

## Out of God's Sight

### 2 Kings 17:6-18

#### Introduction:

- A. As a child, being out of the sight of your parents can be a scary thing.
- B. Just as a child can find themselves outside the sight of a parent, we too can find ourselves outside the sight of our heavenly father (Isa. 59:1-2).
- C. Israel was chosen by God to be his own possession. As long as they obeyed God they would be blessed.

#### The Downfall of the Nation (vs. 6-7)

- A. The fall of the Northern Kingdom was due to its spiritual failure. They sinned against the Lord (v. 7).
- B. Due to their spiritual failure, God became angry with Israel and removed them from His sight (vs. 18, 23).
- C. You can succeed in all life has to offer, but if you fail spiritually, it's the greatest failure of all (Mt. 16:26).

#### Ways to Avoid a Spiritual Downfall

- A. Avoid becoming like those around you who live ungodly lives (vs. 7-8, 15).
  - 1. Israel was warned to guard against becoming like the wicked nations (Lev. 20:22-24; Deut. 7:1-6).
  - 2. Israel adopted many of the pagan practices of the nations around them (vs. 9-12, 16-17).
  - 3. We may be tempted to adopt the practices of the people around us (3 John 11; I Cor. 15:33; Lk. 6:46).
- B. Avoid secret sins (v. 9)
  - 1. Israel thought they could sin secretly against God. We must remember He sees everything (Heb. 4:13).
  - 2. There are no such things as small sins. All sins lead to a separation from God (Gal. 5:19-21).
  - 3. Our secret sins will not remain secret forever (Rom. 2:16, Eccl. 12:14; Lk. 12:2-3).
- C. Avoid failing to listen to wise counsel (vs. 13-14).
  - 1. Several times Israel had been warned by the prophets to turn and repent (Hosea 10:12-13; Amos 5:4-6).
  - 2. Israel's problem wasn't that they did not know, it was that they did not want to hear God's words.
  - 3. Take counsel from godly and mature Christians who care about you (Prov. 12:15; Matt. 7:24-27).

#### Conclusion:

- A. Graduates, we know you can do the things Israel failed to do. We believe in you and your commitment to God.
- B. Like Israel, those of us who have been baptized into Christ are His own special possession.
- C. We are promised that if we live a faithful life of obedience, we will receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).