THE AX FALLS
2 Kings 17

MAIN THOUGHT The AX of God (Matt. 3:10) falls on the sinful Ten Tribes of Israel as we learn WHAT happened, WHY it happened, WHERE it happened, HOW it happened, and to WHOM it happened.

WHAT HAPPENED — EXILE (1-6).
• Hoshea murdered Pekah (15:29-31) and became the last of 19 evil kings.
• Shalmaneser V, King of Assyria, found out Hoshea was a traitor by seeking Egypt’s help. This went against the Lord as well (7; Isa. 31:1).
• Hoshea was imprisoned and Shalmaneser laid siege to Samaria for three years. Israel was then deported to modern Iraq and Iran. The 2½ tribes in trans-Jordan had previously been exiled (1 Chron. 5:24-26).
• Israel was only a CARETAKER of the land and they proved unfaithful; God is the owner of everything (Matt. 25:14).

WHY IT HAPPENED — PERSISTENT SIN (7-23a).
• PERSISTENT SIN (7-11, 14-22): other gods, pagan practices, secret things (2 Pet. 2:1), high places, sacred stones, Asherah poles, spreading trees, idols, golden calves, starry hosts, Baal, child sacrifices, divination and sorcery all of which rendered them WORTHLESS (15).
• PERSISTENT WARNINGS (12-13; 23a): Elijah, Elisha, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Obed, Isaiah, and others warned them over many years. But they remained stiff-necked and refused (Acts 7:39; 2 Thess. 2:10).

WHERE IT HAPPENED — DEPORTATION (23b; 18:11). The remaining 7½ tribes were deported to modern Iraq and Iran. They were kicked out the promised land — out of the REST of God (Gen. 3:23; Matt. 25:30).

HOW IT HAPPENED — IMPORTATION (24-33).
• The Israelites were being replaced by foreigners who would please the new king, Sargon II (Isa. 20:1). These intermarried with the remaining remnant and became the SAMARITAN race of people (John 4:9).
• But God was not pleased and sent lions to attack them. One Israelite priest returned to teach the foreigners how to worship the God of Israel. Like Ahaz of Judah (16:14, 15b), they became syncretistic (32-33).

| SYNCRETISM — the reconciliation or fusion of differing systems of belief. |

TO WHOM IT HAPPENED — THE TEN TRIBES (34-40).
• Israel’s HARDENING will exist until the Lord returns at his second coming. Then ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED when the remnant repents (Rom. 11:25-26).
• The Ten Tribes are not LOST for God knows who they are (Rev. 7:4-8). This false theory of BRITISH ISRAELISM is the basis for many cults, white supremacy (Nazism), antisemitism, and anti-Israel today.