

2 KINGS 17:24-41 "HALF-A-HEART"

2 Kings 17:9-12

9 Also the children of Israel **secretly did against the LORD their God** things that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city.

10 They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree.

11 There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the LORD had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger,

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

Hebrews 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 **And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

So – Israel got carried away!

- By Sin
- By Assyria

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

25 And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

- Lions were once a great threat in Israel – they are only found in Zoos in Israel now.

26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the **rituals** of the

God of the land; **therefore** He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land."

- Is there any power in Religion?
 - Why do people think there is?
 - **Rituals** – laws, ordinances, rules for righteousness.
- **"rituals"**: **4941** מִשְׁפָּט [mishpat /mish·pawt/] n m. From 8199; TWOT 2443c; GK 5477; 421 occurrences; AV translates as "judgment" 296 times, "manner" 38 times, "right" 18 times, "cause" 12 times, "ordinance" 11 times, "lawful" seven times, "order" five times, "worthy" three times, "fashion" three times, "custom" twice, "discretion" twice, "law" twice, "measure" twice, "sentence" twice, and translated miscellaneously 18 times.
 - **1 judgment, justice, ordinance.**
 - 1a judgment. 1a1 act of deciding a case. 1a2 place, court, seat of judgment. 1a3 process, procedure, litigation (before judges). 1a4 case, cause (presented for judgment). 1a5 sentence, decision (of judgment). 1a6 execution (of judgment). 1a7 time (of judgment). 1b justice, right, rectitude (attributes of God or man). 1c ordinance. 1d decision (in law). 1e right, privilege, due (legal). 1f proper, fitting, measure, fitness, custom, manner, plan. 1
- **"therefore"** – Chuck Smith would say – "If the Word says 'therefore', find out what it's there for."
 - A term of summation
 - Cause and effect

Hebrews 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works** to serve the living God?

- Dead works – works done in a religious spirit.

27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

- Priests in Samaria were men who taught the worship of the Lord and the pagan gods.
- What a great choice for Lucifer!

- Send a Priest with **“half-a-heart”** to teach foreigners how to have a **“half-a-heart”** for the Lord.
- All under the guise of “fearing the Lord.”
- **Lucifer loves Religion!**
 - Lucifer loves a self-righteous person – don’t need Jesus
 - Lucifer loves when religion adds to the Cross
 - Lucifer loves when Jesus is side-lined and Religion takes over!
 - What you wear
 - What you eat
 - What you drink
 - Where you go
 - Theaters
 - Bowling Alleys and Pool Halls

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

- Lucifer loves the churches of Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17)
 - Then and now.
 - **Pergamos** (pur'-ga-mos) = Citadel; fortified; high tower; height; elevation.
 - The Greek prefix **per**, seen in words like “pervert,” **means opposition.**
 - The suffix **gamos**, seen in words like “monogamy” or “bigamy,” means “marriage.”
 - **Pergamos, then, means “objectionable marriage”** ²
 - **A root word from which we get our words bigamy and polygamy.** ³
 - **Double married = Double minded**
- Psalm 119:113-114**
113 I hate the double-minded, But I love Your law.
114 You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.

² Courson, J. (2003). *Jon Courson's Application Commentary* (1673). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

³ Smith, S., & Cornwall, J. (1998). *The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names* (194). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos.

James 1:8 he is a **double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways.

James 4:8-10

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, **you double-minded**.

9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- Half-hearted for Jesus – is NO hearted for Jesus!
 - Ephesus – half in love
 - Pergamos – half committed
 - Laodicea – half on fire

29 However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt.

30 The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

31 and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 **So they feared the LORD**, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.

33 **They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods—according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.**

34 To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the LORD had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel,

35 with whom the LORD had made a covenant and charged them, saying: "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them;

36 but the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice.

37 And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods.

38 And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods.

39 But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies.”

40 However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals.

41 So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children’s children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.

Psalm 103:9–14

9 He will not always strive with us,

Nor will He keep His anger forever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

12 As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

13 As a father pities his children,
So the LORD pities those who fear Him.

14 For He knows our frame;
He remembers that we are dust.