

Hoshea [Israel] Rebels against Shalmaneser V [Assyria] (727n–725n BC)

2 Kings 17:3–4

3 Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute.

4 But the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea, who had sent messengers to So king of Egypt and had offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year; so the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison.

Shalmaneser V [Assyria] Besieges Samaria (725n–723n BC)

2 Kings 17:5

5 Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land and went up to Samaria and besieged it three years.

2 Kings 18:9

9 Now it came about in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it.

The Fall of Samaria and the Exile of Israel (723n BC)

2 Kings 17:6–23

6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

7 Now this came about, because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods

8 and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel, and in the customs of the kings of Israel which they had introduced.

9 And the sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right, against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.

10 And they set for themselves sacred pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree,

11 and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations did which the LORD had carried away to exile before them; and they did evil things provoking the LORD.

12 And they served idols, concerning which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

13 Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah, through all His prophets and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets."

14 However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

15 And they rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings with which He warned them. And they followed vanity and became vain, and went after the nations which surrounded them, concerning which the LORD had commanded them not to do like them.

16 And they forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and

2 Kings 18:10–12

10 And at the end of three years they captured it; in the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was captured.

11 Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and put them in Halah and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes,

12 because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God,

but transgressed His covenant

even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded; they would neither listen, nor do it.

served Baal.

17 Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him.

18 So the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah.

19 Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced.

20 And 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.

21 When He had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel away from following the LORD, and made them commit a great sin.

22 And the sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them,

23 until the LORD removed Israel from His sight, as He spoke through all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away into exile from their own land to Assyria until this day.

Samaria Resettled by the Assyrians (c. 722–720 BC)

2 Kings 17:24–41

24 The king of Assyria brought foreigners from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the Israelites. They took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.

25 When they first moved in, they did not worship the LORD. So the LORD sent lions among them and the lions were killing them.

26 The king of Assyria was told, “The nations whom you deported and settled in the cities of Samaria do not know the requirements of the God of the land, so he has sent lions among them. They are killing the people because they do not know the requirements of the God of the land.”

27 So the king of Assyria ordered, “Take back one of the priests whom you deported from there. He must settle there and teach them the requirements of the God of the land.”

28 So one of the priests whom they had deported from Samaria went back and settled in Bethel. He taught them how to worship the LORD.

29 But each of these nations made its own gods and put them in the shrines on the high places that the people of Samaria had made. Each nation did this in the cities where they lived.

30 The people from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the people from Cuth made Nergal, the people from Hamath made Ashima, 31 the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned their sons in the fire as an offering to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 At the same time they worshiped the LORD. They appointed some of their own people to serve as priests in the shrines on the high places.

33 They were worshiping the LORD and at the same time serving their own gods in accordance with the practices of the nations from which they had been deported.

34 To this very day they observe their earlier practices. They do not worship the LORD; they do not obey the rules, regulations, law, and commandments that the LORD gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he renamed Israel.

35 The LORD made an agreement with them and instructed them, “You must not worship other gods. Do not bow down to them, serve them, or offer sacrifices to them.

36 Instead you must worship the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt by his great power and military ability; bow down to him and offer sacrifices to him.

37 You must carefully obey at all times the rules, regulations, law, and commandments he wrote down for you. You must not worship other gods.

38 You must never forget the agreement I made with you, and you must not worship other gods.

39 Instead you must worship the LORD your God; then he will rescue you from the power of all your enemies.”

40 But they pay no attention; instead they observe their earlier practices.

41 These nations are worshiping the LORD and at the same time serving their idols; their sons and grandsons do just as their fathers have done, to this very day.

Restore Us, O God (c. 722–720 BC)

Psalm 80

For the music director; according to the shushan-eduth style;

A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 O shepherd of Israel, pay attention,
you who lead Joseph like a flock of sheep!
You who sit enthroned above the winged angels, reveal your splendor!
- 2 In the sight of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh reveal your power!
Come and deliver us!
- 3 O God, restore us!
Smile on us! Then we will be delivered!
- 4 O LORD God, invincible warrior!
How long will you remain angry at your people while they pray to you?
- 5 You have given them tears as food;
you have made them drink tears by the measure.
- 6 You have made our neighbors dislike us,
and our enemies insult us.
- 7 O God, invincible warrior, restore us!
Smile on us! Then we will be delivered!
- 8 You uprooted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out nations and transplanted it.
- 9 You cleared the ground for it;
it took root,
and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow,
the highest cedars by its branches.
- 11 Its branches reached the Mediterranean Sea,
and its shoots the Euphrates River.
- 12 Why did you break down its walls,
so that all who pass by pluck its fruit?
- 13 The wild boars of the forest ruin it;
the insects of the field feed on it.
- 14 O God, invincible warrior, come back!
Look down from heaven and take notice!
Take care of this vine,
15 the root your right hand planted,
the shoot you made to grow!
- 16 It is burned and cut down.
They die because you are displeased with them.
- 17 May you give support to the one you have chosen,
to the one whom you raised up for yourself!
- 18 Then we will not turn away from you.
Revive us and we will pray to you!
- 19 O LORD God, invincible warrior, restore us!
Smile on us! Then we will be delivered!

Scripture quoted by permission. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996–2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://bible.org> All rights reserved. This material is available in its entirety as a free download or online web use at <http://netbible.org/>.

Chronological Notes

- 1) For the date of the fall of Samaria, see the following definitive paper: Rodger C. Young, “When Was Samaria Captured? The Need for Precision in Biblical Chronologies” *JETS* 47/4 (Dec 2004): 577–95.