





## Because of the small things

<sup>7</sup> All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshiped other gods 8 and followed the practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before them, as well as the practices that the kings of Israel had introduced. <sup>9</sup> The Israelites secretly did things against the Lord their God that were not right...

2 Kings 17:7-9 (NIV)

11 They did wicked things that aroused the Lord's anger. 12 They worshiped idols, though the Lord had said, "You shall not do this." 13 The Lord warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets."

2 Kings 17:11-13 (NIV)

14 But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their ancestors, who did not trust in the Lord their God. <sup>15</sup> They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors and the statutes he had warned them to keep. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the Lord had ordered them, "Do not do as they do."... <sup>17</sup>They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire...

2 Kings 17:14-15, 17 (NIV)

Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence.

#### IDOLATRY

They rejected their covenant relationship with God and instead worshipped other gods and created idols

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#### INJUSTICE

They were doing evil things in secret, adopting the unjust practices of the nations, and engaging in child sacrifice.



### Is God blood-thirsty?







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God sending people away from His presence is about a failure to live out the mission.

When bad things happen to us, is God judging us for something we've done?

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<sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance... <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Revelation 2:2-5 (NIV)