

IDOLS OF THE HEART

**1Jn 5:21 Little children,
keep yourselves from idols.
Amen.**

- ▶ 2Ki 17:7 For so it was, that **the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God**, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had **feared other gods**,
- ▶ 2Ki 17:8 And **walked in the statutes of the heathen**, whom **the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel**, which they had made.

**ISRAEL HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY
MULTICULTURALISM & CULTURAL
DIVERSITY!**

2Ki 17:9 And the children of Israel did **secretly *those* things that were not right against the LORD their God**, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

▶ **By hiding their unrighteous actions.**

I. SECRET IDOLATRY

2Ki 17:9 And the children of Israel did secretly *those things that were not right* against the LORD their God, and **they built them high places in all their cities**, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

Cities = popularity

Tower = self-security

Fenced city = self-sufficiently

B. BY BUILDING HIGH PLACES

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2Ki 17:11 And there **they burnt incense in all the high places**, as *did* the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and **wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger:**

C. BY WORSHIPPING FALSELY

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2Ki 17:12 For **they served idols**, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

▶ Served = worshipped stones as gods

II. SERVING IDOLATRY

- ▶ 2Ki 17:13 Yet **the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers**, saying, Turn ye 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.
- ▶ 2Ki 17:14 Notwithstanding **they would not hear**, but **hardened their necks**, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.

B. THEY SERVED IDOLS BY THEIR STUBBORNNESS.

2Ki 17:15 And **they rejected his statutes**, and **his covenant** that he made with their fathers, **and his testimonies** which he testified against them;

Statutes = standards

Covenant = promises

Testimonies = history of faithfulness

**C. THEY SERVED IDOLS BY
REJECTION OF THE TRUTH.**

II Kings 17:15 B ...**they followed vanity**, and **became vain**, and **went after the heathen that were round about them**, *concerning* whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.

**D. THEY SERVED IDOLS BY
RECEPTION OF FOLLY.**

2Ki 17:16 And **they left all the commandments of the LORD their God**, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and **worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.**

- ▶ **They left God's commands.**
- ▶ **They loved overt idolatry!**

III. SACRILIGIOUS IDOLARTY

2Ki 17:17 And **they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.**

BUT THAT WAS NOT ALL! THAT LED THEM TO DO THE UNTHINKABLE!!

2Ki 17:18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and **removed them out of his sight**: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

**THEN FINALLY GOD REMOVES
THEM OUT OF HIS SIGHT.**

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