

## RELEVANT SCRIPTURES: From study notes: The Five “Husbands” of Samaria

**2 Kings 17:24** The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria in place of the people of Israel; they took possession of Samaria, and settled in its cities.

Meanwhile, those Israelis left behind in Samaria, intermarry with the five nation groups. God sends lions to devour them because they worshipped other gods. The king of Assyria ordered an Israeli priest to come teach the new inhabitants about the God of Israel.

**28** So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel; he taught them how they should worship the Lord. **29** But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the people of Samaria had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived; **30** the people of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the people of Cuth made Nergal, the people of Hamath made Ashima; **31** the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

**32** They also worshiped the Lord and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. **33** So they worshiped the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.

**34** To this day they continue to practice their former customs. They do not worship the Lord and they do not follow the statutes or the ordinances or the law or the commandment that the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel.

### CITY/NATIONAL GROUP

### GODS

<b>1. Babylonians</b> historically referred to the entire area of the eastern plateau of the Jordan valley	<b>Succoth-benoth</b> means "booths of daughters," chambers wherein women were placed for prostitution; or booths or tabernacles in which images of certain goddesses were worshipped. Associated with the constellation Pleiades
<b>2. Cuth(ah)</b> lies on the right bank of the eastern branch of the Upper Euphrates, north of Nippur and around 25 miles (40 km) northeast of Babylon.	<b>Nergal</b> Mesopotamian god of death, <b>war</b> , and destruction. representing the sun of noontime and of the summer solstice that brings destruction, high summer being the dead season in Mesopotamia.
<b>3. Hamath</b> on the banks of the Orontes River, North Central Syria	<b>Ashima</b> goddess of “Fate” identified with various deities from Phoenicia, Elephantine, and Mesopotamia having similar names
<b>4. Avvites</b> - the region of Gaza before the time of Moses	<b>Nibhaz</b> God of death, mummification, embalming, the afterlife, cemeteries, tombs, the Underworld
<b>5. Sepharvites</b> historians aren’t sure, perhaps between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath	<b>Adrammelech, Anammelech</b> unknown god and goddess, most likely Syrian, requiring child sacrifice.