

have no certainty that the condition will continue for any long period of time. Satan is very subtle, and God allows him a measure of power in this age. This is the age of individual salvation, not the age of national righteousness. We should strive for national righteousness. We should attain as much of it as possible but we should not be surprised if it does not last for many centuries or perhaps even for many decades in this present age. God is now gathering out a people for his name.

(Question) Hoshea, the last king, was put in when the Assyrians had overrun the nation and taken a great many people captive. He was nominally subject to the king of Syria. He was a puppet king under the king of Syria but he didn't stay that way. He rebelled against him. He was in a situation where it would have been impossible for anyone to have staisfactorily remained ~~king~~ permanently a puppet. Syria was drawing as much as she could out of the land--heavy taxes, heavy tribute. The land had to either go completely under or revolt and they revolted. So that after nine years the Assyrians came and it took them three years to conquer the city of Samaria but they conquered it and put an end to the kingdom of Israel.

Then "c" I have called the Samaritans. Because we have now the beginning of a new settlement in the land of Israel. The Assyrians did not naturally take away the people of Israel. They brought other people in. There was a great depopulation of the land. The population was tremendously reduced but the Assyrians desired to have people in the land and the Assyrians had worked out a very ~~clever~~ clever scheme. They had found in their history that repeatedly they would conquer a nation and make the king of the nation promise to be subject to them and perhaps put someone in as king over the nation who would promise to be loyal to the Assyrians and then as soon as they had the chance came revolt against them. So the Assyrian history is a history of constant revolt against them and constant ^{re} conquest of the nations which they conquered and made subject to themselves. Now the Assyrians had worked out a scheme which they thought would