

## Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 26.2, 2 Kings 17, Part 2 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

### 1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 26.2, 2 Kings 17, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on the fall of Samaria, as described in 2 Kings 17. He attributes the downfall to the Israelites' worship of idols and their adoption of Canaanite practices, essentially returning to behaviors God had explicitly forbidden. **A key issue was their forgetting God's past actions of redemption and provision.** This forgetfulness led them to believe they could manipulate earthly powers for their own benefit, rather than recognizing God's ultimate authority. **Oswalt emphasizes that their actions stemmed from a fundamental difference in worldview**, where the surrounding nations saw the world as ultimate, while God called them to a higher, transcendent perspective. **The lecture highlights the importance of remembering God's actions** and allowing this to shape our behavior.

**2. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 26.2 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).**



**Oswalt\_Kings\_Sessi  
on26\_2.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 26.2, 2 Kings 17, Part 2

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. John Oswalt's session on 2 Kings 17, Part 2.

#### **Briefing Document: Oswalt on 2 Kings 17, Part 2**

**Subject:** Analysis of the fall of Samaria in 2 Kings 17, emphasizing idolatry, mimicking Canaanite practices, and forgetting God's past actions.

**Source:** Excerpts from "Oswalt\_Kings\_EN\_Session26\_2.pdf" (Dr. John Oswalt, Kings, Session 26, Part 2, 2 Kings 17, Part 2).

#### **Main Themes and Ideas:**

- **Idolatry as a Core Reason for Samaria's Fall:** Oswalt emphasizes the recurring theme of idolatry as the primary reason for the fall of Samaria. He highlights that the Israelites "worshipped other gods, and in that connection, they made idols." He emphasizes the act of worshipping "things they'd made with their own hands".
- **Mimicking Canaanite Practices:** The Israelites are condemned for repeating the sins of the Canaanites, the people whom God drove out of the land. This is described as "they were doing the very things that the people that God drove out were doing." and likened to returning to "their vomit". Specific practices mentioned include building pagan worship centers, setting up sacred stones and Asherah poles.
- **Rejection of God's Decrees and Immoral Practices:** The Israelites also rejected God's decrees and engaged in practices such as sacrificing their sons and daughters, practicing divination, and seeking omens. Oswalt highlights the contrast between God's redemption of the firstborn and pagan sacrifices. "God says your firstborn belongs to me. But you have to redeem the child. The pagan says, give me that kid."
- **Self-Enslavement and Doing What is Wrong:** The Israelites are described as having "sold themselves to do what is wrong in the creator's eyes," enslaving themselves to sin. Oswalt draws a parallel to modern-day addictions, stating, "What does a drug addict do except sell himself or herself? Or an alcoholic? They sell themselves to become slaves to this."

- **The Gradual Nature of Sin and the Importance of Courage:** Oswalt uses the example of Jeroboam's golden calves to illustrate how sin often starts with a single step. "The Chinese proverb is that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." The failure to address these initial acts of disobedience led to further corruption. He questions why the summary of Jeroboam's actions comes at the end of the list of sins, suggesting it was the starting point.
- **God's Past Actions of Redemption and Provision:** Oswalt emphasizes what God has done for the Israelites: redeeming them from slavery in Egypt, giving them land by driving out other nations, and sending them prophets. He states, "God did for them what they could not do for themselves." He emphasizes that God is a "Savior", "provider" and "Warner" and the Israelites have slapped Him in the face.
- **Forgetting the Lord and the Disconnect Between Belief and Behavior:** Oswalt connects sin with forgetting the Lord, drawing on Deuteronomy. He argues that true remembrance of God should manifest in righteous behavior. "If you really did remember who he is and what he's done, you wouldn't act like that."
- **The Significance of Remembrance:** Oswalt stresses the importance of remembering God's actions through rituals and daily life. He uses the Lord's Supper as an example of a practice done in remembrance of God.
- **The Distinctness of the Israelites and the Rejection of Worldly Values:** Oswalt criticizes the Israelites for following the nations around them, who hold a different view of reality. He stresses that God called the Israelites to be different and to reject worldly values because "this world is not ultimate." He connects this to modern discussions about the relevance of the Old Testament.

**Key Quotes:**

- "They worshipped other gods, and in that connection, they made idols...They worshipped things they'd made with their own hands."
- "They were doing the very things that the people that God drove out were doing. And here's that language from Isaiah. They've returned to their vomit."
- "Did they sell themselves for what purpose? To do what is wrong in the creator's eyes. They enslaved themselves."
- "God did for them what they could not do for themselves."
- "If you really did remember who he is and what he's done, you wouldn't act like that."
- "This world is not ultimate."

**Implications/Takeaways:**

- The fall of Samaria serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of idolatry and straying from God's commands.
- True faith involves not only intellectual assent but also a transformation of behavior that reflects remembrance of God's actions.
- The Israelites' failure was not a result of God being harsh, but rather their own choices to reject His provision and follow the practices of the world around them.
- Even small deviations from God's will can lead to significant consequences.

## 4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, , Session 26.2, 2 Kings 17, Part 2

### A Study Guide to 2 Kings 17: The Fall of Samaria

#### Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. According to the passage, what was the most frequently repeated reason for Samaria's fall?
2. What practice of the Canaanites did the Israelites repeat?
3. What did the sacrificing of sons and daughters represent, in contrast to God's command?
4. How does the speaker connect the actions of the Israelites in 2 Kings 17 to the behavior of modern drug addicts and alcoholics?
5. What was Jeroboam's initial action that led to the downfall of the Northern Kingdom?
6. What are three things God did for the Israelites, as highlighted in the passage?
7. How does Deuteronomy define "forgetting the Lord" in relation to sin?
8. How does the speaker connect the Lord's Supper to the concept of remembering the Lord?
9. What was Isaiah's response to God's call in Isaiah 6, and why did he respond that way?
10. According to the speaker, how does the Old Testament challenge the secular view that "this world is it?"

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The most frequently repeated reason for Samaria's fall was the worship of idols. The Israelites were giving ultimate value to things they had made with their own hands, rather than worshipping God. This idolatry was a core violation of their covenant with God.
2. The Israelites repeated the practices of the Canaanites that God had driven out of the land. This included building pagan worship centers and high places, setting up

sacred stones and Asherah poles, and sacrificing their sons and daughters. By repeating these actions, they had "returned to their vomit."

3. The sacrificing of sons and daughters was a pagan practice that was in direct opposition to God's command that the firstborn belongs to Him and must be redeemed. This pagan practice involved giving the firstborn child to the gods, whereas God commanded that the child should be redeemed and dedicated to Him. It also ties into the worship of fertility.
4. The speaker likens the Israelites selling themselves to do what is wrong in God's eyes to the modern phenomenon of drug addiction and alcoholism. Both involve enslaving oneself to something that is harmful and destructive, demonstrating a lack of self-control and disregard for one's well-being. In both cases people become slaves to a destructive pattern.
5. Jeroboam's initial action that led to the downfall of the Northern Kingdom was the creation of two golden calves of Yahweh. He did this to prevent the people from going to Jerusalem to worship, fearing they would sell out to the Judeans. This started a pattern of syncretism (the merging of different belief systems), mixing biblical faith with paganism.
6. God redeemed them from slavery in Egypt, gave them a land by driving out other nations, and sent them prophets. These actions demonstrate that God was not out to get them, but was actively working for their good. He provided for them and warned them when they strayed from His path.
7. Deuteronomy defines "forgetting the Lord" as a state where one's behavior does not reflect a true remembrance of who God is and what He has done. It suggests that one cannot separate their mentality from their behavior, and that disobedience indicates a genuine lack of remembrance. Hearing and obeying are linked, so disobeying implies a failure to truly hear God's voice.
8. The speaker connects the Lord's Supper to the concept of remembering the Lord by emphasizing that it is a ritual done in remembrance of Him. By partaking in the Lord's Supper, believers are actively remembering Christ's sacrifice and reaffirming their commitment to Him. All of scripture calls people to live in ways that remember the Lord.
9. Isaiah responded to God's call in Isaiah 6 by enthusiastically volunteering to go, asking, "Who will go for us? Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." He felt compelled to serve God because he remembered what God had just done for him: cleansing

his lips and giving him a new life. This deep gratitude and sense of being cleansed motivated him to offer himself for God's service.

10. According to the speaker, the Old Testament challenges the secular view that "this world is it" by asserting that there is someone who is not this world. This idea implies that there is a higher power and a different perspective on reality, which changes everything. Because this world is not ultimate, people cannot manipulate the powers of fertility.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the repeated phrase "they worshipped other gods" in 2 Kings 17. How does this idolatry relate to the Israelites' understanding of God and their covenant relationship with Him?
2. Explore the connection between Jeroboam's actions and the eventual fall of Samaria. How did his initial decision to create golden calves set a trajectory for the Northern Kingdom, and what lessons can be learned from this?
3. Analyze the ways in which the author of 2 Kings 17 emphasizes God's past actions on behalf of the Israelites. What is the rhetorical effect of highlighting these acts of redemption and provision, and how does it underscore the Israelites' failure?
4. Examine the theme of "remembering the Lord" as it is presented in the passage and in Deuteronomy. How does the act of remembering shape behavior, and what are the consequences of forgetting God's actions and identity?
5. Considering the speaker's reference to Andy Stanley's view on the Old Testament, discuss the importance of the Old Testament for understanding the New Testament and Christian faith. How does the Old Testament challenge contemporary worldviews, and why is it essential for a comprehensive understanding of God's relationship with humanity?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Idolatry:** The worship of idols or images as gods; giving ultimate value to one's own creations.
- **High Places:** Elevated sites used for pagan worship, often associated with Canaanite religious practices.
- **Asherah Poles:** Wooden poles or trees representing the Canaanite goddess Asherah, often associated with fertility worship.
- **Divination:** The practice of seeking knowledge of the future or the unknown through supernatural means, such as interpreting omens or consulting spirits.
- **Omens:** Signs or events believed to predict future outcomes, often used in divination practices.
- **Syncretism:** The merging or blending of different religious beliefs or practices, often resulting in a compromised or diluted faith.
- **Redemption:** The act of rescuing or freeing someone from slavery, captivity, or sin; in this context, God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement or promise between two parties; in this context, the agreement between God and the Israelites, where they promised to obey His laws in exchange for His protection and blessings.
- **Remembrance:** The act of actively recalling and reflecting on past events, experiences, or teachings; in this context, remembering God's actions and identity to inform present behavior.
- **Ultimate Reality:** The fundamental nature of existence; in this context, the question of whether the physical world is the only reality or if there is a higher, transcendent power or realm.



## **5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 26.2, 2 Kings 17, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**

### **FAQ on 2 Kings 17**

#### **1. What were the primary reasons for the fall of Samaria and the Northern Kingdom of Israel according to 2 Kings 17?**

The fall of Samaria is attributed to the Israelites' persistent idolatry and their adoption of the practices of the Canaanites. They worshipped other gods and made idols, giving ultimate value to their own creations instead of the Creator. They constructed pagan worship centers and high places, set up sacred stones and Asherah poles, rejected God's decrees, and even sacrificed their own children. They also practiced divination and sought omens, demonstrating a lack of faith in God's provision.

#### **2. What does it mean that the Israelites "sold themselves" to do evil in the Lord's sight?**

The phrase "sold themselves" implies a complete surrender to sin and evil desires. It highlights the enslavement that results from choosing a path contrary to God's will. This is illustrated in modern terms by addiction, where individuals become slaves to their cravings and desires, forsaking their freedom and well-being.

#### **3. How did Jeroboam's actions contribute to the downfall of the Northern Kingdom?**

Jeroboam, the first king of the Northern Kingdom, established the worship of golden calves as an alternative to worshipping at the Temple in Jerusalem. This act, seemingly a minor deviation, set a precedent for idolatry and syncretism (the blending of biblical faith and paganism) that persisted throughout the Northern Kingdom's history. This initial step led to further departures from God's law and ultimately contributed to their demise.

#### **4. What actions did God take on behalf of the Israelites before their fall, and why is this significant?**

God redeemed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, gave them a land by driving out other nations, and sent them prophets to warn them when they broke his law. These actions demonstrate God's faithfulness, his provision, and his constant attempts to guide his people back to him. This makes their subsequent rejection of him all the more egregious, as they turned their backs on a God who had consistently acted in their best interests.

**5. What does it mean to "forget the Lord," and how is it manifested in behavior?**

Forgetting the Lord isn't simply a matter of failing to remember historical facts or religious rituals. In the biblical mindset, it signifies a disconnect between one's understanding of God's character and actions, and one's behavior. If someone truly remembers who God is and what he has done, their actions will reflect that understanding. Disobedience and idolatry, therefore, are evidence of having forgotten the Lord.

**6. How does the speaker connect the Israelites' idolatry to a faulty view of reality?**

The speaker argues that the Israelites fell into idolatry because they adopted the worldview of the surrounding nations, believing that the physical world was ultimate. This led them to try to manipulate worldly powers (fertility, prosperity, etc.) through pagan practices. In contrast, God's perspective is that there is a reality beyond the physical, and that He is sovereign over all.

**7. What is the significance of remembering what God has done for us?**

Remembering God's acts of salvation and provision is crucial because it inspires gratitude and a desire to serve Him. When we recognize the magnitude of what God has done for us, we are moved to offer ourselves to Him willingly and enthusiastically. Forgetting His saving acts, on the other hand, leads to apathy and a lack of commitment.

**8. How does the Old Testament relate to a Christian's understanding of God?**

The speaker believes that the Old Testament is essential for understanding God and how the world works. The "ultimate" nature of the world is directly challenged by the Old Testament. This is later built on in the New Testament. The speaker finds it alarming that some might suggest Christians don't need the Old Testament, as it provides foundational truths about God's character, His relationship with humanity, and the nature of reality itself.