRUCTION on how to APPEASE the god of the land
 - 3. The Assyrian king sent an ISRAELITE priest to INSTRUCT them
 - 4. The priest went to BETHEL and "TAUGHT them how they should FEAR the LORD"

- II. The Region's RELIGIOUS Smorgasbord (2 Kings 17:29-33)
 - A. EVERY nationality continued to make its own GODS
 - B. Some practiced HUMAN SACRIFICE of their own CHILDREN
 - C. They also "feared the LORD" and chose from among THEMSELVES their own priests to appease Yahweh for them
 - D. They "feared the LORD" and served THEIR OWN GODS according to THEIR OWN CUSTOMS

III. God's REBUKE of Persistent Idolatry (2 Kings 17:34-41)

- A. "They do not FEAR the LORD"
- B. They broke the COVENANT God had made with JACOB
 - 1. God RESCUED them from Egypt
 - 2. He DEMANDED their allegiance be to Him ALONE
 - 3. He promised to PROTECT them in their FAITHFULNESS
 - 4. They hadn't LISTENED, but had done as they PLEASED
- C. They CORRUPTED their progeny

IV. Lessons

- A. COPING religion: worship to SOLVE PROBLEMS
- B. CREATIVE religion: worship as YOU PLEASE
- C. COVENANT religion: worship as GOD DIRECTS
- D. CONDEMNING religion: false worship that DESTROYS future GENERATIONS
- E. Salvation is by GRACE alone, through FAITH alone, in CHRIST alone