



The Rabshakeh, Unable to Discern Permissive Will, Misinterprets the Fall of Israel, Isa 36:18-20; The People of Judah Ignore His Propaganda, v. 21

47) A summary of this Assyrian victory over Israel is provided by:

Mulder, M. J. "Israel to the Time of the Babylonian Captivity." In *The World of the Old Testament*, edited by A. S. van der Woude. Translated by Sierd Woudstra. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989), 57-58:

Under Shalmaneser V, Hoshea tried not only to escape his tributary status to the Assyrians but also to form a coalition of revolters against Assyria. In this connection So, "king of Egypt," is mentioned. Shalmaneser, hearing of the revolt of his Israelite vassal, promptly took action. He invaded Israel and for three years laid siege to Samaria. In 722-21, shortly before Shalmaneser's death, the city fell. Around 720, Sargon II, his successor, decided to put an end to the regularly recurring revolts in Samaria. He recaptured the city and deported the remaining population to Calah, the Habur River area, and some cities in Media. At the same time the Assyrians repopulated the formerly Israelite territory with people deported from Babylon, Cuthah 'kū' tha\, Avva 'āv' ah\, and some other cities. According to a figure from Sargon II, 27,290 inhabitants were deported from Samaria. A considerable segment of the Israelite population must have been left behind. For a long time to come this remnant may have kept alive the hope for the restoration of Israel. The ten northern tribes did not just disappear; on the contrary, with the immigrants they constituted a mixed people, the Samaritans, who were later despised by the Judeans on account of their deviant religious views.

The fall of Israel was due to its sins: Baal worship, nature worship, and practicing the customs of the Canaanite peoples. It is undeniable that Jeroboam I [first king of the Northern Kingdom] erected the bull images in order to couple Yahwism and Baalism and thus integrate the Canaanite population into the state of Israel. Israelite kings followed this policy until the end of the nation. The success of this policy varied, with Yahwism and Baalism alternately becoming dominant. Though separate religions are never easy to integrate and though Yahwism did not cease to condemn the religious situation in the northern realm, it nevertheless was infected by Baalism. As a result a YHWH-Baal syncretism could develop, as mentioned in the book of Hosea 'hō-zē' a\.

- 48) This summary is very instructive for it gives us clues as to what we might expect in the United States of America in the years to come. Observe that the Northern Kingdom allowed a syncretism of Yahwism and Baalism throughout its history.
- 49) This advanced the idea that the two were compatible since their constituencies both worshiped "god" thus fostering the conclusion that all God's children are just trying to get to heaven the best way they know how. This is heresy and the prophets consistently regaled against it.
- 50) This same notion is being promoted in America. We hear that Judaism's Elohim, Christianity's God, and Islam's Allah are the same deity worshipped by different religions in a different way.
- 51) Wrong! This creates the environment for syncretism! And when the permissive will of God strikes a future generation in this country the opinion will be voiced that none of these "gods" were capable of resisting the assaulting predator nation. The reality will be that the permissive will of God is disciplining a reversionistic population.
- 52) After the fall of the Northern Kingdom the Assyrians imported immigrants from Babylonia. These were Semitics who cohabited with the remaining Israelites who had forgotten the spiritual life of Israel. Thus their syncretism was further amplified with the introduction of the cultic religion of Babylon which worshipped the moon god, al-ilah.



- 53) This is the danger we face as a client nation. We do not have enough knowledge to sustain the influx of heathen peoples who will gradually syncretize Christianity with their imported belief systems. The resultant problem is addressed by Hosea in:

Hosea 4:1 - *Shama!* Listen and obey the Word of the Lord, O children of Israel [**Northern Kingdom**], for the Lord has an indictment against the citizens of the client nation, because there is no truth being taught, no grace being applied, and no knowledge of God in the land.

v. 2 - Instead there is lying and deceiving, murder and stealing and committing rape. Therefore there is violence in the land as bloodshed follows bloodshed [**mob violence as civic order erodes**].

v. 3 - For this cause [**the breakdown of the divine institutions**] the land shall mourn, and everyone who lives in it has lost his integrity. The animals of the field and the birds of the sky; also the fish of the sea shall be taken away.

v. 4 - Only let no one challenge the prophet to impugn his message; for those who do are like those who try to destroy the authority of the priesthood.

v. 5 - Therefore you have stumbled by means of arrogance in the light of accurate instruction, and the false prophet will stumble with you in the night and I will destroy your government.

v. 6 - My nation is destroyed because of lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowing doctrine, therefore I will reject you from being a client nation to Me. Since you have rejected the Law of your God, I also will neglect your citizens.

- 54) Hosea directed his prophesy toward the Northern Kingdom and its predictions came true as we have noted. But the Rabshakeh interpreted this as the failure of the God of Israel to defend and protect His people. And if He was incapable of doing so in the Northern Kingdom it stood to reason this would also be the case in the Southern. And so he concluded his speech:

Isaiah 36:18 - 'Do not let Hezekiah mislead you by saying, "Jehovah will deliver us." Has any one of the gods of the nations we have fought delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?

v. 19 - 'Where are the gods of Hamath \hā' math\ and Arpad \ar' pad\? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim \se-far-va' yim\? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand?

v. 20 - 'Who among all the gods of these countries have delivered their land from my hand, that Jehovah should deliver Jerusalem from my hands?'

- 55) The tragic flaw in the Rabshakeh's rationale is that he assumes the God of Israel is as much a myth as the stocks and stones worshipped by the several heathen nations conquered by the Assyrian army. He was wrong!
- 56) Little did he realize that he was about to run up against the Real Thing.
- 57) **Propaganda Objective #10:** Use the failure of others to convince your target audience that they fall in the same category. If other nations have fallen to the military power of Assyria then yours will as well.



- 58) The difference is rebound and resumption of the spiritual life of the dispensation in which the client nation functions. This was the case for Judah in 701 B.C. and therefore the people sitting on the wall, according to:

Isaiah 36:21 - ... were silent and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, "Do not answer him."

- 1) People with doctrine in their souls cannot be brainwashed because they are not susceptible to propaganda.
- 2) A high inventory of Bible doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness provides the discernment necessary to override any propaganda objective no matter how subtle it might be.
- 3) The Rabshakeh views his previous victories as not only the defeat of national entities but also of their gods. But these were false gods of rock and wood.
- 4) Nevertheless, when observed from the Rabshakeh's inventory of ideas, his ten propaganda objectives were masterfully delivered.
- 5) However, the message of Sennacherib's Secretary of State was neutralized by his inability to comprehend the theology of Judaism and the principles by which divine management of history may be discerned.
- 6) Consequently, he did an excellent job of propagandizing the citizens of Judah but because of their loyalty to Hezekiah's leadership and their faith in the Word of *YHWH Elohim* they did not choose to be brainwashed.
- 7) Yet the eloquence of Rabshakeh's remarks must be recognized because his approach was a tour de force in the field of propaganda.