

1st Kings Chapter 9

V: 1-3 After Solomon finished building the Temple and his own house, then the Lord once again appeared to Solomon and spoke to him.

1. “I have heard your prayer”:

Psalm 34:17 “The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.”

2. “I have hallowed this house...” – which He did when His presence filled the Temple and fire came down from heaven.

3. “My eyes and heart will be there continually...” God will always be watching and loving this place – this house of prayer and worship.

- Some 1,200 years later Jesus would quote **Psalm 69:9**

Psalm 69:9 “For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up;...”

- These are all in response to Solomon’s prayer at the dedication of the Temple. Solomon had asked that the eyes of the Lord would be upon this place, and God said, not only My eyes, but My heart will be there also.
- It has been 20 years since the Lord spoke to Solomon personally. There can be large spans of time of time between the Lord’s dealings with us. Abraham was in the same boat, there were sometimes 10, and 20 year gaps between his personal encounters with God – yet he is still described in **James 2:23**

James 2:23 “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God.”

- Reading through the book of Acts we get the impression that things were really hopping, all these miraculous things happening, like dominoes falling – but the book of Acts spans 30 years of church history.
- There is the aspect of walking by faith and not by sight, doing the things that He’s already told us to do, faithfully – as opposed to always looking for a new revelation.

V: 4 God lays out conditions for Solomon:

1. To walk before God in the integrity of his heart, as did his father David.
2. To keep God’s statutes and judgments.

- It is possible that God appears to Solomon at this time because he is displaying the initial signs of apostasy, turning away from the faith, hence the warning not to depart from the Word of God.

- David had his issues, but he was not given to idolatry and is cited as the example to follow. Even though David had his personal failures, there was that overall commitment to Jehovah.
- There those times in our own lives where we experience personal failure in our walk, but there is still that overall commitment of faith in Jesus Christ.
- It's a failure of our flesh, it's a weakness, but not the turning away from our faith in Him.

V: 5 Then God will do all the things that were promised to both David and Solomon.

V: 6-9 A warning: **Deuteronomy 28:1-14, 15-68**

- If you or your children turn away from me and serve other gods and worship them – spiritual adultery!
- “Then I will cut you off, and destroy the house you’ve built for Me.” You will become a “by-word”, a proverb. The rise of anti-Semitism that has engulfed so much of the world.
- People will be astonished and ask why this happened – and they will answer – because they forsook the Lord their God.
- Whenever God warns us about something – we need to pay attention!

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

V: 10-14 Solomon having finished the Temple and his own house has been on the throne for approximately 20 years now, ½ way through his reign.

- Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with the timber he had needed and had paid tribute in gold as well, he had been a faithful friend and subject.
- Solomon gave Hiram 20 cities of the Galilee, apparently as collateral for the loan of six score talents of gold. Hiram wasn't too impressed with the collateral.

2 Chronicles 8:2 “That the cities which Hiram had restored to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there.”

- We see that Solomon eventually redeems these cities and builds them up.

V: 15-19 Solomon laid heavy taxes and levy's upon the people and his subject nations for his various building projects besides the Temple. Millo is the area between the old city of David and the Temple area, built up with a large retaining wall and landfill project.

- That along with the building or re-building of Gezer, Hazor, Beth-horon, and Tadmor (Arabia, trade routes) as store cities and fortresses, places for his chariots and horses.

V: 20-23 The Gentiles still remaining in the land of Israel, descendants of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites – all people that were to have been destroyed – Solomon made them bondservants, slaves.

- Of the 185,000 men laboring to build the Temple, the majority were these conquered peoples.
- Solomon is highly organized and all these people are directed and used efficiently on a national level.

V: 24 Solomon installs Pharaoh's daughter, his wife into her new home. She had probably been staying in David's palace. As Solomon finishes her house along with the upper city and his own palace, which are all near the Temple / upper city she's moved in.

V: 25 Solomon attended the 3 mandatory feasts throughout the year to sacrifice unto the Lord. Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles.

To the Jewish people:

1. The Passover looked back to their deliverance from the bondage of Egypt.
2. Pentecost or "first fruits" celebrated the goodness of God in sending the harvest.
3. Tabernacles commemorated God's care during their wilderness wandering years.

To us as believers today these feasts are significant:

1. The Passover represents the death of Christ, the Lamb of God for our sins.
2. Pentecost represents the resurrection of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit.
3. Tabernacles, booths, "in-gathering" represents the future re-gathering of God's people in the kingdom.

V: 26-28 The Jews weren't a sea faring people per se, but for a pile of gold... 😊

- There are many theories of where "Ophir" is, Arabia, Yemen, India – no one knows, but wherever it was it was plentiful.
- 420 talents @ 75 lbs / talent = 31,500 lbs = 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of gold.
- Plus the 6 score / 120 talents from before (V: 14) = 540 talents = 20.25 tons.

1 Kings Chapter 10

V: 1-3 Sheba is generally assumed to be part of Arabia.

- Her coming is a fulfillment of what Solomon had prayed, and God's desire at the dedication of the Temple.

1 Kings 8:41-42 “⁴¹Moreover concerning a stranger, that is not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake; ⁴²For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm; when he shall come and pray toward this house;”

- They talked about everything that was in her heart, all her difficult questions were answered.

James 3:17 “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

V: 4-8 When she had seen and had time to think about all that she was seeing:

1. Solomon's wisdom, which she tested personally.
 2. His palace, the grandeur of his house.
 3. The meat at his table, his provision. (30 oxen, 120 sheep...)
 4. The situation of his servants, ministers, cup bearers – even the way they were dressed – and happy to serve.
 5. The ascent or entrance to the Temple – which was the only part she got to see.
- She didn't really believe it when she first heard it, now that she's seen it she realizes that the reports weren't complete, she'd only heard the half of it.
 - There was no more spirit in her, she was overwhelmed, she was astounded, to say the least she was very impressed.

V: 9-10 Her response: “**Bless the Lord thy God.**”

- She knows where the blessings have come from and she gives glory to God.

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

- She acknowledges that it is because of God's great love that He's blessed Israel and Solomon's house.
- She also sees the call of the king: to do judgment and justice.

Micah 6:8 “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

- She then gives Solomon gifts, which would be considered tribute:
 1. 120 talents of gold.
 2. Spices. (A lot)
 3. Precious stones.

V: 11-12 Hiram, the king of Tyre – his navy and Solomon’s brought gold from Ophir.

- Almug trees, probably from Lebanon – used to make pillars in the temple and musical instruments; and precious stones.

V: 13 Solomon was generous with the Queen of Sheba, giving her all her desire.

- There are those who claim that the phrase “all her desire” means that what she really wanted was a wise heir to her own throne and that she went home with a child having become pregnant by Solomon.
- Haile Selassie, the last king of Ethiopia until he was overthrown by the communists claimed to be a direct descendant of Solomon, claiming that he could actually trace his lineage back to Solomon through the Queen of Sheba.
- All her desire could also refer to her being a God seeker and that she got saved.

Jeremiah 29:13 “And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.”

Jesus testified of her:

Matthew 12:42 “The queen of the South shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, a greater than Solomon is here.”

- Essentially Jesus is saying that she believed what they wouldn’t.

V: 14-15 Solomon’s yearly tribute was six hundred, 3 score, and six talents of gold.

- 666 talents of gold, 49,950 pounds of gold = 24.97 tons of gold yearly.

V: 16-17 Solomon made two hundred “targets” or small shields of gold, the three hundred larger shields of solid gold, placing them in the great hall he had built called the “Forrest of Lebanon.”

V: 18-20 Solomon made a very ornate throne; Solomon's throne is spoken of by Josephus.

- When the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and looted everything, taking all the gold and valuables back to Babylon, they were eventually conquered by the Persians. When the king of Persia saw Solomon's throne he took it home and made it his own because there was none like it for grandeur.

V: 21-25 Solomon's plates, cups, and platters were all made of gold. Silver was accounted as nothing in those days.

- Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for wealth, and for wisdom, his opulent life style a real contrast to the simplicity of David's life, and that of most people.

V: 23 It is a subtlety, but notice that riches are given the first mention or priority over wisdom. His riches exceeded his wisdom.

- Riches have a way of corrupting people if they are not careful:

Proverbs 30:7-9 “⁷Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: ⁸Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: ⁹lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”

V: 24-25 And everybody sought out Solomon and his wisdom, bringing him tribute and gifts in the process.

V: 26-27 Solomon gathered / collected chariots and horsemen, and gold and silver to the point that silver was in such large amounts that it was like stones – Israel is nothing but rocks everywhere, meaning huge in-comprehensible amounts.

V: 28-29 Solomon brought horses from Egypt, and linen, and chariots.

- Horses & chariots represented military strength, the Israelites were told not to collect horses and chariots because they were to trust in Jehovah, not in their military abilities.

Psalms 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

Speaking of and to kings:

Deuteronomy 17:16-20 “¹⁶But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, ye shall henceforth return no more that way. ¹⁷Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver

and gold. ¹⁸And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: ¹⁹And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them. ²⁰That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.”

- Seemingly Solomon violated every part of this commandment of God, collecting horses, gold, and wives.

1 John 2:15-17 “¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh (power / horses), and the lust of the eyes (wives / women), and the pride of life (gold), is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

- Solomon was the wisest man to ever live, yet he succumbed to folly – because he departed from, set aside the Word of God.

Matthew 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

2 Peter 1:2-3 “²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

Proverbs 3:5-7 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. ⁷Be not wise in thine own eyes. Fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”