

during these nine years than it had been before so that there was ample time for the procedure to start even though it did not gain full force until after the migration.

Now these people then sent to the king of Assyria and they said to the king of Assyria, "We can't get along in this country because we don't know the manner of the God of the land." So the king of Assyria commanded saying, "Carry hither one of the priests whom you brought from thence and let them go and dwell there and let them teach them the manner of the God of the land ." Then one of the priests whom they had carried away came and dwelt in Bethel and taught them how they should fear the Lord. Howbeit every nation made gods of their own and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had ~~made~~ made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt. So here we have a ~~single~~ <sup>92-3</sup> attitude on the people as a whole. They were going to worship the Lord, the God of the land and they were also going to worship their own gods. Now that is an attitude which certainly did not continue permanently because we find that after a time that the Samaritan people ~~is~~ declared themselves to be followers of the Lord and were quite definitely opposed to idol worship. Their following of the Lord was quite a corrupt form of the Israelite religion.

Now it does not say here that this priest brought them a copy of the Bible. Therefore, someone may say that of course they did not have any Bible. On the other hand it says that he taught them the manner of how they should fear the Lord-- one of the priests--and no one can say that he did not bring a copy of the Bible. We have now among the Samaritans in Palestine there are copies of the Pentateuch which they claimed come from the hands of Moses. Even if they do not, even if they were made within the last few centuries, they are definitely different from our ~~Pentateuch~~ Pentateuch, different in a few regards which seem to go back the wrong way and it is a different type of writing from our Pentateuch. It is in the type of writing that the Israelites used at that time. So everyone believes that the Samaritans have had the Pentateuch now for at least over two thousand years.