

# Apply The Word

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## KINGS & KINGDOMS

### Message Info

**Title:**

Take Responsibility

**Speaker:**

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**Date:**

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**Scriptures:**

2 Kings 17:5-41

**Theme:** Take responsibility because time is short.

**Introduction:** The failure to take responsibility is a common experience in our fallen world. Sometimes that failure results in minor irritations, while at other times the results can be truly devastating. In Kings, we have seen Israel repeatedly fail to take responsibility, and in this text the fruits of that failure are harvested. Israel is sent into exile: "and this happened because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD" (17:7).

This text answers two related questions:

**1. What were they held responsible for? (5-23)**

The Lord lays out a lengthy list of Israel's failures: spiritual forgetfulness and ingratitude, fearing other gods, adopting pagan customs, hidden evil, worship at high places, serving idols, ignoring the prophets, stubbornness, rejecting God's law, and more.

They even sacrificed their sons and daughters to Molech. Over time, the unthinkable had been embraced as normal.

Each of these failures showed the Israel had a responsibility to obey the Lord; and though the kings obviously had an important role, the people themselves were ultimately held responsible. They could not blame others for their own failure to do what the Lord required.

We, too, are all responsible before the Lord, and we must not presume upon his patience and mercy. We need to respond to him.

**2. What was the outcome? (24-41)**

The Assyrians came and conquered Israel. And consistent with their practice, they removed the Israelites and repopulated the land with foreigners. They were seeking to demoralize the inhabitants and to make them easier to control.

But as these pagan settlers inhabit Israel, they offend the Lord and he sends lions to kill them. So they find priests to teach them how to fear the Lord so they don't die. However, they merely add the worship of the Lord to the worship of their other gods. They were syncretistic (mixing religions) and pragmatic, focusing merely on what worked.

Our hope is found in Jesus, who took responsibility for the failures of his people so that we could be made right with God.

**Questions:**

1. Are there any evidences of idolatry in your life? Any cultural values you've embraced? Pragmatism that you practice?

2. How does faithfulness to God cost you?

3. You may want to read Psalm 86: 11 and turn it into a prayer.