

The Fall of Israel
April 19, 2015
2 Kings 17:7-18

The reason for the fall of Judah and Israel was Unbelief!

After the division in 930 BC the Northern Kingdom was known as **Israel**.

- Existed for about 200 yrs (930-722BC).
- Israel had 20 kings of which all did evil and pursued **idolatry**, 7 were assassinated.
- There were 9 dynasties and the last King was Hoshea

The Southern Kingdom was known as **Judah**.

- Existed for about 350 years (930-586 BC).
- Twenty Kings- One dynasty- **David's**.

Again, the reason for both of the downfalls of Israel and Judah was unbelief; in that they didn't put their **trust** in God.

He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

Matthew 12:30

Look at Israel's "resume" in how they dealt with the Lord:

- Verse 7- Sinned against the Lord, who had brought them out of Egypt. They feared other gods.
- Verse 8- Walked in the statutes of other nations that the Lord had cast out.
- Verse 9- Did things in secret that were not right. Also, built for themselves high places.
- Verse 10- Built sacred pillars and wooden images (Canaanite deities).
- Verse 11- Burned incense on all high places, just like nations the Lord had carried away before them. Did wicked things to provoke the Lords anger.
- Verse 12- Served idols, which the Lord said you should not do.
- Verse 14- Not hear, stiff necked.
- Verse 16- Left all the commandments of God.
- Verse 17- Caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying. Sold themselves to evil in sight of the Lord. Provoked the Lord to anger.

Israel did it "their way," and God allowed them to follow their desires, but they paid dearly for it.

Three things that was true of Israel during this time that characterized their unbelief:

1. **Disobedience**- 2 Kings 17:13 *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."*
2. **Doubt**- 2 Kings 17:14 *Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.*
3. **Defiance**- 2 Kings 17:15 *And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them.*

God sent them many prophets to warn them and help them to get back on the right path.

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." **2 Kings 17:13**

Though we face seen and unseen consequences for our unfaithfulness, thankfully, our unfaithfulness doesn't cancel out God's faithfulness.

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **1 John 2:1**

See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic. **Isaiah 28:16 (NIV)**

What does Jesus ask of us now? What is God's desire? Well, we know it on a specific basis with all the 66 books in the Bible.

It is summed up in the 2 greatest commandments.

*But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked **Him a question**, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "**You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**" This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: '**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."* **Matthew 22:34-40**

Though it's not so much commandments (law) as it is a relationship.

We are to love God with all we have, but we can't love God and _____.

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. **Matthew 6:24**

We can't love God and **money**, love God and unfaithfulness, love God and lust, love God and drugs, love God and material things, love God and self, love God and alcohol, love God and **overeating**, love God and our **own** way. Some of these things in and of themselves are not ungodly; some are, though when we seek to serve and love these things and God, it **won't work**.

This morning will you pray to God in regards to your unbelief, your disobedience, your defiance and your doubt? Would you lay it before to God?

Call out in prayer for help with your unbelief and lack of trust!

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" **Mark 9:24**