

THE BOOK OF FIRST KINGS

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Lesson 1

THE END OF DAVID'S REIGN

1 Kings 1:1-31

In Joshua we see the conquest of the land. In Judges we see confusion in the land. In Ruth we see scarcity in the land. In 1 & 2 Samuel we see revival and the rise of the monarchy in the land. In 1 & 2 Kings we see captivity in the land. In the first few chapters of 1 Kings we see the rise of Solomon and the building of the Temple. These are glorious events, but unfortunately the sin of Solomon led to the division and decline of the kingdom and the eventual captivity of all twelve tribes in 2 Kings. This should furnish us with a severe warning for our own nation today. Unfortunately most people do not see or care about the dangers we face.

Introduction to 1 Kings

1 & 2 Kings were originally one book, but were divided when the Old Testament was translated into Greek. GOD is the author of this book. Perhaps he used Jeremiah to write it down. The book falls into two sections:

1. Chapters 1–11 — The 40 year history of Solomon's reign.
2. Chapters 12–22 — 80 years history of the divided kingdom.

The first 11 chapters may be divided in the following manner:

Chapter's 1–4 — Solomon's ascension and early acts

Chapter's 5–8 — Solomon's Temple and Palace built

Chapter's 9–10 — Solomon's meridian, fame and glory

Chapter 11 — Solomon's Declension and Disease

The key phrase in chapter 1 is found in verse 5, where Adonijah “exalted himself.” Jesus warned of the danger of this sin – Luke 14:11 “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

I. DAVID IN THE WINTER OF LIFE – Verses 1-4

A. Old and Cold at 70 – Verse 1

- a. Hard life may have shortened the life of this warrior. 2 Samuel 5:4-5 “David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.”
- b. His own sins and the sins of his children, no doubt had contributed to his present condition. In spite of all the good things that can be said about David, his relationship with women, and his failure as a father helped bring ruin to the kingdom. This should be a warning to fathers today.
- c. Being cold is the natural condition of old age.

B. Human Vices and Devices – Verses 2-4

- a. His servants, who presumed to have medical knowledge, prescribed this remedy. Until modern times this was practiced in some societies – Verse 2-3; Ecclesiastes 4:11 “Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?”
- b. David innocent of any wrong doing in this case – Verse 4. His physical and mental condition was such that he probably had no say in this. (She might be called a practical nurse in this case)

II. ADONIJAH EXALTS HIMSELF TO BE KING – Verses 5-10

A. The Cause of the Crime

- a. Self exaltation made him like his brother Absalom – Verse 5. He would have done well to have listened to the words that Samuel spake to Saul. 1 Samuel 15:17 “And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?”
- b. His father had failed to discipline – Verse 6; Proverbs 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” He was the full brother to Absalom and had much of his looks and ways.
- c. Selfish Men Had Encouraged Him – Verse 7

- i. Joab wanted to keep his job with a new king. He was the son of Zeruah, David's sister. In spite of his apparent years of loyalty, we find him betraying king David. (For Joab's background: see: 2 Samuel 2:13-32; 3:22-31; 10:7-14)
 - ii. Abiathar may have been afraid that Zadok would replace him, even though in the past he had been loyal to David.
 - d. Used a feast to bribe people to follow – Verse 9. Good food makes many people pliable and easy to influence. Many times in religion, business and politics, this method is used today. It is often just a ploy to appeal to fleshly appetites.
- B. The Faithful and Loyal Were Not Influenced – Verses 8,10
- a. Benaiah – 2 Samuel 8:18; 20:23; 23:32
 - b. Nathan the prophet was a fearless and faithful prophet who was not afraid to condemn sin, even if the guilty person was the king himself – 2 Samuel 12:7-11
 - c. Zadok the priest remained faithful to David all the days of his life. His name means "righteous, and justified."
 - d. The 600 mighty men were good and faithful warriors – 1 Samuel 25:13; 27:2; 2 Samuel 23:8; 1 Chronicles 11:9-47

III. NATHAN AND BATHSHEBA LOYAL TO GOD'S PLAN – Verses 11-14

- A. Nathan's background.
- a. He was God's messenger to stop David from building the temple – 2 Samuel 7
 - b. Reproved David for his sin – 2 Samuel 12. This no doubt was responsible for David's prayer of repentance – Psalm 51
- B. Nathan Counsels Bathsheba to go directly to the King.
- a. He did this in order to fulfill the Divine will – 1 Chronicles 22:8-9
 - b. He did this in order to secure the future of Israel.
 - c. The fate of innocent people was at stake. When a throne was seized, it was custom that the heirs to the throne and their friends be killed. See Judges 9:5; 1 Kings 15:29
 - d. He offers to get involved in influencing David – Verse 14

IV. BATHSHEBA AND NATHAN BEFORE THE KING – Verses 15-31

- A. An Anxious Mother Before the King – Verses 15-21
- a. She properly approaches the King – Verses 15-16
 - b. She pleads that the oath be kept – Verse 17. The oath was that Solomon her son would be made king.

- c. She points out clearly the rebellion of Adonijah – Verses 18-19
 - d. She presses home the claims of the nation – Verse 20
 - e. Her pathos is real – Verse 21. She certainly knew if Solomon was not made king that it would mean death to both of them.
- B. Nathan the Prophet Before the King – Verses 22-27
- a. A faithful prophet tells the truth – Verses 22-26. This is always the duty of God’s faithful messengers.
 - b. A faithful prophet seeks the truth – Verse 27
- C. The King Responds to the Truth – Verses 28-31
- a. By renewing his solemn oath – Verses 29-30
 - b. By doing something “that day.” – Verses 28-31. Solomon is a dim type of Him that will reign in righteousness.

Notes

Lesson 2

SOLOMON MADE KING

1 Kings 1:32-53

In 1 & 2 Kings you can see a clear downward path in their relationship with God. In 1 Kings we see the beginning of glorious and United Kingdom, but we see it ending in a troublesome divided kingdom. In 2 Kings we see widespread sin and corruption in the two kingdoms, and at the end we see the captivity of both kingdoms. It was a downward spiral which came about as they departed from the Lord, and went deeper and deeper into sin.

This should be a profound warning to our own nation. It seems clear that we are on the same path of sin and ruin, which befell Israel. History is littered with the sad record of nations that followed the same path.

The coronation of Solomon was indeed a glorious day for him and the nation. It is but a dim picture of that glorious coronation of our Lord Jesus Christ. His kingdom will never fade nor fail!

I. THE CORONATION OF SOLOMON – Verses 32-40

A. This Was Commanded by David – Verses 32-37

- a. The King abdicated in favor of Solomon – Verses 32-35. This must have been a strong emotional experience for David. After all, he had been king for 40 years.
 - i. Trustworthy leaders called – Verse 32. Every leader has a great need for trustworthy people who will work with him.
 - ii. Thoroughly instructed – Verses 33-34
 1. Riding upon the king's mule was very symbolic of one's right to rule. Mules were not chosen for war horses, but they were often the chosen beast for a king to ride on. Perhaps this may be because they give a much softer ride than a horse.
 2. There was to be a public proclamation that Solomon was now king.
 - iii. Effort made to heal division between Israel and Judah – Verse 35. There was deep rift between the 10 tribes in the north, and the 2 tribes in the south. The peace would only last as long as Solomon was king, then the division would be a reality.
- b. Benaiah's approval – Verses 36-37. A wonderful statement from this great warrior.

B. Celebrated with a Solemn Ceremony – Verses 38-40

- a. Royal bodyguard brings Solomon to Gihon – Verse 38
 - i. Riding David’s mule showed his approval.
 - ii. Gihon was a spring that emptied into the brook Kidron to the south of the Temple site. Kings were anointed by springs or rivers to show the perpetuity of their kingdom.
- b. Anointed with the sacred oil – Verse 39. This anointing oil was a special formula used for anointing kings and priests and it was kept in the tabernacle – Exodus 30:22-25
 - i. Anointing symbolized the communication of the Spirit – 1 Samuel 16:13
 - ii. Oil symbolized power and plenty.
- c. The public proclamation and rejoicing – Verse 40. The phrase used in Great Britain, “God save the king,” came from the Bible.

II. THE CONSTERNATION OF ADONIJAH – Verses 41-49

- A. Selfish Rebels surprised in their gluttony – Verse 41
 - a. They were feasting instead of being loyal to David and Solomon – Romans 16:18 “For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”
 - b. There are many in religion today who are not loyal to God, but to their fleshly appetites – Philippians 3:19 “Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.”
- B. Rebels listen to unwelcome news – Verses 42-49
 - a. What a shock to this bunch of rebels.
 - b. One day these modern rebels are going to be shocked.
- C. Rebels doomed to defeat – Verse 49
 - a. They came to the awful conclusion that they had followed the wrong man.
 - b. What fear must have gripped their minds?

III. ROYAL CLEMENCY GIVEN – Verses 50-53

- A. Mercy and Forgiveness Sought at the Altar – Verses 50-51
 - a. The altar, the refuge for the guilty. There was no real repentance, so there was no permanent refuge for Adonijah. See what happened to him in due time. 1 Kings 2:24
 - b. It is the place of sacrifice and atonement. There can be no atonement unless there is sincere repentance and faith.
 - c. It is the symbol of reconciliation.

- d. It is a type of the cross.
- B. The Conditions for Reconciliation and Mercy – Verses 52-53
 - a. He must show himself a worthy man – Verse 52
 - b. He must turn from his wickedness – Verse 52
 - c. He must acknowledge Solomon as king and be ready to obey – Verse 53

IV. SOLOMON AS A TYPE OF CHRIST

- A. Like Solomon, Christ Was Chosen and Appointed by His Father.
 - a. Christ showed that Solomon was a type of Himself – Luke 11:31 “The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.”
 - b. Gabriel announced His kingship – Luke 1:32-33 “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”
 - c. Christ proclaimed His own power and authority – Matthew 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
 - d. Christ was prophesied in the Psalms – Psalm 2:6-8 “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.” Psalm 2:8 “Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.”
- B. Like Solomon, Christ Opposed by His Enemies.
 - a. Opposition prophesied – Psalm 2:2-3 “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”
 - b. Jews and Romans opposed Him – Matthew 27:22 “Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.” See Matthew 27:29, 37
 - c. Jesus did not deny that He was king of the Jews. Matthew 27:11 “And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.”
 - d. Pilate recognized Him as king. Matthew 27:37 “And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”
- C. Like Solomon, Christ Was Anointed.

- a. His name “Christ” implies it. “Christos” means the “anointed one.”
 - b. God anointed Jesus. Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”
 - c. Conceived by the Holy Spirit – Luke 1:34-35 “Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”
 - i. Anointed by the Spirit at His baptism – Matthew 3:16 “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:”
 - ii. Spirit without measure – John 3:34-35 “For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.”
- D. Like Solomon, Christ Made His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.
- a. Temporarily some gave Him the honor He deserved – John 12:12-15 “On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass’s colt.
 - b. He will return and rule from Jerusalem – Zechariah 14:9 “And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.” See Psalm 24:7-10; Psalm 47:7-8
 - c. New Testament prophecy shall be fulfilled – Revelation 19:16 “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Lesson 3

THE BEGINNING OF A GLORIOUS REIGN

1 Kings 2:1-46

This chapter reveals a lot about sin and its consequences. It should be a warning to all readers. May we all like David pray to be kept from sin – Psalm 19:13 “Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.”

I. THE LAST DAYS OF DAVID – Verses 1-11

A. David’s Charge to Solomon – Verses 1-9

a. Exhortation to obey the truth – Verses 1-4

- i. By being a strong man – Verse 2. Fathers should instruct their sons carefully in the word of God. Whether David had done this in the earlier years of Solomon may be doubtful. Nevertheless, it was timely at this time. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Deuteronomy 6:6 “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children , and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”
- ii. The commands of God to be obeyed – Verse 3-4. God will not bless those who disregard His Word and will. John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” 1 John 2:3 “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”

b. This was the key to prosperity and perpetuity – Verses 3-4. Note these Scriptures on obedience: 1 Samuel 15:22; James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” Luke 11:28 “But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.” John 7:17 “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” John 14:23 “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

c. Exhortation to execute justice – Verses 5-9

- i. Justice for Joab the Murderer – Verses 5-6; 2 Samuel 3:27; 2 Samuel 20:10
 - ii. Justice for Loyal Barzilla – Verse 7; 2 Samuel 19:31
 - iii. Justice for Shimei the blasphemer – Verses 8-9; 2 Samuel 16:5-13
- B. David's death – Verses 10-11; 1 Chronicles 29:23-25. Thus we find that God's mighty, warrior and poet had to die – Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

II. THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF SOLOMON – Verses 12-46

- A. Solomon Established and Blessed of God – Verse 12; 1 Chronicles 29:23-25
- B. Solomon Deals With Adonijah the Traitor – Verse 13-25
 - a. Adonijah with a new scheme for gaining the throne.
 - b. He would use Solomon's mother to do his dirty work.
 - c. His request was contrary to the law.
 - i. Abishag was considered to be David's wife, even though he had never known her as wife. It was against the law of God for him to do this. See 1:4; Leviticus 18:8 "The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness."
 - ii. If he had succeeded, this would have appeared that he had some claim on the throne, and that is what he really wanted.
 - d. Solomon wisely saw through the scheme. If he had failed to act, then a civil war would soon have erupted.
 - e. Adonijah executed – Verse 25. In our modern world this would be judged to be cruel, but truthfully this is what the traitor deserved.
- C. Abiathar Demoted but spared from death – Verses 26-27
 - a. Abiathar spared from death because of loyal service – Verse 26. This was a city in the tribe of Benjamin that was given to the priests. Joshua 21:18-19 "Anathoth with her suburbs, and Almon with her suburbs; four cities. All the cities of the children of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their suburbs."
 - b. Abiathar removed because of rebellion – 1:7; 1 Samuel 15:23 "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."
 - c. Abiathar removed from the priesthood because of his unfaithfulness – Verse 27. The same thing happened to the house of Eli – 1 Samuel 2:30-35
- D. Joab the Murderer Executed – Verses 28-35

- a. Fearful Joab flees to the altar. The altar was a place of sacrifice and safety, but not for Joab. He was only using this altar as a crutch to try to make up for his awful sins.
- b. Joab could not lawfully claim the altar as a refuge – Exodus 21:14 “But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.” Deuteronomy 19:11-13 “But if any man hate his neighbour, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him, and smite him mortally that he die, and fleeth into one of these cities: Then the elders of his city shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die. Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with thee.”
- c. Benaiah and Zadok promoted – Verse 35 (Note: Those who are loyal and faithful to the Lord in this life, will be promoted in the kingdom age.)

E. Judgment Upon Shimei – Verses 36-44

- a. The sins of Shimei.
- b. Cursed the king – Verse 8; 2 Samuel 16:5 “And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.”
 - i. To curse the king was a very serious matter. Ecclesiastes 10:20 “Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.”
 - ii. If it was a serious matter to curse the king, how much more serious to curse God and take His name in vain. Exodus 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”
 - iii. Disobeyed Solomon’s royal decree.
 - iv. Being of the tribe of Benjamin (Saul’s tribe) he was a menace to the throne.
- c. Solomon offers reasonable terms for parole – Verses 36-38. Even this evil man was given a chance to repent and obey.
 - i. Live in Jerusalem without leaving – Verse 36. In Jerusalem he could be watched for any treachery.
 - ii. Penalty stated – Verse 37
 - iii. Shimei’s agreement – Verse 38
- d. Shimei’s disobedience – Verses 39-40. He was more interested in financial gain than he was in obedience. Many today pursue their own pleasure and financial gain, and exclude God from their lives. They will find out that they made a mistake, but it will be too late.
- e. Called before the Judge – Verses 41-44. A day of judgment is coming one day to all.

- i. Christians will be judged, not to see if they will go to heaven, but to reward them for their works – 2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
- ii. The lost people will also be judged, but not to see if they will go to heaven. That is forever settled in this life. They will be judged determine the amount of punishment they will receive in the lake of fire and brimstone. Revelations 20:12-15 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

F. Justice blessed of God – Verses 45-46

- a. In this chapter we find that the punishment for sin may take a long time to arrive, but it will inevitably come.
- b. The only refuge for the sinner is to repent and turn to God’s remedy for sin. Those who do not will find that justice will do her work. Ezekiel 18:4 “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”

Notes

Lesson 4

SOLOMON'S WISDOM

1 Kings 3:1-28

Solomon was a young man when he became King. It is doubtful that he was over 20 years of age. He was faced with a tremendous responsibility. He succeeded in many ways, but he did have some tragic and notable failures.

His judgment as a ruler is only a dim picture of the coming righteous reign of Jesus Christ.

I. SOLOMON'S WEDDING – Verses 1

A. Reason for the Marriage.

- a. The word “affinity” means, “to become a son-in-law.”
- b. Political and military. This shows the power and extent of his reign that Pharaoh would consent to the marriage.

B. Result of this Marriage.

- a. He broke the spirit if not the letter of the command of God.
 - i. The danger of such a marriage is pointed out by Moses – Exodus 34:16 “And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.” Deuteronomy 7:3-4 “Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.”
 - ii. We find that this disobedience caused him to worship other Gods – 1 Kings 11:1-9; Nehemiah 13:26 “Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.”
- b. He did not bring her into Zion at that time.
- c. If she had accepted Israel's God like Ruth, then things might have turned out differently. Ruth 1:16 “...thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.”
- d. This may have contributed to his disobedience. Compare 4:26 with Deuteronomy 17:16.

II. SOLOMON'S WORSHIP – Verses 2-4

- A. Based on the High Motive of Love – Verse 3 – His motives were based on love, but his judgment was not always in the light of God's truth.
- B. Offered in the Highest Places – Verses 2-4
 - a. High places an ancient custom – Genesis 12:7-8; 22:2-4; Judges 6:25-26; 13:16-23
 - b. This seems to have been more of an excuse than a reason – Verse 2. The place to make the sacrifices at the time was at Gibeon.
 - c. Even though he was following a custom, high places were not what God commanded. Deuteronomy 12:11,13-14 “Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD: Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest: But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.”
 - d. Offering of the highest numbers – Verse 4. Brazen altar and the Tabernacle were at Gibeon – 2 Chronicles 1:3-6

III. SOLOMON'S WISDOM – Verses 5-15

- A. Wisdom Is a Divine Gift – Verses 5, 12
 - a. The beginning of wisdom – Psalm 111:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”
 - b. The source of wisdom – Daniel 2:20-22 “Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.” 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.”
 - c. The quality of wisdom – James 3:17 “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.
 - d. The way to wisdom – 1 Corinthians 3:18 “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.”

- e. The personification of wisdom – 1 Corinthians 1:30 “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”
 - f. The way to obtain wisdom – James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”
 - g. Who wisdom is for – Matthew 7:24-25 “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”
- B. Wisdom Is Asked of God in Prayer – Verses 6-9
- a. He acknowledges God’s past blessings – Verse 6
 - b. He acknowledges his youth and weakness – Verse 7
 - c. He acknowledges the great task – Verse 8
 - d. He asks for understanding and wisdom to perform his mission – Verse 9; 2 Chronicles 1:10 “Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?”
- C. God’s Answer to His Prayer – Verses 10-14
- a. Wisdom granted – Verses 10-12
 - b. Received more than he asked – Verse 13; Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
 - c. A conditional promise – Verse 14. Solomon died at 60 years, after reigning for 40 years as king. We have no evidence that he repented of his sins before he died.
 - d. Solomon acknowledges the gift, when he came to Jerusalem and stood before the Ark of the Covenant – Verse 15

IV. SOLOMON’S WISE JUDGMENT – Verses 16-28

- A. A Most Difficult Case to Judge – Verses 16-22
- a. Ordinary tribunal had likely failed.
 - b. Both witnesses of questionable character. No Godly person would even consider stealing a baby that belonged to another woman. To deceive in such a manner would be unthinkable.
 - c. Their testimony was evenly balanced.
- B. His Judgment Based on Maternal Affection.
- a. The king’s plan seemed sudden and severe – Verses 23-25

- b. The king's plan reveals a deep insight into human nature – Verses 26-27
- C. His Judgment Won the Confidence of the People – Verse 28
 - a. God used this to rally the people to follow after King Solomon.
 - b. Our own judgment on certain matters will either help our testimony before others or cause harm to our testimony.
- D. This Judgment Foreshadows the Coming Judgment.
 - a. There is coming a day of judgment for the life and works of the believer – 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
 - b. There is a coming day of judgment for the lost. See Revelation 20:11-15

Notes

Lesson 5

SOLOMON'S WISE AND PROSPEROUS REIGN

1 Kings 4:1-34

Summary of Solomon's Wisdom:

- Solomon's need of wisdom – 1 Kings 3:1
- Solomon's prayer for wisdom – 1 Kings 3:2-15
- An Example of his wisdom – 1 Kings 3:16-28
- The practical exhibition of his wisdom – 1 Kings 4:1-28
- The extent of his wisdom – 1 Kings 4:29-34

I. THE EXHIBITION OF SOLOMON'S WISDOM – Verses 1-28

A. The Princes That Ruled with Him – Verses 1-6

- a. Their names fit the character of his kingdom, and foreshadow the coming kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i. Azariah, "Jehovah is help" – Verse 2. Azariah was the grandson of Zadok. He is called his son, but that relationship is often called a son, which was permissible according to their usage. 1 Chronicles 6:8-9 "And Ahitub begat Zadok, and Zadok begat Ahimaaz, And Ahimaaz begat Azariah, and Azariah begat Johanan,"
 - ii. Elihoreph, "my God is reward" – Verse 3
 - iii. Ahiah, "Brother of Jehovah" – Verse 3
 - iv. Jehoshaphat, "Jehovah judges" – Verse 3
 - v. Benaiah, "built up by Jehovah" – Verse 4
 - vi. Zadok, "gift bestowed" – Verse 4
 - vii. Abiathar, "brother of ability" – Verse 4. He was the priest when Solomon came to the throne but was deposed.
 - viii. Adoniram, "Lord of heights" – Verse 6
- b. Their offices and duties
 - i. Solomon — King over all Israel.

- ii. Azariah — priest, in this case refers to secular office rather than a religious office. He seems to have been the chief of state or prime minister.
 - iii. Scribes — High level office, perhaps secretaries of State – Verse 3
 - iv. Recorder — Historiographer or Chronicler. (A high office)
 - v. Over the host — Commander of the armed forces.
 - vi. Priests — Zadok the High Priest.
 - vii. Over the officers — Over the prefects or provincial governors – Verse 5
 - viii. Principal officer and the kings friend — privy counselor, special aid and close friend and adviser – Verse 5
 - ix. Household — Steward or chamberlain of the palace.
 - x. Tribute — One in charge of levy, whether money or labor.
- B. The Officers in Charge of the Commissary – Verses 7-19
- a. Chosen from various areas of the kingdom, but not from each tribe.
 - b. They were responsible for bringing provisions for the king and his household.
 - c. Note verse 11 and verse 15 speak of Solomon’s daughters, so this passage must have been written some years later.
- C. The Extent and Glory of His Kingdom – Verses 20-28
- a. The vast population of Israel – Verse 20; Genesis 13:16 “And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.” Genesis 15:5 “And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.” Genesis 22:17 “That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.”
 - b. The Prosperity and happiness of the people – Verse 20
 - c. The land ruled by Solomon — From Egypt to the Euphrates River – Verses 21, 24-25
 - i. During Solomon’s reign, the kingdom covered more territory than any other of the kings.
 - ii. This is but a dim picture of the coming reign of Christ – Zechariah 14:8-9 “And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.” Psalm 2:7-8 “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this

day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.”

d. The peace – Verses 24-25

- i. Their safety and prosperity were greatly restricted after Solomon’s death.
- ii. When he that is greater than Solomon comes to reign, there will be peace, safety and prosperity. Jeremiah 23:6 “In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Jeremiah 33:16 “In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.” Zechariah 3:10 “In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.”

e. The provisions per day – Verses 22-23

f. The powerful armies of Solomon – Verses 26-28.

- i. He was forbidden by God from having these horses – Deuteronomy 17:16 “But 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.”
- ii. He should have been trusting in God – Psalm 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”

II. THE EXTENT OF SOLOMON’S WISDOM – Verses 29-34

A. The Source of His Wisdom – Verse 29

- a. The source of wisdom – 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.”
- b. The way to obtain wisdom – James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

B. The Excellence of His Wisdom – Verses 30-31

- a. There were many men of wisdom in Babylon, Persia, Arabia and Egypt, but Solomon excelled them all – Verse 30
- b. In Egypt Moses learned this wisdom – Acts 7:22 “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.”
- c. He was wiser than some notable people of his day – Verse 31

C. The Use of His Wisdom – Verses 32-33

- a. Spiritual matters – Verse 32. No one in the Bible wrote as many proverbs and songs. They are preserved in the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.
 - b. Creation matters – Verse 33. He was an expert in the matter of animals and vegetation.
- D. The Drawing Power of His Wisdom – Verse 34
- a. His remarkable God given wisdom drew them to come and hear – 2 Chronicles 9:23 “And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.”
 - b. The Queen of Sheba came to learn also – 1 Kings 10:1, 4 “And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions. And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,”

III. SOLOMON AS A TYPE OF CHRIST

- A. Solomon was a type of Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge—hidden for our use — for “He is made unto us wisdom.” 1 Corinthians 1:30 “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” Colossians 2:3 “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
- B. He took a Gentile Bride — so will Christ – 1 Kings 3:1
- C. Princes and officers ruled with him and served him. So shall we rule with Christ and serve Him. Revelation 20:6 “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”
- D. Solomon reigned in peace — Christ shall be the Prince of Peace. Zechariah 9:10; Psalm 72:8-10; Micah 4:3 “And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”
- E. Solomon’s kingdom from river to river — Christ’s kingdom shall be from sea to sea.
- F. Solomon’s reign a time of prosperity – Verse 25. There will be greater prosperity in Christ’s reign. Micah 4:4 “But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.”

Lesson 6

PREPARATION FOR BUILDING THE TEMPLE

1 Kings 5:1-18

Solomon's understanding of God far exceeded the thinking of the average person of that day. Among the heathen pagan nations, they believed in local tribal gods, who were to be worshiped. Solomon had the biblical view of the unique one and only God. He did not believe that he could build a house that could contain God. 2 Chronicles 2:5-6 "And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods. But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?"

The pagans built temples to honor their false gods. Some of them were crude, while other were magnificent structures like the Parthenon in Athens. Paul was standing on Mars' hill, just down the hill from the Parthenon when he preached his great sermon which condemned idolatry and exalted the true God. (Acts 17:15-34). Pagan temples were built in rebellion against God, beginning with the Tower of Babel. (Genesis 11) This is what Paul is writing about in Romans. Romans 1:22-23 "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."

This was not true of Solomon's temple for it was for the glory of God. 2 Chronicles 6:18 "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!"

I. LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP OF HIRAM – Verse 1

A. Hiram and David Had Been Friends.

a. David had gathered materials for the building of the Temple – 1 Chronicles 22:1-5

- i. This showed the love that David had for God.
- ii. Though he couldn't build the house, at least he could prepare the materials needed.
- iii. This furnishes a worthy example for us today. We may not be able to do a thing for God, but we should be willing to work with all our might to help someone else.

b. Hiram had helped – 1 Chronicles 22:4

B. Love for David Motivated Hiram to Serve Solomon.

- a. He sent servants to Solomon.
- b. If we love the **FATHER** we will serve the **SON!!!!**
- c. Love is the greatest motivating force in the world. If we love God it will motivate us to obey Him and do His work. John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:21 “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”

II. SOLOMON'S PURPOSE AND MESSAGE – Verse 2-6

A. A Look at the Past.

- a. Why David could not build the Temple – Verse 3; 1 Chronicles 22:8; 28:3
- b. David had been a man of war which in God’s eyes disqualified him from building this holy temple.
- c. We had better walk with God in such a manner that we do not disqualify ourselves from doing some work for the Lord.
 - i. Many of God’s men have disqualified themselves from the ministry by sin.
 - ii. This is tragic in the light of the great need of workers.
 - iii. The repentant sin forsaking Christian can always find something they are qualified to do in the Lord’s work.

B. A Look at the Present.

- a. The Promise that God would give peace was fulfilled – Verse 4; 1 Chronicles 22:9 “Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.”
 - i. We have “peace with God” through salvation – Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - ii. We can have the “peace of God” by walking with God in obedience. Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
- b. The Purpose to obey the Lord – Verse 5
- c. The Plea for help – Verse 6

III. HIRAM'S MESSAGE AND AGREEMENT WITH SOLOMON – Verses 7-12

A. He Rejoiced and Thanked God – Verse 7

- a. Please note that he calls God “the LORD,” which is His name as “Jehovah” which means “the existing One.”
- b. His long association with David led to this knowledge of the true and living God.

B. A Trade Agreement Between Them – Verses 8-12

- a. Hiram would furnish labor and building material – Verses 8-10
- b. Cedar, scarlet and hyssop dipped in the blood were used for cleansing – Leviticus 14:49-52
- c. Cedar has a unique aroma and is one of the longest lasting woods
- d. Lebanon had an abundance of cedar trees in those days.
- e. The men of Lebanon were famous for their skill with wood and stone.
- f. Solomon would furnish food – Verse 11
 - i. Approx. 125,000 bushels of wheat.
 - ii. Approx. 1,200 gallons of pure olive oil.
- g. God furnished the peace and wisdom – Verse 12
- h. They made a league or treaty between them.

IV. THE WORKMEN FOR THE JOB – Verses 13-18

A. 30,000 Israelites – Verses 13-14

- a. One month in Lebanon and 2 months at home.
- b. They were conscripted for the work.
- c. Those who do the Lord’s work may expect to sacrifice.

B. 150,000 Strangers – Verse 15; 2 Chronicles 2:17,18

- a. 70,000 burden wearers.
- b. 80,000 skilled workers

C. The Officers in Charge

- a. 3,300 over the strangers – Verses 1–6
- b. 550 Chiefs (1 Kings 9:23) of whom 250 were Israelites.

V. PRACTICAL LESSONS

- A. Prophetic Types – The riches of the gentiles promised unto Israel. Isaiah 60:6; 54:3. God is using all races today in His work.
- B. The Choicest Material to Be Obtained – Verse 6, 10, 17 – In whatever work we do for God the best material should be used.
- C. The Best Talent Should Be Sought for the Work of God.
 - a. Choice talent.
 - b. Consecrated talent.
 - c. Separated talent.
- D. We Are Now Working on a Building for God.
 - a. We (saints) are the choice talent – 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:9
 - b. We are to use the choice materials – 1 Corinthians 3:10-12
 - c. The reward for proper building – 1 Corinthians 3:13-17

Notes

Lesson 7

THE PLAN OF THE TEMPLE

1 Kings 6:1-38

The Temple was built on one of the mountains of Moriah. There is an immense shelf of rock here which furnished a firm and splendid foundation for the building of the Temple. The Islamic Mosque of Omar is built there today, but will be removed for the building of the new Temple in days to come.

It is possible that this was the very mount where Abraham offered up Isaac as a sacrifice to God. Genesis 22:2 “And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”

We know that this choice site was obtained by King David long before. 2 Chronicles 3:1 “Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.”

I. INTRODUCTION – Verse 1

A. Date of Start on Temple Building.

- a. 480 years from the Exodus Egypt. They only had this temple for 380 years when it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.
- b. 4th year of Solomon’s reign.

B. He Began the Work.

- a. Every great work has a beginning.
- b. God’s work of redemption had its beginning before the foundation of the world. 1 Peter 1:20 “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”

II. GENERAL PLANS OF THE TEMPLE – Verses 2-10

A. The Measurements.

- a. It was 90 feet long; 30 feet wide; 45 feet high; and the porch was 30 feet long – Verses 2, 3. This was exactly twice as large as the tabernacle.

- b. Remember the foundation – 5:17
 - c. Christ the foundation of salvation and of the church.
 - i. Christ is the rock, not Peter – Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
 - ii. Christ is the one true foundation of the church that He founded – 1 Corinthians 3:11 “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
- B. Windows Were for Light and Air – Verse 4
- a. The ark had a window in the top.
 - b. Light comes from God.
 - c. Jesus is the light of the world.
 - d. The tabernacle had no windows and did not depend on the natural light, but was lighted by the candlestick.
- C. Chambers – Verses 5, 6, 8,10
- a. The chambers were built along the outside wall of the temple.
 - b. The small rooms were for the priests to stay while they were serving in the temple.
 - c. The priests were organized in courses. There was a set rotation of the priests and when they finished their course they went back to their regular dwelling place. Luke 1:8 “And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest’s office before God in the order of his course.”
- D. Silence – Verse 7
- a. Imagine the skill that must have been required to fashion every piece exactly.
 - b. Not to violate the law – Deuteronomy 27:5, 6
 - c. Fanfare and noise is not the mark of God’s work.
- E. Doors – Verse 8
- a. These were functional doors.
 - b. Christ is the door of salvation – John 10:9 “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

III. SOLOMON CHARGED – Verses 11-13

A. God Delivers the Charge – Verse 11

- a. Man should listen carefully when God speaks – 1 Peter 1:25 “But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”
- b. All scripture reveals what God has said to man – 2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

B. The Content of the Charge – Verse 12

- a. If thou wilt walk in my statutes.
- b. If thou wilt execute my judgments.
- c. If thou wilt keep all my commandments to walk in them.

C. The Promise of the Charge – Verses 12-13

- a. Then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father.
- b. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

IV. FINISHING, FURNISHINGS & ORNAMENTATION OF THE TEMPLE – Verse 14-38

A. Materials – Verse 15

B. The Most Holy Place – Verses 16-22

- a. Materials and size
 - i. Gold is typical of divinity.
 - ii. Oracle — A technical term for both the ark and the room where it was kept: the most holy place in the temple – Verse 19

C. The Cherubim – Verses 23-28

- a. Size and location.
- b. The material used.

D. Walls and Floors – Verses 29-30

- a. Beauty wrought by skilled men.
- b. Palm trees are typical of uprightness & fruitfulness.
- c. Flowers are typical of beauty, fragrance and purity. Christ is fruitful and pure.

E. Doors and Carvings – Verses 31-35

F. Seven Years in Building – Verses 36-38

- a. Many things that are worthwhile, take a long time to produce.
- b. Seven is the number of divine perfection. Example: God created the heavens and the earth in six days and on the seventh He rested – Genesis 2:2 “And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.”

V. THE TYPOLOGY OF THE TEMPLE

- A. Like the Tabernacle, the Temple is typical of Christ and His work in many different ways.
- B. Jesus spoke of His body as a temple – John 2:19, 21 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up... But he spake of the temple of his body.”
- C. The believer’s body is the temple of the Holy Ghost – 1 Corinthians 6:19 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” 2 Corinthians 6:16-17 “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”
- D. The local Church is a temple. The saved and scripturally baptized Church member is a part of that building – Ephesians 2:19-22 “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

Notes

Lesson 8

SOLOMON'S HOUSE & THE TEMPLE FURNISHINGS

1 Kings 7:1-51

Solomon launched into a vast building program early in his reign. The temple required seven years, and his house and the other building took thirteen to complete. This means that twenty years of his forty year reign was spent in building. This was a costly undertaking that required high taxes and the conscription of much labor. This led to a feeling of discontent among the people and contributed greatly to the division of the kingdom.

I. SOLOMON'S HOUSE – Verses 1-12

A. The Measurements & Types of Building Described – Verses 1-8

- a. Thirteen years in building – Verse 1. No extensive preparation had been made for this, and there was no hast in building as in the case of the Temple.
- b. The House of the forest of Lebanon – Verses 2-5. This seems to have been an armory, 150' x 75' x 45' high. 1 Kings 10:17 “And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pound of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.” Isaiah 22:8 “And he discovered the covering of Judah, and thou didst look in that day to the armour of the house of the forest.”
- c. The Porch of Pillars – Verse 6
- d. The Porch of judgment – Verse 7; 1 Kings 10:18 “Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold.”
 - i. We need to be reminded that God has a judgment throne for the lost. Revelation 20:11 “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”
 - ii. There is also a judgment seat for Christians – 2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
- e. The Kings own house – Verse 8a
- f. The Queens House – Verse 8b
 - i. Christ's bride will dwell with Him – Revelation 21:2 “And 1st John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

- ii. Paul described who the bride would be in his letter to the Corinthians – “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

B. A Description of the Building Materials – Verses 9-12

- a. The materials – Verses 9-11
- b. The Great Court – Verse 12

II. THE FURNISHINGS OF THE TEMPLE BUILT – Verses 13-51

A. The Description of Hiram’s Workings in Brass – Verses 13-40

- a. Hiram the Craftsman – Verses 13-14. His mother was an Israelite woman of the tribe of Naphtali and his father was a gentile of Tyre. (Do not confuse Hiram with King Hiram).
 - i. The temple and its furnishings not only typify Christ, but also the believer.
 - ii. This Temple should be as beautiful as the Holy Spirit can make it, therefore we should be yielded to His master strokes.
 - 1. Our bodies are called temples – I Corinthians 3:16-17 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” 1 Corinthians 6:19 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” Hebrews 3:6 “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”
 - 2. Solomon’s temple was costly, but the temple of the Holy Ghost cost much more, because it required the sacrifice of God’s dear son.
- b. The two Pillars – Verses 15-22. “Jachin” means “He shall establish.” “Boaz” means “in it is strength.”
 - i. God’s promise to the overcomers – Revelation 3:12 “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.”
 - ii. Prophecy and fulfillment of their destruction found in Jeremiah 27:19-22; 52:17 and 2 Kings 25:13-17.

- c. The Altar of Brass – 2 Chronicles 4:1. This stood outside the Temple. The burnt offerings and sacrifices offered on this altar 30' x 30' x 15' high. Type of the cross and brass is typical of judgment.
 - d. The Molten Sea – Verses 23-26. This furnished water for the cleansing of the priests. The believer today is a priest (1 Peter 2:9) and needs the daily cleansing of the Word of God (Ephesians 5:25-27).
 - i. Contained approx. 16,250 gallons of water.
 - ii. Supported by 12 oxen. The oxen were burden bearers and typical of service.
 - e. The 10 Lavers and their bases – Verses 27-39. The molten sea furnished water for the Lavers.
- B. Summary of Hiram's Work in Brass – Verses 40-47
- C. Summary of Golden Vessels – Verses 48-51 Gold is typical of Divinity
- a. The golden altar of incense – Verse 48. See Exodus 30:1-10. Incense offered on this altar. This stands for the place of prayer where prayers ascend as incense to the Lord – Exodus 30:8; Hebrews 13:15.
 - b. The golden table for showbread – Verse 48. Christ is the bread of life, for the believer priest to feed upon.
 - c. The golden candlesticks – Verse 49; Exodus 25:31-40. Golden candlesticks typify Christ, oil the Holy Spirit, the wicks typify the believer. Only as we are in Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit, can we let the light of God shine from us, showing the beauty of Christ.
 - d. Miscellaneous articles – Verse 50. Even the doors were swinging on golden hinges. Actually everything hinges on Christ.
 - e. Work completed and treasures brought in verse 51. David had supplied these treasures. All the treasures of God are found in Jesus Christ.

Notes

Lesson 9

THE GLORY OF GOD FILLS THE TEMPLE

1 Kings 8:1-53

Be sure and read 2 Chronicles 5 and 6. They shed additional light on this lesson today.

I. THE ARK BROUGHT INTO THE TEMPLE – Verses 1-11

A. Israel Assembled – Verses 1-2

- a. Note the different classes invited.
- b. This was 11 months after completion of the Temple. Compare 6:38 with 8:2

B. The Moving of the Ark – Verses 3-9

- a. The priests, Sons of Kohath, moved the ark – Verse 3; Numbers 4:15. He had learned from David's mistake – 2 Samuel 6:3-13
- b. Ark, Tabernacle and holy vessels brought – Verse 4
- c. Sacrifices made along the way – Verse 5
- d. Ark brought into the Holy of Holies – Verses 6-7.
 - i. The ark was the inclusive type of any one of the vessels of the Tabernacle. When they brought the ark in they were in fact enthroning Christ in the temple – Exodus 25:8-10 "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it. And they shall make an ark of shittim wood...."
 - ii. When Christ takes up residence in our bodies, we should enthrone Him – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 5:18
- e. The staves of the ark – Verse 8. They are no longer needed but remained as a memorial of their journeys and the faithfulness of the Lord in bringing them into the land of rest.
- f. The **LAW** in the Ark – Verse 9. According to Hebrews 9:4, the Tabernacle in the wilderness contained much more than the law. Aaron's rod and the pot of manna were provisions for the wilderness; they would not have been in keeping with the reign of glory and peace, as well as the rest they now enjoyed. The time of their removal is unknown.

C. The Ark and the Divine Word in Type.

- a. The Ark a type of Christ. He kept the law perfectly in heart, mind and body. He can and does love a sinful people because of the blood sprinkled mercy seat.
 - b. The Tables of Law (Word of God) held a supreme place in the Temple, so it should do in the Church and in the heart of the redeemed.
 - c. Ark a type of the believer. God's Word entrusted to us, but can only be kept on the basis of the blood sprinkled mercy seat.
- D. The Glory of the Lord – Verse 10-11; 2 Chronicles 5:13b
- a. The Cloud was the visible symbol of the Divine presence.
 - b. All the labor would have been in vain, if God's presence had not filled the Temple. It is the same in the Church. Someone said, "the average Church today would not notice a thing if the Holy Spirit was removed." They would continue to function in the same way, because their program does not have the Holy Spirit anyway.
 - c. All pretense of salvation is useless. Only when God saves us, does the Divine Holy Spirit move in.
 - d. They had the word of God in the ark, and God's presence in the house. That is what is needed in the house of God, which is the Church.

II. SOLOMON'S MESSAGE – Verses 12-21

- A. Opening Remarks – Verses 12-14
- a. Glory of God concealed by darkness – Verse 12
 - b. A place for God – Compare verse 13 with verse 27. Do we make room for Him in our hearts, lives, homes and Church?
 - c. The Blessing on the People – Verse 14
- B. David's relationship with the building of the Temple – Verses 15-21

III. SOLOMON'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION – Verses 22-53

- A. God's Presence and Protection Sought – Verses 22-30
- a. No God like thee – Verses 22-23. Monotheism was not known among the heathen.
 - b. His appeal to the Lord – Verses 24-30
 - i. Promise of God kept – Verse 24
 - ii. An appeal to the promises – Verses 25-26
 - iii. The greatness of God – Verse 27
 - iv. A plea for God to hear – Verse 28-30

- B. Intercession for Possible Emergencies – Verses 31-53. These verses could almost be declared prophecy, since all of these things did happen to Israel. Look for and underline the IF's, WHEN's and THEN's. Also note that SIN is the cause of all these problems.
- a. A Plea for just judgment – Verses 31-32 (Note: Oaths and swearing, as sometimes found in the Bible, is not cursing or taking God's name in vain. See Exodus 22:11; Numbers 5:19; Deuteronomy 6:13; Jeremiah 12:16) (For New Testament teaching Galatians 1:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:27 contrast with Matthew 5:33; James 5:12) (See also Romans 4:5 on justification.)
 - b. A Plea for restoration from Captivity – Verses 33-34
 - c. A Plea for rain in time of drought – Verse 35-36; Isaiah 5:6 “And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.”
 - d. A Plea for help in time of famine and pestilence – Verses 37-40
 - e. A Plea for the Gentiles – Verses 41-43; Genesis 22:18 “And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” Psalm 22:27 “All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.” Isaiah 49:6 “And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.” Isaiah 60:3 “And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.” Ephesians 3:6 “That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.”
 - f. A Plea for help in time of battle – Verses 44-45; 2 Chronicles 20:29 “And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.” 2 Chronicles 32:8 “With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.” Psalm 5:11 “But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.” Psalm 31:2 “Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.” Isaiah 31:5 “As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.” Isaiah 37:35 “For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.”
 - g. A Plea for help in time of Captivity – Verses 46-53
- C. Solomon's Benediction – Verses 54-61
- a. His humility – Verse 54. No believer should be so proud that he cannot bow his knees to God. The extended hands acknowledged that the blessings came down from God.

- b. Past blessings – Verses 55-56; Psalm 36:5 “Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.” Psalm 93:5 “Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.” Romans 4:21 “And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”
- c. Future blessings sought – Verses 57-58
 - i. He has promised the believer that He will never forsake – Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”
 - ii. If man is going to live according God’s word, his heart must be inclined toward God, and this is a work of God – Verse 58
- d. The reason for the request – Verses 59-61
 - i. That all the people of the earth would know God and Him alone – Verse 60
 - ii. This can never be without obedience to God – Verse 61
- D. The Divine Confirmation – 2 Chronicles 7:1-3
- E. The Sacrifices and the Rejoicing – Verses 62-66; Galatians 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,”
 - a. Solomon is a type of Christ interceding for His people – Zechariah 2:11; 8:23.
 - b. It is a great thing when a nation’s ruler can be led by the Spirit in prayer and when he realizes that all answers to prayers must be on the ground of the shed blood of Christ – Verses 22, 62; Hebrews 9:22; 10:19-20

Notes

Lesson 10

SOLOMON'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION

1 Kings 9:1-28

Solomon's prayer is one of the great prayers of the Bible. Some of the other great ones are found in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Daniel 9 and of course the prayer of our Lord in John 17.

I. GOD'S SECOND APPEARANCE TO SOLOMON – Verses 1-9

"The second time" is a phrase worth tracing through the Word. "The Word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time" Jonah 3:1. Here Solomon was privileged with a second appearance of God, coming to him on the night following the dedication of the temple. This supernatural vision contained direct answers to Solomon's inaugural prayers. Details of Solomon's commercial enterprises, and his ambition of earth, are before us. Alas, these rapidly corrupted his mind, turning King and people away from God. The temple was high in ideals as well as in elevation, and apostasy was inexcusable. Yet, in spite of warning against disobedience, Solomon turned from God. The remarkable achievement recorded in this chapter resounded through the world, but, turning to Ecclesiastes, we hear the cry of an unsatisfied heart: "All is vanity" (Eccl. 1:1). Earthly glory disappeared as a soap bubble. God has set eternity in the heart of man, and thus no earthly splendor or wealth can ever fully satisfy that heart. (Lockyer)

A. Lessons from a Divine Manifestation to Man – Verses 1-2

- a. It is an act of gracious condescension, that is undeserved by man.
- b. The Divine manifestation occurred at a critical time.
 - i. God appeared at Gibeon at the beginning of his career.
 - ii. He appears again at the pinnacle of his career, to warn Solomon when he needed to be warned.
- c. The Divine manifestation involved a solemn responsibility.
 - i. A responsibility to apprehend and appreciate its significance.
 - ii. A responsibility to carry out the Divine command.
 - iii. A responsibility because it was possible to abuse the blessing conferred.

B. Lessons from a Divine Covenant – Verses 3-9

- a. The TRUE Religion of a nation does not consist in anything external – Verse 3
 - i. It is not in the grandeur of its temples.
 - ii. It is not in the elaborateness of its ritual.

- iii. True religion consists in the sincere worship of God, according to the Bible.
 - iv. True religion is dependent on the presence and approval of God – Verse 3
 - b. The true religion of a nation depends on its obedience to God – Verses 4-5
 - i. Obedience is regulated by clearly defined commands – Verse 4
 - ii. Obedience is to be genuine and complete – Verse 4
 - iii. Obedience illustrated by the life of David – Verse 4
 - iv. Obedience insures perpetuity of blessing – Verse 5
 - v. Obedience is better than burnt offerings and sacrifices – 1 Samuel 15:22
 “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”
 - c. The decay of true religion in a nation is followed by national ruin – Verses 6-9
 - i. The ruin of its national greatness – Verse 7a
 - ii. The ruin of its religious prestige – Verse 7b
 - iii. The ruin is held up as a terrible warning to all generations – Verse 7c-8.
 Please note 2 Chronicles 7:14, which is a parallel passage.
 - d. Forsaking God is a very serious sin – Verse 9. Past blessings cannot guarantee future blessings when a people depart from God. This should serve as a serious warning to our own nation.

II. SOLOMON’S DEALINGS WITH HIRAM – Verses 10-14

- A. A Tardy Gift – Verses 10-11
 - a. He had waited 20 years which seems to have been too long.
 - b. One city for each year of building – Verses 10-11
 - c. Did Solomon disobey God’s command? – Leviticus 25:23 “The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.”
- B. A Disappointed King – Verses 12-13
 - a. He was expecting greater cities.
 - b. We must be clear in our promises so that others will not misunderstand what we are promising.
- C. An Honorable King – Verse 14. Evidently the deal had been made and Hiram did not back out, but sent several million dollars worth of gold. You would not expect this of Hiram.

III. THE MATERIAL PROSPERITY OF HIS KINGDOM – Verses 15-28

- A. An Extensive Building Program – Verses 15-19
 - a. He built the House of the Lord & his own house – Verse 15
 - b. Milo was a fortress to protect Jerusalem – Verse 15
 - c. Hazor became a stronghold to protect from Syria – Verse 15
 - d. Megiddo, a fortress protecting the plains of Jezreel, where many historical events have taken place – Verse 15. The valley or plain of Megiddo was part of the Plain of Esdraelon, the great battle-field of Palestine. It was here Barak gained a notable victory over Jabin, the king of Hazor, whose general, Sisera, led the hostile army. Barak rallied the warriors of the northern tribes, and under the encouragement of Deborah, the prophetess, attacked the Canaanites in the great plain. The army of Sisera was thrown into complete confusion, and was engulfed in the waters of the Kishon, which had risen and overflowed its banks (Jude 4:5).
 - e. Many years after this (B.C. 610) Pharaohnecho II, on his march against the king of Assyria, passed through the plains of Philistia and Sharon; and King Josiah, attempting to bar his progress in the plain of Megiddo, was defeated by the Egyptians. He was wounded in battle, and died as they bore him away in his chariot towards Jerusalem (2 Kings 23:29; 2 Chronicle 35:22-24) and all Israel mourned for him.
 - f. Armageddon occurs only in (Revelation 16:16), as designating the place where the “battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:14), shall be fought. The word properly means the “mount of Megiddo.” It is the scene of the final conflict between Christ and Antichrist. The idea of such a scene was suggested by the Old Testament great battle-field, the Plain of Esdraelon.
- B. Forced labor used – Verse 15, 20, 21. Levy means forced labor and perhaps forced taxes.
- C. A Costly Court Maintained – Verses 22-23. This is what Samuel told Israel (1 Samuel 8:11-18) that a king would do. This is what people want today, a government that will take care of them, but it never turns out the way they expect.
- D. Solomon’s wife moves to her home – Verse 24. Someday Christ’s bride shall move into the prepared place – John 14:1-3
- E. A regular system of Sacrifice – Verse 25
- F. The navy and commerce – Verse 26-28
 - a. Look up Eziongeber and Eloth on your Bible map.
 - b. Ophir may have been in Africa, Arabia or India.
 - c. Take note of the great wealth brought in!!

Lesson 11

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS SOLOMON

1 Kings 10:1-29

Sheba was a kingdom in Arabia Felix. Sheba, in fact, was Saba in Southern Arabia, the Sabaeans of classical geography, who carried on the trade in spices with the other peoples of the ancient world. They were Semites, speaking one of the two main dialects of Himyaritic or South Arabic. Sheba had become a monarchy before the days of Solomon. Its queen brought him gold, spices, and precious stones. She is called by our Lord the “queen of the south”

Matt. 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.

Some tradition says that she was from Ethiopia, but this we believe is pure fiction.

I. A QUEEN SEARCHING FOR WISDOM – Verses 1-13

Read: Psalm 72:15; Jeremiah 6:20; Ezekiel 27:22; 38:13

A. She Came – Verse 1, 2a

- a. She came because she had heard of Solomon and his Lord. Fiction writers and movies have distorted this beautiful story, by injecting the idea that Solomon and the queen of Sheba carried on a romance and that even a child was born to them. This is wicked and vile fiction, and there is not one word of evidence in the bible that this is so. Don't get your bible knowledge from such a foolish source.
- b. She came with hard questions. No doubt she was an intelligent woman with many questions she wanted answered.
- c. She came with great wealth – Verse 2

B. She Communed – Verse 2b, 3

- a. She came with an open heart.
- b. She came with an inquiring mind. Her mind was not closed to new knowledge, so she came to the right place.

C. She Testified – Verses 4-7

- a. Of his wisdom – Verse 4
- b. Of his household – Verses 4-5

- c. Of his worship – Verse 5
 - d. Of her previous doubts – Verses 6-7
 - e. Of her present belief – Verse 7. “The half was not told”
- D. She Praised – Verses 8-9
- a. Solomon for the wisdom he gave to his servants – Verse 8
 - b. God for being the source of all these blessings – Verse 9
- E. She Gave – Verses 10-11
- a. She gave well over 3 million dollars in value.
 - b. The almug trees were of great value. Almug tree —“a tree providing a sweet-scented timber which is black outside and ruby-red inside. It is a native of India and takes a high polish. It is known as red sandalwood. The wood is strong and so antiseptic that it is insecticidal. King Solomon’s builders undoubtedly deliberately selected the wood of the almug tree for the pillars of the temple because of its specific qualities of strength, beauty, and long life.” — Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- F. She Received – Verse 13

Note that Solomon is a type of Christ in the Kingdom age. Then the world will pay to Him the homage and honor that He deserves. See Psalm 72:7-18.

Isaiah 60:1-6; Zechariah 14:8-9, And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Isaiah 9:6-7, For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

II. THE FLOOD TIDE OF PROSPERITY & BLESSING FROM GOD – Verses 14-29

- A. Seen in the Abundance of Wealth – Verses 14-17, 21-23
- a. The amount of the gold alone is staggering – Verse 14. Ecclesiastes 5:19 “Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.”
 - b. The spice trade came from the east, right through the Solomon’s kingdom, and there was tremendous profit in trading spices and taxes – Verse 15
 - c. Shields of gold made for pomp and ceremony – Verses 16-17

- B. Seen in the External Grandeur of the Throne – Verses 18-20
 - a. The ivory throne overlaid with pure gold – Verse 18
 - b. The lions were a symbol of authority and power – Verses 19-20. The English have used images of lions in their governmental affairs. It also looks to the future. Revelation 5:5 “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”
- C. Seen in the Prevalence of Expensive Luxuries – Verses 21-23
 - a. Luxurious drinking vessels made from pure gold – Verse 21
 - b. He was a partner with Hiram in a great trading venture that opened their ships up to the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and all the coast of Africa – Verses 22-23a
- D. Seen in the Great Wisdom of the Ruler – Verses 23b-25
 - a. He exceeded all the kings in wealth and wisdom – Verse 23b
 - b. They came to seek his wisdom – Verse 24. Of course we can be glad that we have access to a greater wisdom. 1 Corinthians 1:30 “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”
 - c. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”
 - d. According to the custom, they would be obligated to bring great gifts – Verse 25. We also have opportunity to seek wisdom. James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”
- E. This Marks the Beginning of National Decline – Verses 26-29
 - a. Solomon’s disobedience to God – Deuteronomy 17:15-20 “Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. But 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. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. And 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: And 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: That 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.”
- b. He disobeyed by multiply horses – Deuteronomy 17:16
 - c. He disobeyed by taking many wives – Deuteronomy 17:17
 - d. He might have had a copy of the law, but he did not follow it – Deuteronomy 17:18
 - e. Dangers of great prosperity – Psalm 62:11 “God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.”
 - i. Psalm 52:9 “I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints.”
 - ii. 1 Timothy 6:6-11 “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.”

Notes

Lesson 12

SOLOMON'S SINS AND HIS DECLINE

1 Kings 11:1-13

“The way of sin is downhill and those who get into it cannot easily get untangled. God at first appointed one woman for one man, and he who thinks one not enough, will not be satisfied with two. When our love is set on the things of the flesh, we may be sure we have lost our love for God and are on the way to trouble.” —Keith Brooks

I. SOLOMON'S SINS – Verses 1-8

A. Solomon's Strange Wives & Polygamy – Verses 1-3

a. Rules for kings.

- i. Not to multiply horses – 1 Kings 4:26; 9:19; 10:28. Isaiah 31:1 “Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!”
- ii. Not to multiply wives – Deuteronomy 17:17a “Neither shall he multiply wives to himself that his heart turn not away...”
- iii. Not to seek great amounts of silver and gold – Deuteronomy 17b “... neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.”
- iv. Have his own copy of the Law and obey it – Deuteronomy 17:18-20 “And 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: And 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.”

b. Polygamy has always been wrong.

- i. God created one wife for Adam.
- ii. God preserved one wife for each man after the flood. Genesis 7:13 “In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark.”
- iii. The words of Jesus – Matthew 19:5 “And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”

- iv. Those who practiced polygamy in the Old Testament found it to be a source of trouble. There is not one instance where this did not happen. The first polygamist was Lamech the ungodly son of Cain, an ungodly man and the first murderer.
 - v. It almost amusing how modern day Mormons have so many advertisements offering to help people strengthen their marriages. They would be more believable if they would repudiate the practice of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. They along with many of the other founders of Mormonism were notorious polygamists. It is history and they cannot deny it.
- c. Strange (foreign unbelieving) wives were wrong – Deuteronomy 7:1-4; Joshua 23:12, 13; Exodus 34:11, 12, 16 “Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee. ... And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.” Nehemiah 13:26 “Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.”
 - d. Solomon gave many warnings that reveal the result of the wrong kind of a relationship with women. It is a shame that he did not heed his own warnings. See Proverbs 7:1-27; Proverbs 5:3-5 “For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.” Proverbs 31:3 “Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.”
 - e. A Godly woman that knows the Lord is a great blessing to a man, but if she is strange (does not know the Lord), then she becomes a curse to him – Proverbs 18:22 “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.”

B. Solomon’s Idolatry – Verses 4-8

- a. Reason why foreign wives forbidden – Deuteronomy 7:1-4 “When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may

- serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.”
- b. No Christian should marry a lost person today for the same reason. They should be of the same faith and be of the same mind which Church they will attend. 2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”
 - c. In his old age his heart was not right with God and his wives turned him to other gods – Verse 4. We learn from this that even his great wisdom did not keep him out of sin.
 - d. The idol gods he honored – Verses 5-8
 - i. “Ashtoreth” a Phoenician goddess of sexual love who was worshiped with impure rites. v. 5. She was supposed to be the consort or lover of the god Baal. She was called the queen of heaven – Jeremiah 7:17-18. The Phoenicians called her Astarte.
 - ii. “Milcom” or “Molech” idol god of Ammonites – Verse 5. They burned their children by making them sacrifice to Molech. Some Israelites sacrificed their infants in the valley of Hinnom. Leviticus 18:21 “And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.”
 - iii. “Chemosh” the sun-god and the god of war, worshiped by the Moabites.
 - iv. Many others – Verse 8. All of these idol places of worship were eventually destroyed, but this would be about 300 years later under the reign of Josiah. Think of the evil that continued on and on because of Solomon’s sin. 2 Kings 23:13-14 “And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile. And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.”
 - e. Doubtful if Solomon ever lived with all these women as husband and wife. Among kings, they were judged by the size of his harem. This in no way justifies his disobedience in marrying them in the first place. James 1:15 “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
 - f. It is clear (verses 4-8) that Solomon was personally turned to idolatry. This is tragic for this noble man to fall, but it should be a warning to all today. 1 Corinthians 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

II. GOD'S ANGER AGAINST SOLOMON – Verses 9-13

A. Solomon Without Excuse – Verses 9-10

- a. God is angry with the wicked – Verse 9; Psalm 7:11 “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.” It is amazing that so many people think that they can sin and God will not be angry for their rejection of His truth.
- b. The above Scripture reveals that God will judge the righteous for their sin. It is even more amazing that saved people have such a casual attitude toward sin and God's judgment. 2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
- c. God had appeared to him twice – Verse 9. It is not as though Solomon did not know. He knew but he did not obey. Every one of God's children need to diligently study 1 Corinthians 3, and then consider what is going to happen to their works.
- d. God had warned Solomon – Verse 10

B. God Announces His Judgment – Verses 11-13

- a. All but one tribe to be removed from kingdom. What a shameful end for a servant of the Lord and his work.
- b. For David's sake, one tribe to remain. “The house of David must, in spite of everything, be kept intact, because out of it was to come the Messiah. As it was spared on account of the promise to David, so all God's favors shown to us are for Christ's sake and the covenant made with Him.” —Keith Brooks
- c. When God's judgment falls after His warnings, it will be irrevocable and severe.

Notes

Lesson 13

THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

1 Kings 11:14-43

It is clear that God uses wicked men as instruments of judgment against His own people. Solomon surely knew this, but he failed to keep it in mind. The following passage of Scripture reveals why that the tribe of Judah must be saved from destruction. This is so the ONE that is greater than Solomon could be born and establish His throne forever. 2 Samuel 7:14-16 “I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men. But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”

I. FOREIGN ENEMIES STIRRED UP – Verses 14-25

A. Hadad the Edomite – Verses 14-22

a. When God stirs up enemies against you – Verse 14

- i. This was caused by the many sins of Solomon.
- ii. It is something God promised – 2 Samuel 7:14 “I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men.”
- iii. If Solomon had obeyed God, this would not have happened – 1 Kings 5:4 “But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent.”
- iv. Disobedience brings chastening – Psalm 89:30-32 “If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.” Hebrews 12:6 “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.” Psalm 94:12 “Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law.”

b. The Edomites were the descendants of Esau – Verse 14

- i. Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob – Genesis 25:32, 34 “And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.”

Hebrews 12:17 “For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”

- ii. He was also a fornicator and profane – Hebrews 12:16 “Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.”
 - iii. It is a serious thing when God stirs up chastisement on His people, for God can use wicked people to do it without being responsible for their wickedness. Christians should take note of this event of long ago.
- c. Background of Hadad’s enmity – Verses 15-16
- i. A war had taken place and David won a great victory – Verse 15
 - ii. Joab occupied their territory and proceeded kill all the males – Verses 15-16
- d. Hadad and others fled to Egypt where they found favor with Pharaoh – Verses 17-18
- e. He lived there for years and married the sister-in-law of Pharaoh – Verses 19-20. It is noteworthy that Solomon also married into this family, so that in marriage Solomon and Hadad were kinfolks.
- f. When he heard that David and Joab were dead, he received permission to return to his own land where he dwelt and was ready to be the instrument in God’s hand at the proper time – Verses 21-22
- B. Rezon of Damascus – Verses 23-25
- a. David defeated Hadadezer, and this was likely the time that Rezon fled from Hadadezer – Verse 23; 2 Samuel 8:3 “David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.”
 - b. He gathered other remnants of the army and was eventually to take over the leadership of Damascus, Syria – Verse 24
 - c. He became Solomon’s adversary – Verse 25. He exploited the old age of Solomon.

II. A JEWISH REBEL STIRRED UP – Verses 26-43

- A. Jeroboam Was from a Rebellious Tribe – Verses 26-40. Hadad and Rezon were foreign enemies of Solomon, but Jeroboam was an internal dangerous adversary.
- a. Jeroboam was of the tribe of Ephraim and he rebelled against Solomon – Verse 26
 - b. He was stirred up because of some of Solomon’s building projects – Verse 27. The tribe of Ephraim was often the enemy of Judah.
 - c. Jeroboam had been noticed some time before these events, and was made ruler over Ephraim and Manasseh – Verse 28
 - d. Power has a tendency to corrupt some people – Verse 28

- e. Jeroboam Receives a Revelation from God – Verses 29-40
 - f. Ahizah the prophet gives the prophecy – Verses 29-32
 - i. Jeroboam would rule over ten tribes.
 - ii. The son of Solomon would have one tribe.
 - iii. The one tribe was for David’s sake.
 - iv. Another reason was to preserve the royal family line, from whence would come the Christ. The genealogy of both Mary and Joseph show that they were descendants of David.
 - v. The family line of Joseph is found in Matthew chapter 1. If Joseph had been the actual father of Jesus, then Jesus could never rule sitting on David’s throne, because Jechonias (Matthew 1:11) could never have had a descendant sit upon the throne of David. See where he is called Coniah. Jeremiah 22:28-30.
 - vi. The family line of Mary goes all the way back to David, but not through Jechonias (Coniah). Luke 3:31 traces her back to David through Nathan. Jesus is not a descendant of Solomon. Solomon missed a great blessing. It is important that Jesus have the throne rights of David, or He could never sit on David’s throne and rule from Jerusalem.
 - g. The reason God’s judgment was upon the house of Solomon – Verses 33-36
 - h. Jeroboam’s opportunity – Verses 37-38. How different his life could have been, had he but listened. The consequences of sin are ignored and the blessing that could have been, never happened.
 - i. Notice that the affliction of David’s seed would “not be forever.” – Verse 39
 - j. Solomon once again seeks to oppose God’s will – Verse 40
- B. The Evil Wickedness of Jeroboam.
- a. He made the two golden calves which the 10 tribes worshiped – 2 Kings 10:29 “Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan.”
 - b. Many times the Bible says, “Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.” (2 Kings 15:28). Evil king after evil king were connected to him in this way.
 - c. Not one of the kings that ruled over the ten tribes was a descendant of David, nor could they ever have reigned in Jerusalem.
- C. The End of Solomon’s Life – Verses 41-43
- a. His record made – Verse 41. This book referred to is an uninspired book not included in the inspired Bible.

- b. His race run – Verse 42. His reign was of good length, but it is a shame that all the quality of it was not good.
- c. He died at about the age of 60, which was quite short when compared to Moses and many others – Verse 43. We close this chapter by giving the following quote from “All the Men of the Bible,” by Herbert Lockyer.

With reference to the character and reign of Solomon, we cannot but agree with Alexander Whyte that, “The shipwreck of Solomon is surely the most terrible tragedy in all the world. For if ever there was shining type of Christ in the Old Testament ... it was Solomon ... but everyday sensuality made him in the end a castaway.” Taking him all in all, Solomon stands out as a disappointing figure of Hebrew history. Think of the advantages he began with! There were the almost undisputed possessions of David’s throne, immense stores of wealth laid up by his father, exceptional divinely imparted mental abilities, love and high hopes of the people. Solomon’s start like cloudless dawn of a summer’s morning, might have been beautiful his life through, but it ended in gloom because he wandered into God-forbidden paths. Thus a life beginning magnificently ended miserably. The man who penned and preached a thousand wise things failed to practice the wisdom he taught.

Notes

Lesson 14

REHOBOAM, JEROBOAM & THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

1 Kings 12:1-33

Up until this time Israel had remained one nation, although there had been jealousy and strife on several occasions. Now, they would remain divided for over many years to come. The kingdom was divided in 931 B.C. and the 10 northern tribes were carried away into captivity 209 years later in 722 B.C. The kingdom of Judah remained in the land until they were conquered by Babylon in 605 B.C. Their captivity was completed with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 B.C. They remained in captivity for 70 years, before a remnant returned and rebuilt the Temple and the city walls.

All of this happened for one reason and it is one word — **SIN**. David's lack of separation and polygamy, then Solomon's pride in his lavish building programs, his many foreign wives and the worship of pagan gods. The kings that followed them were mainly worse. There was nothing left but the judgment of God.

I. FOOLISH REHOBOAM ENCOURAGES REVOLT – Verses 1-15

- A. Rehoboam Attempts to Become King of All Israel – Verse 1
 - a. He was the only known son of Solomon. (This seems strange in view of Solomon's many wives.)
 - b. Shechem was not an ideal place to meet, since it was in the tribe of Ephraim.
 - c. Yet, outwardly, it seemed that all Israel was ready to crown him king.
- B. The Return of Jeroboam from Egypt – Verses 2, 3a
 - a. He had fled to Egypt for his life – 11:40
 - b. He was sent for by the dissidents – Verse 3a
- C. Jeroboam the Spokesman for the Dissidents – Verse 3b-4
 - a. They wanted relief from the heavy yoke. Most likely this was because of heavy taxes and political repression.
 - b. No doubt they had been pressed hard by Solomon.
- D. Rehoboam's Reaction – Verses 5-11
 - a. He asks for time – Verse 5

- b. He seeks the counsel of the old men. They had ruled with Solomon and they advised reform – Verses 6-7
- c. He seeks the counsel of the young men – Verses 8-11
 - i. He forsook the counsel of the old men – Verse 8
 - ii. He regards the advice of young men, who had grown up with him – Verses 9
- d. Many today forsake good counsel to their ruin. The counsel of unspiritual men always brings disaster.
 - i. When they forsake the KJV for the new Bibles.
 - ii. When they forsake the instruction of the Bible for psychology, sex therapists, and family counselors, who most of the time gives instruction that is different from the Bible.
 - iii. When they forsake the counsel of the pastor and get their information from TV or radio preachers.
 - iv. When they forsake the counsel of the pastor, and their parents and grandparents, and then get their advice from another teen or a radical adviser.
 - v. When they forsake the truth for rock music, immoral movies, alcohol and drugs.
 - vi. When they forsake a sound church and join in a compromising church that fails to teach the whole counsel of God.

E. The Confrontation – Verses 12-15

- a. Rehoboam’s roughness – Verse 13
- b. He threatened the people – Verse 14
 - i. A heavier yoke.
 - ii. “Scorpions” - whips with pieces of sharp metal in them, in order to cut.
- c. In all this God was fulfilling His Word – Verse 15

II. TEN TRIBES REBEL AGAINST REHOBOAM – Verses 16-24

A. Israel’s Agreement to Separate – Verses 16-19

- a. Their rejection & departure – Verse 16
- b. Only Judah remained loyal to Rehoboam – Verse 17
- c. Adoram, the tribute collector killed – Verse 18. This reveals that a lot of the problem was over taxes and repression. The power to tax and collect tribute becomes a disaster when it is overdone. This should be a warning to our government today.

- d. Rehoboam flees to Jerusalem – Verse 18
 - e. Israel’s long standing rebellion – Verse 19
 - f. Jeroboam made king over Israel – Verse 20
- B. Civil War Averted by God – Verses 21-24
- a. Rehoboam gathers an army to crush the rebellion – Verse 21. He was rebelling against God’s word – 1 Kings 11:29-33
 - b. God intervenes by sending a prophet who was a true man of God – Verse 22-23
 - c. For this one time Rehoboam obeyed God – Verse 24

III. THE WICKED PLANS OF JEROBOAM – Verses 25-33

- A. He Builds Cities – Verse 25
- a. Shechem made the capital of Israel. Later on, Tirzah and then Samaria would succeed Shechem as capital.
 - i. It was here that Jacob pitched his tent and bought a parcel of ground when he returned from exile in Padanaram – Genesis 33:18-19 “And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padanaram; and pitched his tent before the city. And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for an hundred pieces of money.”
 - ii. Shechem is where the bones of Joseph were buried – Joshua 24:32 “And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.”
 - iii. It is believed that Shechem and Sychar are the same place. Sychar is where Jacob’s well was located and where Jesus won the woman at the well to the truth.
 - b. He builds Penuel, but does not return to Jacob’s God.
 - i. This is where Jacob had his great experience of wrestling, and where he learned a lesson – Genesis 32:24-32
 - ii. Later a town was built there.
 - iii. Gideon won a great victory there – Judges 8:17 “And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.”
- B. He Builds False Religion – Verses 26-33
- a. He fears God ordained worship – Verses 26-27

- i. He built golden calves – Verses 28-29
 - ii. Calf worship was imported from Egypt. While Moses was on the mount receiving the law, the people made a golden calf. Exodus 32:4 “And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”
 - iii. While in exile in Egypt he must have been introduced to this form of idolatry.
 - iv. He excused this sin by seeming to make it convenient not to have to go up to Jerusalem. They accepted it, because man is always seeking a religion of convenience. It is the same today.
 - v. His real reason was to protect his power, for he was afraid that the people would rebel against him once they returned to Jerusalem to worship.
- b. He encourages idolatry – Verse 30
 - c. He disregards the true priests – Verse 31. This is typical in our day when men and women are made pastors and spiritual leaders, who are unqualified to be there.
 - d. He changes the date of the feast of Tabernacles – Verse 32 (See Leviticus 23:24)
 - e. He offers upon a false altar – Verse 33. He desecrated the true worship of God. Jeremiah 17:9-10 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”
 - f. Much of the worship in churches today, such as praise worship, rock music, and entertainment all are false and misleading – Proverbs 16:25 “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
 - g. There is plenty of will worship – Colossians 2:23 “Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.”

Twenty kings ruled over the 10 tribes and they were all much like Jeroboam. Of the kings that ruled over Judah, there were a number of God fearing men. (Asa, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah and Josiah.)

Lesson 15

THE MAN OF GOD FROM JUDAH

1 Kings 13:1-34

I. THE MAN OF GOD AND JEROBOAM – Verses 1-10

A. The Man of God Prophecies Against the False Altar – Verses 1-3

- a. Unnamed prophet cries out against evil – Verses 1, 2a
- b. Josiah to destroy the altar – Verse 2b. Josiah is here named over 300 years before His birth. For the fulfillment see 2 Kings 23:15-18.
- c. A sign that the Lord had spoken – Verse 3. (Fulfilled verse 5) Luke 11:28 “But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.” James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” Hebrews 2:1 “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.” Hebrews 13:17 “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

B. Jeroboam and the Man of God – Verses 4-10

- a. Jeroboam stricken trying to arrest the prophet – Verse 4
 - i. His arm withered because he lifted it against God’s true servant. There are many spiritually withered arms and lives today because they lifted their hand against God’s man.
 - ii. **Lesson:** All human power and skill engaged against God will wither. Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.” Hebrews 13:17 “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”
- b. The altar rent – Verse 5
- c. Healing sought and received – Verse 6. He sought healing for his arm but none for his heart and soul. Like many, his main concern was for the physical. See verse 33

- d. Jeroboam's invitation – Verse 7
 - i. Was he seeking to apologize?
 - ii. Was he seeking to get the prophecy softened?
 - iii. For sure he did not truly repent or change his ways, even though he had the opportunity. Romans 2:4 “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”
- e. Invitation refused because of God's orders – Verses 8-10. Fellowship limited by God.
 - i. We are forbidden to be yoked with unbelievers – 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”
 - ii. We are not to have fellowship with the works of darkness – Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”
 - iii. We are not to invite false teachers into our house – 2 John 9-11 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”

II. A PROPHET SEDUCED BY AN OLD PROPHET – Verses 11-34

A. The Temptation and Lying Message – Verses 11-19

- a. The pursuit and invitation – Verses 11-15. The devil uses food and leisure to lure into sin.
- b. The Word of the Lord reveals God's will – Verses 16-17. It is dangerous to fail to listen to the Word of God.
- c. The Lying message – Verse 18; Galatians 1:8-9 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

- d. The disobedient prophet of Judah – Verse 19. He had resisted a king, but now yields to a prophet. Some people today will follow any lying prophet or preacher that comes along, including Oral Roberts, Robert Schuller, Bill Hybels, Rick Warren and many others.
 - e. God’s people need to seek to know the truth through their godly pastor and not through some radio or TV preacher.
- B. The Fate of the Man of God – Verses 20-32
- a. His judgment announced – Verses 20-22
 - i. God speaks to the old prophet of Bethel – Verse 20 He was a true prophet, though out of the will of God. Nothing is said of his crying out against the altar at Bethel.
 - ii. Sin denounced – Verses 21-22
 - iii. Fate pronounced – Verse 22
 - b. The death of the man of God – Verses 23-25
 - i. An obedient prophet spent a night in a lion’s den without harm. Daniel 6:16
 - ii. A disobedient one could not escape one lion – Verse 24
 - iii. Note the miraculous nature of this event. The lion did not eat the prophet or the ass. The ass did not flee; neither did the lion attack the old prophet of Bethel when he came for the body.
 - iv. If people could simply see the consequences of disobedience many would be saved from disaster.
 - c. The Burial of the Man of God – Verses 26-32
 - i. Sought by the old prophet – Verses 26-29
 - ii. Buried in his grave – Verse 30. Note the honor paid to him over 300 years later by Josiah – 2 Kings 23:17-18
 - iii. Testimony – Verses 31-32
- C. Jeroboam’s Unchanged Life – Verses 33-34
- a. He Installed Sinful (Non-Levites) in the Priesthood – Verse 33
 - b. The Outcome Predicted – Verse 34

Jeroboam learned nothing from the events of 1 Kings 13. Let us learn: “God would teach His servants not to have fellowship with the works of darkness, lest they fall under their contagion and give them encouragement. The devil always has his snares ready to entrap one who bears Christ’s message. God’s commands, like His promises, are yea and amen in Christ. Let us not dare turn aside on the advice of others.” Brooks

Lesson 16

DIVINE JUDGMENT UPON JEROBOAM & REHOBOAM

1 Kings 14:1-31

Calamities are now fast closing round and accumulating upon the head of the impenitent Jeroboam. The power he has defied and provoked must make itself felt; and the righteousness of the Divine mercy, so long and so often despised, must be vindicated. As the coming tempest gives signals of its advance, and reaches the climax of its fury by graduated stages, so the judgments of heaven do not overtake the wicked without pre-admonition and ample opportunity for repentance.

I. JUDGMENT ON JEROBOAM & THE TEN TRIBES – Verses 1-20

A. Divine Judgments Are Not Sent Without Due Warning – Verses 1-6

- a. This warning is repeated – Verse 1 “at that time”
 - i. Warned by the prophet of Judah.
 - ii. Warned by the withered arm and the rent altar.
 - iii. Now he is warned by his son becoming ill.
 - iv. Do not confuse Abijah the son of Jeroboam with Abijah the son of Rehoboam.
 - v. We need to take note of the fact that the same person may be found in another place with a different spelling or even the name may be different. This was so in the case of Abijah.
- b. The warning appeals to the tenderness of human feelings – Verse 2. Parental love awakened by a sick and dying child.
- c. He thought that by his gifts that he could buy the favor of God – Verse 3. People today need to know they cannot bribe the Lord.
- d. This warning given by the same person who uttered promises of good – Verse 5-6
 - i. He well remembered the good news of the prophet Ahijah. 1 Kings 11:29-31
 - ii. He forgot to obey the serious warning that the prophet gave him in 1 Kings 11:37-38. How different his life would have been if he had heeded the warning.
 - iii. King Saul had a similar warning which he did not heed with disastrous results – 1 Samuel 15:26-28

- e. Her disguise might have deceived a near blind prophet, but it could never deceive the all seeing God. He is the search of the hearts of all men.
- B. The Divine Judgment Explicitly Declared – Verses 7-16
- a. The reasons for the Divine judgments are given – Verses 7-9
 - i. Jeroboam exalted by God – Verse 7
 - ii. Kingdom taken from house of David – Verse 8. This was done because of the sins of David and Solomon.
 - iii. Yet, Jeroboam had sinned against God – Verse 9. His sins exceeded the sins of all those before him.
 - b. The nature of the Divine judgments – Verse 10
 - c. It is a personal matter. All of the Male offspring of Jeroboam would perish. He would have no one to succeed him of his own family.
 - d. The dogs and the fowls would devour his children – Verse 11
 - e. Judgment on his sick son. Death would come – Verse 12
 - f. Abijah would receive a decent funeral and burial – Verse 13. God did see some good thing in him.
 - g. The next king would destroy all the offspring of Rehoboam – Verse 14. See 1 Kings 15:27-30
 - h. The ten tribes would eventually go into captivity – Verse 15
 - i. The cause for giving Israel up – Verse 16
 - j. This would be a fulfillment of old warnings and prophecies – Deuteronomy 28:63 “And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.” Deuteronomy 29:27 “And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book.” Joshua 23:16 “When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.”
 - k. It is tragic that even Christians are not heeding the warnings of God, and consequently bring harm to their, church, their family and their nation. Numbers 32:23 “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.”
 - l. There are terrible consequences for sin, both for the saved and the lost – Isaiah 59:1-2 “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his

ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

- i. Saved people will be chastened by the Lord – Hebrews 12:6 “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.” Proverbs 3:12 “For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”
- ii. Lost people will have everlasting punishment – Romans 2:9 “Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

C. The Divine Judgments Are Inevitable – Verses 17-20

- a. The pious son dies as soon as she arrives home – Verse 17
- b. There was great mourning for him – Verse 18
- c. The chronicles mentioned here were uninspired writings which God did not include in the Bible – Verse 19
- d. Jeroboam stricken – Verse 20

II. DIVINE JUDGMENTS UPON REHOBOAM & JUDAH – Verses 21-31

Read: 2 Chronicles 11:5-12, 18-23 and 2 Chronicles 12:1-14

A. The Sins of Rehoboam – Verses 21-24

- a. He promoted idolatry – Verses 21-22
- b. Of course this was strictly forbidden.
- c. They were to have no other gods – Exodus 20:3
- d. They were to have no images – Exodus 20:4 “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”
- e. He permitted sodomites in the land – Verse 24

B. God will not tolerate a nation that approves of sodomy.

- a. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. See Genesis 19; Genesis 19:24 “Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven.”
- b. This sin of sodomy and homosexuality is always condemned in the Bible. See Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:24-32

- c. Homosexuals cannot go to heaven if they will not repent and quit that sin and trust in the Saviour. See our tract, "The Bible & the Homosexual," by E. L. Bynum (#A-335)
 - d. Idolatry Destroys the Bravery of a Nation – Verses 25-28
 - e. Powerless before the enemy – Verse 25
 - f. The beautiful shields of gold were taken away – Verse 26. Gold speaks of divinity and God was their shield of protection.
 - g. Rehoboam replaced them with shields of brass – Verse 27. Brass speaks of judgment. God was no longer their shield, but He will be their judge.
 - h. He went on pretending that they were still there – Verse 28. In every age the devil has sought to get God's people to accept a cheap substitute for the real thing. It is easy when we lose God's blessing to seek a cheap substitute.
 - i. Other Fruits of Idolatry – Verses 29-31
- C. War and enmity – Verses 29-30
 - D. Untimely death and a dishonored grave – Verse 31. This verse gives us another clue of what caused this awful calamity. Solomon had taken an Ammonite for a wife, and she was the mother of Rehoboam. Read: Deuteronomy 23:3, Deuteronomy 7:3

Notes

Lesson 17

THE KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL

1 Kings 15:1-34

In this chapter we have an abstract of history of two of the kings of Judah, Abijam, the days of whose reign were few and evil, and Asa, who reigned well and long; and of two of the kings of Israel, Nadab the son of Jereboam, and Baasha the destroyer of Jereboam's house. — From Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible

I. THE KINGS OF JUDAH – Verses 1-24

A. Abijam Who Followed the Wrong Example – Verses 1-8

Note: Abijam is called Abijah in 2 Chronicles 11:20-22. This is not unusual in the Bible to find names changed. Abram changed to Abraham, Jacob changed to Israel, and Saul changed to Paul. The clue is to be found in the meaning of the name. Abijah means "Jehovah is my father" while Abijam means "father of the sea."

- a. The time of his reign – Verse 1. Rehoboam reigned seventeen years (2 Chronicles 12:13) and died during his eighteenth year.
- b. The length of Abijam's reign – Verse 2a Only three years. Was it cut short because of sin?
- c. His ancestry. See note below on Asa's ancestry – Verse 2b. Abishalom is Absalom, that beautiful, smooth-tongued, treacherous son of King David. Maachah is Absalom's powerful queen granddaughter, the wife of Rehoboam.
- d. The sinful character of his reign – Verses 3-5. He followed the wrong example: "The sins of his father," – 1 Kings 14:22-24
 - i. He should have patterned himself after King David, who set a godly example for his descendants and his people.
 - ii. We, too, should be godly examples – Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
- e. The wars of his reign – Verses 6-7. The one bright spot in his life is to be found in 2 Chronicles 13:2-20. Abijam seemed to start well, but soon departed from God.
 - i. Had he tried to serve two masters? Matthew 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

- ii. Had he tried to buy the blessings of God? (See verse 15) Acts 8:20 “But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.”
 - f. The end of his reign – Verse 8
- B. Asa Who Followed the Right Example – Verses 9-24
 - a. The time of his reign – Verse 9
 - b. The length of his reign – Verse 10
 - c. His ancestry – Verse 10. Asa was the son of Abijam, and the grandson of Rehoboam and Maachah. Maacha was the daughter of Tamar, the only daughter of Absalom.
 - d. The righteous character of his reign – Verses 11-13. (See also 2 Chronicles 14 & 15) He followed David, the right example.
 - i. He removed the sodomites – Verse 12a. Asa was obedient to the Scriptures: Leviticus 18:26 “Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you.” Leviticus 18:29 “For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people.”
 - ii. He removed the idols – Verse 12b; Deuteronomy 11:16-17 “Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORD’S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.”
 - iii. He removed the Queen mother – Verse 13. (God never established the office for a Queen of Israel.) The idol of the groves was Asherah, the goddess of fertility. Asherah is derived from the Assyrian Ashtoreth. Abominable immorality was practiced in this worship.
 - iv. Godly courage and strength are needed for success in God’s service: Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” Psalm 68:35 “O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.”
 - e. The failure of his reign – Verse 14. These high places were for the worship of God, but he should have removed them. God established His altar at His temple to be the only place of worship. 1 Samuel 15:22 “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

- f. The prosperity and devotion of his reign – Verse 15. We too are able to prepare dedicated things of silver and gold for the honor of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 3:11-16 “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”
- g. The wars of Asa – Verses 16-22
 - i. Baasha’s threat to Asa and the kingdom of Judah.
- C. Ramah was built 5 or 6 miles north of Jerusalem – Verse 17
- D. The purpose was to blockade Jerusalem and Judah.
 - a. Unbelief and lack of faith in God – Verses 18-20
 - i. His misuse of national wealth – Verse 18
 - ii. His bribery of the Syrian king – Verses 18-19
 - iii. His unholy alliance – Verse 20

Note: This reminds us of the CARNAL WEAPONS that are being used in God’s work today. We should do God’s work God’s way, and trust the results to Him!
 - b. Ramah demolished, Geba and Mizpah built – Verses 21-22. Asa’s scheme was a success, but it earned the displeasure of God.
 - c. Asa’s diseased feet – Verse 23; 2 Chronicles 16:12. He put his faith in physicians instead of the Lord. It is likely he could not walk. Many today cannot walk with God because they have been made spiritually lame by sin.
 - d. The end of his reign – Verse 24

II. THE KINGS OF ISRAEL – Verses 25-34

Note: There were 8 dynasties in Israel, but only one in Judah.

- A. Nadab – Verses 25-26
 - a. He reigned only 2 years – Verse 25
 - b. He did evil – Verse 26
- B. Baasha – Verses 27-34
 - a. Baasha destroys the house of Jeroboam – Verses 27-30

- b. This fulfills the prophecy – 1 Kings 14:9-11
- c. This establishes a new dynasty.
- d. A warning to all: sin provokes God to Anger.
- e. Baasha's wicked ways – Verses 31-34. God uses evil to destroy evil. Baasha abolished a sinful family, but did nothing to abolish his own sins.

Notes

Lesson 18

TURMOIL FOR THE NATION THAT FORSAKES GOD

1 Kings 16:1-34

“Chapter 16 continues with the history of Baasha, then four other kings of Israel — each more wicked than his successor: Elah, Zimri, Omri, and Ahab who compounded his wickedness by marrying the infamous Jezebel.” from Thru The Bible With J Vernon McGee

“This chapter relates wholly to the kingdom of Israel, and the revolutions of that kingdom — many in a little time.... All this while, in Judah, things went well.” from Matthew Henry’s Commentary On The Whole Bible

I. GOD PRONOUNCES THE DOOM OF BAASHA AND HIS HOUSE – Verses 1-14

- A. The Word of God comes through the prophet of God – Verse 1; 2 Peter 1:2 “ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (We have the Word of God today because men wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.)
 - a. The prophet, Hanani, Jehu’s father, condemned King Asa for his sin, and was promptly cast into prison, making Hanani the first of God’s prophets to be persecuted for delivering God’s message.
 - b. Jehu fearlessly condemns Baasha’s house. (He would later rebuke King Jehoshaphat.)
 - c. Baasha had the books of Moses to warn him against continuing in sin – Luke 16:19 “Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”
 - d. Baasha had all the history of Israel, and the lives of King David, Solomon, and Rehoboam to warn him against his path of sin, as well as Jeroboam’s and Nadab’s miserable reigns.
 - e. God, who is sovereign over all, establishes and removes kings at will, and Baasha is no exception – Verse 2
 - i. The reason Baasha is King: “I exalted thee”
 - ii. The reason for the doom of Baasha: “thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam”

- f. Baasha's wickedness brings about the ruin of his family – Verses 3-7; Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."
 - i. Our sins can mean the ruin of our lives.
 - ii. Our sins can also help wreck the lives of others—especially our own families.
 - g. Baasha led the nation of Israel in the way of sin and ruin, along with his own family.
- B. The fulfillment of the prophecy against the house of Baasha – Verses 8-14
- a. Elah, son of Baasha, reigned only two years – Verse 8
 - b. Elah stays home in Tirzah while his army is in battle – Verse 9 (See verse 15b) 2 Samuel 11:1-2 " And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon."
 - c. Elah is drinking himself drunk in the house of his steward. (Arza means earthiness; it is derived from a Hebrew root word often translated as world.)
 - d. Like Belshazzar, judgment came while drinking: Daniel 5:3 "Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Khaldeans slain."
 - e. The Bible is against drinking – Proverbs 31:4 "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink." Proverbs 20: 1 "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 23:20 "Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags."
- C. God uses wicked Zimri to destroy Elah and the house of Baasha – Verses 10-14
- a. Sons, family and friends are all slain – Verse 11
 - b. Note that judgment came because of the sins of Elah as well as Baasha – Verse 13

II. SIN THE SOURCE OF NATIONAL CALAMITIES FOR ISRAEL – Verses 15-28

During the two hundred ten years of the Northern Kingdom's existence, nineteen kings reigned. Seven kings for two years or less. Eight were killed and one committed suicide when the throne was transferred to another family. Only twice did a dynasty last as long as four generations in succession. Israel suffered wars, invasions, and defeats. Because of sin, they were finally carried away into captivity.

A. Zimri's brief reign – Verses 15-20

- a. God used the willful acts of Zimri to fulfill Jehu's pronouncement of doom upon the house of Baasha, but God did not cause Zimri to sin. James 1: 13 "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."
- b. Zimri reigned only seven inglorious days.
- c. When the army of Israel heard that Zimri sat on the throne, they made Omri king. When Zimri saw that all was lost, he ended his own life and reign.
- d. The reason for his brief reign and death: "for the sins which he sinned..." – Verse 19

B. Omri's dynasty of wickedness – Verses 21-28

- a. Sin causes a schism among the people: Omri and Tibni fight over the throne for four years – Verse 21
- b. Omri prevails and Tibni dies – Verse 22
- c. Omri builds a new capital city—Samaria – Verse 24

"Situated about the centre of the land, six miles north-west of Shechem, it occupied a commanding hill, rising from a broad valley, and surrounded on all sides by mountains, through which there was only a narrow entrance from the west. The approach to the plateau on which Samaria stood is steep on all sides. Thus the site of the new capital, which was also distinguished by great beauty, was singularly adapted both for observation and defense. The country around was very rich, and the place well supplied with water. A more suitable spot could not have been chosen by monarch or general." —Alfred Edersheim's Old Testament Bible History.

- d. The character of Omri's reign: he is worse than any king before him – Verses 25-26
- e. Omri's dynasty was the worst of all Israel's kings, composed of Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, and Joram.

III. KING ABAB, THE EPITOME OF WICKEDNESS – Verses 29-34

A. His wicked reign – Verses 29,30

- a. Twenty-two years in length. We will find out much about this man in the next few lessons.
- b. He exceeded his father, as well as all the others, in sin – Verse 30

B. His Unholy Marriage – Verse 31

“The heathen blood and religion ran like poison through several generations of Hebrew sovereigns in both kingdoms. She was a woman of imperious will and fanatical zeal, whose name for nearly three thousand years has been a synonym of all that is hateful in womankind. She introduced the licentious Baal worship, and began so fierce a persecution that the worship of Jehovah, which had lingered on among the people, was well nigh rooted out.” from B. S. Dean’s, An Outline of Bible History

- a. Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal.
 - b. Ethbaal means “with Baal.”
 - c. Ethbaal was a priest of Baal and king of Zidon.
 - d. He had murdered his own brother, King Philetos, and reigned in his stead.
 - e. Jezebel was a promoter of Baal worship, and was perhaps a priestess of Baal.
- C. Ahab led the nation to reject God, and to worship Baal – Verses 32-33
- D. A number of national gods were named Baal. The Baal of Tyre and Zidon was Melkarth, and was their chief god. Melkarth was the kind of god that required the burning of innocent children as oblations upon his altar.
- E. For the second time, the Bible declares that Ahab exceeded all those before him in wickedness.
- F. His wickedness encourages others in presumptuous acts. v34
- a. For over 500 years, the curse of Joshua 6:26 was respected; now in Ahab’s time, Hiel disobeys God’s Word – Joshua 6:26 “ And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.”
 - b. The prophecy is fulfilled in the death of his sons.

Notes

Lesson 19

Elijah — God’s Man of the Hour

1 Kings 17:1-24

The great wickedness and deep apostasy of the day is revealed in chapter 16:30-33. Ahab not only walked in the sins of Jereboam, but “he took to wife Jezebel.” See Joshua 23:11-13, 15-16.

Because of his marriage, Ahab served Baal and established Baal worship in the land of Israel. He and Jezebel together were the climax of evil, apostasy, and opposition to God.

However, the wickedness of man is not greater than the righteousness of God. Elijah, who emerges from obscurity, is God’s man of the hour to oppose King Ahab and Jezebel.

Elijah was a man of courage: he withstood King Ahab and rebuked him face to face. He faced down the 450 prophets of Baal and each of the captains of fifty sent to fetch him. But his courage would melt away at the threat from Jezebel.

God spoke directly to Elijah, and Elijah spoke the Word of God to kings. While he didn’t write any of the books of the Bible, he did write a letter of rebuke to a king of Judah.

He had the power to perform miracles; he appeared with Moses at the transfiguration of Christ; he was carried by a whirlwind into heaven.

Elijah is promised to return to this earth “before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” He will likely be one of the two witnesses in the tribulation period who perform miracles and oppose the Anti-christ.

I. ELIJAH’S MESSAGE TO WICKED KING AHAB – Verse 1

A. Elijah’s Background.

- a. Elijah means “My God is Jehovah.”
- b. Perhaps his name is an indication of Godly Parents.
- c. Elijah came from Gilead — the eastern side of the Jordan River.
- d. Tishbite refers to his hometown; there was a Tishbe in Galilee, although this probably has no connection to Elijah.

B. Elijah’s Source of Power.

- a. He had the Word of the Lord. (See verses 2,8,24) Ephesians 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
 - b. Elijah had the power of prayer. As a man of faith, he prayed under the leadership of God. James 5:17-18 “Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”
 - c. As a faithful servant, he stood in the presence of his God. “Before whom I stand.” Elijah was like Nehemiah, the King’s cupbearer, who stood before his king, served his king, and heard the words of his king.
- C. Elijah’s message to King Ahab.
- a. It was a message of due judgment – Deuteronomy 11:16-17 “Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORD’S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.”
 - b. This was a challenge to Ahab’s and Jezebel’s gods. Baal worship had many local gods – powerful gods of rain and of harvest would have been necessities.

II. GOD’S MESSAGE TO ELIJAH – Verses 2-7

A. God’s Command for Elijah – Verses 2-3

- a. The exact location of the brook Cherith is unknown.
- b. Why is Elijah to hide himself? See 1 Kings 18:10
- c. Sometimes God would have us to stand, other times He would have us to flee. Matthew 10:23 “But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another.”
- d. “They were not permitted to throw away their lives. Where they could preserve them, without denying their Lord, they were to do it. Yet all the commands of Christ, as well as their conduct, show that they were rather to lay down their lives than deny their Saviour. We are to preserve our lives by all proper means; but rather die than save ourselves by doing anything wrong.” — Albert Barnes’ New Testament Commentary
- e. Paul was let down by the wall in a basket by night to avoid the plot of the Jews – Acts 17:10 “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea.”

- f. There is no shame in fleeing persecution; our problem is that we tend to instead flee from the service of God – 2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
- B. God’s Promise to Elijah – Verse 4
 - a. A “drouth” means a lack of both water and food. God promises to provide for Elijah. Psalm 17:3, 25 “Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”
 - C. Elijah’s Faithful Obedience to God – Verse 5
 - D. God’s Faithful Provision for Elijah – Verse 6; Deuteronomy 7:9 “Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.”
 - E. God’s Test of Faithful Elijah – Verse 7; Job 13:15 “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.” Psalms 26:2 “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.”

III. ELIJAH’S MESSAGE TO THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH – Verses 8-16

- A. God’s Command to Elijah – Verses 8-9
 - a. Elijah is sent to Jezebel’s homeland, where her father is king.
 - b. Elijah is sent to the heartland of Jezebel’s religion.
 - c. Elijah is sent to an impoverished Zidonian widow on the brink of starvation.
- B. Elijah’s Test for the Widow Woman – Verses 10-16
 - a. Elijah is again obedient to God’s command – Verse 10a
 - b. God is faithful in His promise – Verse 10b “Behold, the widow woman was there.”
 - c. Elijah’s Needful Pleas – Verse 10c-11. A little water and a morsel of bread.
- C. The Widow’s Desperate Plight – Verse 12
 - a. Elijah’s Strange Preference – Verse 13. Here the widow woman is tested: will she serve God or serve herself? See Matthew 6:33
 - b. God’s Blessed Promise – Verse 14
 - c. God’s Gracious Provision – Verses 15-16. The widow woman believes the promise of God, and naturally God is faithful to His Word.

IV. THE WIDOW WOMAN’S MESSAGE TO ELIJAH – Verses 17-24

- A. God’s Test of the Widow woman – Verse 17
 - a. This was no small test.

- b. Job was severely tested, yet Job stood faithful.
 - c. Paul had his “thorn in the flesh” as well as his persecutions, yet Paul stood faithful.
 - d. You can be sure your faith will be tested.
- B. The weakness of her is faith exposed – Verse 18
- a. “The woman imagines that Elijah’s visit had drawn God’s attention to her, and so to her sins, which (she feels) deserve a judgment — her son’s death.” — from F. C. Cook’s The Bible Commentary
 - b. Our trials are intended to improve us, by causing us to draw closer to God and to place our faith in Him (among other reasons).
- C. Elijah’s Prayer of Faith – Verses 19-21
- a. It is unlikely that Elijah is chiding with the Lord over the widow’s loss – Verse 20
 - b. He is seeking to know if it is truly God’s purpose that this trial should stand as it is.
 - c. By faith, Elijah is confident that God has an even greater purpose here.
 - d. Three times stretched upon the child reminds us of Christ’s resurrection — “three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
- D. The Results of This Great Trial – Verses 22-24
- a. The child is restored to life by the power of God.
 - b. The Child is restored to the mother by the servant of God.
 - c. The widow’s faith is increased.
 - d. She is confident in the God of Elijah.
 - e. This may have even been the profession of her saving faith.

Notes

Lesson 20

ELIJAH'S CONTEST BETWEEN GOD AND BAAL

1 Kings 18:1-40

Elijah, at the command of God, returns and confronts King Ahab, calling for a contest between the Lord and Baal. Needless to say, God is victorious, and the many prophets of Baal suffer humiliation and swift death at the hands of the people who witnessed the contest.

I. THE SERVANT OF GOD, THE SERVANT OF AHAB, AND THE SERVANT OF BAAL – Verses 1-6

- A. Elijah — the Servant of God – Verses 1-2 (See 1 Kings 17:1b “Before whom I stand”)
 - a. Elijah is directed by the Word of the Lord: “Go, shew thyself...” Jeremiah 10:23 “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”
 - b. We too are directed by the Word of the Lord — the Written Word of God. Psalm 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
 - c. God promises to send rain. (See verse 45)
 - d. Elijah is obedient to the command of God – Verse 2; 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”
- B. Obadiah — the Servant of Ahab – Verses 3-4
 - a. It is unlikely that this Obadiah was the writer of the Old Testament book.
 - b. Obadiah was the governor of Ahab’s house – Verse 3. This suggests that he was of a capable and trustworthy character.
 - c. He feared the Lord greatly – Verse 3b; Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom....”
 - d. He hid God’s prophets and cared for them – Verse 4 (This event is probably now in the past.)
 - e. Obadiah apparently had little influence with Ahab. In view of Jezebel’s campaign against the prophets, and Obadiah’s reluctance to announce Elijah’s return to his king, Obadiah may have followed the Lord only in secret.

- f. Obadiah had not taken a stand, nor separated himself from the apostates as did Elijah. See 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 & 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.
- C. Ahab — the servant of Baal – Verses 5-6 (See 1 Kings 16:31)
- a. Ahab is concerned only for the welfare of the horses and mules.
 - b. He has no concern for his people suffering under the drought and famine.
 - c. He certainly has no concern for the spiritual condition of his people.
 - d. Unlike Ahab, our God and King cares for us – 1 Peter 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

II. THE SERVANT OF GOD MEETS THE SERVANT OF AHAB – Verses 7-16

- A. Obadiah, the Servant of Ahab, is Suddenly Thrust into the Service of God – Verses 7-8
- B. A Reluctant Messenger – Verses 9-12
- a. He feared the consequences of serving God. Luke 12:4-5 “And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”
 - b. He feared death at the hand of Ahab. Revelation 2:10b “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” Revelation 12:11 “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”
 - c. The plan of God was not in agreement with Obadiah’s plans.
 - d. To avoid serving God, it suddenly becomes necessary for Obadiah to declare his great service for God – Verses 13-14
 - e. Obadiah submits only after assurance from Elijah – Verses 15-16

III. THE SERVANT OF GOD MEETS THE SERVANT OF BAAL – Verses 17-29

- A. Ahab wrongly accuses Elijah as the reason for the great evil upon the land – Verse 17. Ahab probably has evil intentions for Elijah.
- B. Elijah fearlessly speaks the truth – Verse 18. (Baalim — plural of Baal) Rather than seizing or killing Elijah, or even demanding the end of the drought, Ahab is suddenly compliant. Proverbs 21:1 “The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”
- C. Elijah calls for a contest between his God and the gods of apostate Israel – Verse 19-21
- a. The place and people of the contest.

- b. The location is Mt. Carmel. The Carmel range of mountains give a commanding view of the Mediterranean Sea and the great plain of Esdraelon where the battle of Armageddon will be fought. Ahab's summer palace and Jezebel's temple were located at Jezreel, which was not far away.
 - c. All Israel is to be present.
 - d. 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves are to be there, but apparently the 400 fail to show. (Asherah was the goddess of the groves)
- D. The apostates seem to have the advantage.
- a. Apostate religion was long established in Israel, beginning with Jereboam and his golden calves.
 - b. There were at least 850 false prophets in the land, while Elijah stood alone.
 - c. Apostate religion was established and supported by the King and Queen.
 - d. The Baal of the Zidonians, from whence came Jezebel, was a sun-god, more specifically, a god of fire.
- E. Elijah's challenge to the people of Israel shows they are not ready to commit – Verse 21

IV. THE SERVANT OF GOD MEETS THE PROPHETS OF BAAL – Verses 22-40

- A. Elijah's Challenge for the Prophets of Baal – Verses 22-25
- a. The true God will answer by fire.
 - b. The Devil is also able to perform miracles: Pharaoh's magicians were able to perform the same miracles as Moses; Satan caused fire to fall from heaven in his persecution of Job.
 - c. Satan can do no more than God permits – Job 1:12 "And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD."
- B. The Prophets of Baal Accept the Challenge – Verses 26-29
- a. They called on their god, and "leaped upon the alter" (As a tempting sacrifice?); they cut themselves and offered their blood.
 - b. They sought their god from morning to evening, but to no avail.
- C. Elijah Prepares for his God to Answer by Fire – Verses 30-38
- a. He calls the people near – Verse 31
 - b. He repairs the broken alter and digs a trench – Verses 32-33
 - c. The bullock and the wood are prepared, and then drenched in water – Verse 33-35. This shows there is no deception and that the Lord is able.

D. Elijah Prays to his God – Verses 36-37

- a. He prays to the God of their forefathers.
- b. He prays that God would manifest himself to this apostate people.
- c. He prays that they would know he is the true servant of God. 1 Corinthians 1:22 “For the Jews require a sign....” A sign (miracle) is required because of unbelief.
- d. He prays that their heart would be turned back again to the Lord God.
 - i. We must remember that it takes more than seeing a sign or miracle to spiritually change a heart.
 - ii. “The word of God is quick, and powerful....” Hebrews 4:12
 - iii. The gospel is “the power of God unto salvation....” Romans 1:16
 - iv. Acts 16:14 “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.”

E. The Result of Elijah’s Prayer – Verses 38-40

- a. Fire fell immediately – Verse 38a
- b. Sacrifice, wood, stones, dust and water — all consumed – Verse 38b
- c. The people are convinced (more or less) – Verse 39
- d. 450 prophets of Baal are destroyed – Verse 40; Deuteronomy 13:1-5

Notes

Lesson 21

ELIJAH — FROM VICTORY TO RETREAT

1 Kings 18:41 — 19:21

In the last lesson we examined God's great victory over Baal. Today we study the faithfulness of God in sending the promised rain, and the failure of Elijah as he flees from Jezebel.

I. THE SOUND OF ABUNDANCE OF RAIN – Verses 41-46

A. We have Elijah full of faith – Verse 41

- a. Ahab is urged to eat and drink, perhaps in celebration of God's great victory, the peoples' confession, and the end of the drought.
- b. Elijah, full of faith, announces the coming of rain. (See verse 1)

B. We have Elijah in prayer – Verse 42

- a. Prayer is still necessary, even in the midst of great victory. If this is so, how much more necessary is it in times of trial? Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Colossians 4:2 "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."
- b. The subject of Elijah's prayer – James 5:17-18 "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

C. We have Elijah anticipating rain – Verse 43

- a. Perhaps the servant was provided by Obadiah.
- b. Some prayers may be answered immediately, like Elijah's prayer for fire, some are delayed, but all require faith.
- c. Seven more trips — God's number of perfection and of His work in creation, and here an expression of Elijah's expectation.

D. We have Elijah beholding the faithfulness of God – Verses 44-45

- a. Only a little cloud — don't discount the small blessings, they may lead to greater things.
- b. A little cloud like a man's hand — perhaps an indication of the hand of God in action.

- c. Ahab is urged to head for home. He had much to consider as he rode to Jezreel in the pouring rain. (Jezreel was a second home to Ahab & Jezebel, perhaps a summer home.)
- E. We have Elijah empowered by “the hand of God.” – Verse 46
 - a. God enables Elijah to run before Ahab – Isaiah 40:31 “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”
 - b. The hand of God is always necessary to accomplish the work of God.
 - c. It seems Elijah was not yet finished with Ahab. Maybe he wanted to deal with the prophets of the groves, the house of Baal, and the golden calves.
 - d. The work of God must still continue after great victory, as well as in times of drought.

II. ELIJAH’S FLIGHT AND DESPONDENCY – Verses 1-18

- A. Elijah flees to Beersheba, and then further into the wilderness – Verses 1-8
 - a. Ahab reports to Jezebel – Verse 1
 - b. Jezebel responds with a threat – Verse 2; Romans 3:18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”
 - c. “So let the gods do to me, and more also....” 1 Kings 21:23 “And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.” See 2 Kings 9:30-37
 - d. Elijah runs for his life – Verses 3-4a
- B. Elijah can face down King Ahab and the 450 prophets of Baal, but his courage melts at the threat of Jezebel.
 - a. Elijah must have removed his eyes from the Lord – Matthew 14:28 “And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”
- C. He flees all the way to Beersheba in southern Judah, and then another day’s journey into the wilderness.
- D. Elijah sits and despairs under a juniper tree – Verse 4b
- E. God’s special provision for Elijah – Verses 5-8

- a. It seems likely that Elijah is exhausted from all the recent activity after leaving the home of the widow woman.
 - b. When we are physically weak, we are also spiritually weak, in the sense that we are more susceptible to the Devil's attacks. When did Satan tempt our Lord? After He had fasted forty days and forty nights. Matthew 4:1-3 "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."
 - c. Elijah fled Jezebel, and now sits weary of life because of his failure. However, God is not finished with Elijah.
- F. God is careful to meet Elijah's needs.
- a. This special food kept Elijah going for forty days and forty nights – Verse 8
 - b. God is always faithful to enable us to accomplish the work He has called us to do. However, what He would have us to accomplish is not necessarily the same as what we might wish to accomplish.
 - c. Even though weak, despondent and defeated, Elijah still follows the Lord. John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." True children of God will not altogether forsake the Lord.
 - d. Forty is the number of testing.
- G. Elijah at Mt. Horeb – Verses 9-18. Mt. Horeb and Mt. Sinai are two names for the same place. This is where God delivered the law to Moses.
- a. The word of the Lord comes to Elijah; this time in a question of rebuke. "What doest thou here, Elijah?" – Verse 9
 - b. Elijah attempts self-justification – Verse 10
 - c. Elijah was accustomed to God manifesting Himself in great ways – Verse 11-14
 - i. God passes by Elijah and causes a mighty wind, and an earthquake, and then a fire; but God was not in any of these.
 - ii. Finally, God speaks to Elijah in "a still small voice." The question is, will Elijah heed the still small voice? (God can speak through great tragedies, but isn't it better to hear the still small voice?)
 - d. Elijah covers his face as one afraid to look upon the glory of God, or perhaps in shame – Verse 13a
 - e. The same question is presented and Elijah delivers the same answer – Verse 13b-14
- H. The final test: Instruction and Encouragement. "Go, return on thy way." – Verses 15-18
- a. Hazael is to be anointed king over Syria – Verse 15
 - b. Jehu is to be anointed king over Israel – Verse 16a

- c. Elisha is to be anointed a prophet – Verse 16b. Elijah will not serve alone, nor need worry about who will carry on the work.
- d. God declares He has all matters in hand – Verse 17
- e. Finally, God reveals that Elijah is not alone, but that there are still 7000 in Israel who need him.
- f. The question is, will Elijah be obedient and serve the Lord?

III. ELIJAH OBEDIENTLY SEEKS ELISHA – Verses 19-21

- A. Elisha receives the divine call into service – Verse 19. The mantle was a vest-like garment common to the prophets of God. It set them visibly apart from others – Zechariah 13:4-5
- B. Elisha is tested by Elijah – Verse 20
 - a. He leaves the oxen.
 - b. He's ready to bid farewell to his family.
 - c. He's ready to follow Elijah.
 - d. But Elijah urges him to go back; will Elisha be obedient to the call of God?
 - e. His oxen become a farewell feast, and the instruments become the fuel.
 - f. Elisha is determined to serve the Lord. "Elisha left his worldly employment, the riches to which he was heir, his parents and friends, and threw in his lot with one who was an outcast." — A. W. Pink, Gleanings From Elisha
 - g. In spite of Elijah's temporary failure, the situation in Israel did improve somewhat because of God's great victory over Baal. Not only were the 450 prophets of Baal purged, but we find that the Lord's prophets have a measure of liberty in Israel. There are even schools for the training of prophets:

2 Kings 2:3 "The sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha...."

2 Kings 2:5 "And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha."

2 Kings 6:1-2 "And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye."

God also begins to visibly bless the nation Israel, in spite of Ahab and all the infidelities, by giving them victories over their enemies.

Lesson 22

SYRIA WARS AGAINST GOD AND ISRAEL

1 Kings 20:1-43

Enough time has passed that there are now prophets of the Lord serving in Israel. In this chapter, the king of Syria attacks Ahab's capital city of Samaria, but God enables Israel to defeat the massive army. The king of Syria returns to fight again, but is promptly defeated and captured this time. Ahab then angers God by allowing the king of Syria to depart in peace.

I. AHAB'S FIRST VICTORY – Verses 1-21

- A. Benhadad's demands of Ahab – Verses 1-6
 - a. The king of Syria besieges the capital city of Samaria – Verse 1
 - b. These thirty-two vassal kings would have been rulers over cities and small districts.
- B. Benhadad's message of demands – Verses 2-3
 - a. He claims Ahab's silver and gold, and wives and children.
 - b. These demands are the result of arrogance and pride (and perhaps drunkenness). Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." 1 Samuel 2:3 "Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed." Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." James 4:6b "Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."
- C. Ahab's reply to the king of Syria – Verse 4
 - a. Complete surrender to all demands.
 - b. Note that Ahab doesn't call for a man of God. See 1 Kings 22:5-7
 - c. Neither does he call on the Lord for assistance. Psalms 18:3 "I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies." Hebrews 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."
- D. Benhadad's second message of demands – Verses 5-6
 - a. Ahab capitulates too quickly, prompting Benhadad to demand even more. He now wants freedom to ransack the city.

- b. This is also the way of sin and temptation; when you give in to temptation, it always demands more.
- E. Ahab's response to Benhadad – Verses 7-12
 - a. Ahab is in distress and calls for the elders of Israel – 1 Samuel 30:6 “And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.” Psalm 18:6 “In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.” Psalm 107:6 “Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.”
 - b. The elders have more backbone than Ahab – Verse 8. This is likely the result of God's victory over the prophets of Baal, and the ministry of His prophets now serving in the land.
- F. Ahab's second reply to the king of Syria – Verse 9
 - a. We see a blending of the strength of the elders and the weakness of Ahab.
 - b. God is not inclined to bless those who only take half a stand; this leads to trouble.
- G. Benhadad's third message to Ahab – Verse 10
 - a. This threatening message reminds us of Jezebel's message to Elijah. See 1 Kings 19:2
 - b. Benhadad boasts of his great army: enough soldiers to carry away all the dust of Samaria in their hands.
 - c. Ahab finally shows a little backbone in reply to Benhadad – Verse 11. The harness was a harness of armor. (See 2nd Kings 22:34)
 - d. Benhadad, perhaps in a drunken fury, prepares for war. v12
 - e. This might explain his arrogant demands of Ahab – Proverbs 31:4 “It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink.” Proverbs 23:29-30 “Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.”
- H. The prophets message to Ahab – Verses 13-14
 - a. Because there are now prophets in the land, they have the blessing of hearing the Word of God.
 - b. Victory is promised — not because Israel or Ahab deserved it, but that “thou shalt know that I am the Lord.” – Verse 13
- I. The blessing of knowing God's will is for those who seek it – Verse 14
 - a. Ahab's victory over the Syrians – Verses 15-21. In these verses, we see the blessing of obedience to God.

- b. Ahab's army was small: 232 young men, and an army of 7000, in contrast with Benhadad's army of over 100,000 – Verse 15
- c. Benhadad and his thirty-two kings are drunk – Verse 16
- d. God is faithful to His promise, and the Syrians are soundly defeated – Verses 17-21

II. AHAB'S SECOND VICTORY – Verses 22-30

A. The prophets second message to Ahab – Verses 22-27

- a. The prophet warns Ahab that the Syrians will return – Verse 22. This is the way of Satan — he always returns. James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
- b. The Syrian's foolish reasoning – Verse 23
- c. Their battle plans – Verses 24-25
 - i. They intend to fight on the plains.
 - ii. They will replace the kings with captains of war.
 - iii. They will return with another massive army.
- d. The prophet's warning fulfilled – Verses 26-27. This very same thing happened to King Asa, but what did he do? 2 Chronicles 14:11 “And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.”

B. The man of God's message to Ahab – Verses 28-30

- a. The promise of victory given because of the Syrians opposition to God, and that “ye shall know that I am the Lord.” This was to be a test of Ahab.
- b. The promise of victory is fulfilled – Verse 29. Time and again we are reminded that God is always faithful to His word.
- c. Aphek means strength or fortress. Here God fights for Israel, and Benhadad has to hide – Verse 30

III. AHAB'S GRIEVOUS FAILURE – Verses 31-43

A. Benhadad's clever servants – Verses 31-34

- a. Their plan for survival – Verses 31-33

- b. The sackcloth and ropes (maybe around their necks) were a sign of humbly and a desire for mercy.
 - c. It was not God’s purpose for Ahab to show mercy. Benhadad had already been marked for death. See 1 Kings 19:15.
 - d. “By the Oriental law of dakheel any one is at any time entitled to put himself under the protection of another, be that other his friend or his greatest enemy; and if the man applied to does not at once reject him, if the slightest forms of friendly speech pass between the two, the bond is complete, and must not be broken. Ben-hadad’s friends were on the watch to obtain for him dakheel; and the single phrase “He is my brother,” having been accepted by them on his part, was sufficient to complete the bond, and secure the life of the captive. Ahab having called Ben-hadad his brother, treated him as he would a brother; he took him up into his chariot, than which there could not be a greater honour.” — from F. C. Cook’s Bible Commentary
 - e. Ahab errs in calling Benhadad his brother, and honoring the enemy of God.” 2 Chronicles 19:2, “And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.”
- B. Ahab’s foolish covenant with Benhadad – Verse 34
- a. These designated streets were most likely places of duty free trading.
 - b. Ahab makes the covenant and sends Benhadad back to Syria. Can you guess which Syrian King will shortly return to finally kill Ahab?
 - i. The prophet’s rebuke of Ahab – Verses 35-43
 - ii. The prophet prepares to meet Ahab – Verses 35-38
 - iii. The sons of the prophets were men in training for the ministry as prophets – Verse 35
 - iv. We know that at least some of them dwelled together, so this neighbor may also have been a prophet in training.
 - v. Note that this was a command of the Lord – Verse 35b
 - vi. It is always foolish to be willingly disobedient – Verse 36; Deuteronomy 18:18-19 “I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”
 - vii. The prophet is wounded and waits for Ahab – Verses 37-38
- C. The prophet’s object lesson for Ahab – Verses 39-41 (Object lesson defined: “A lesson in which the object to be known, or a representation of it, is shown to the eye; hence,

figuratively, the exemplification of a principle or moral in a concrete form or striking instance.” — From Funk & Wagnalls College Standard dictionary, 1943 edition.)

- D. The prophet’s message to Ahab – Verse 42
 - a. Ahab learns his life is to be cut short.
 - b. The children of Israel are also a part of this judgement.
 - c. It could mean that Ahab’s dynasty will end.
 - d. It may mean that many were to lose their lives. 2 Kings 10:32 “In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel.”
- E. Ahab’s response to this message – Verse 43. He went home unhappy and unrepentant.

Notes

Lesson 23

AHAB'S DESIRE FOR NABOTH'S VINEYARD

1 Kings 21:1-29

“Ahab is still the unhappy subject of the sacred history; from the great affairs of his camp and kingdom this chapter leads us into his garden, and gives us an account of some ill things (and ill indeed they proved to him) relating to his domestic affairs. **I.** Ahab is sick for Naboth's vineyard, verses 1-4. **II.** Naboth dies by Jezebel's plot, that the vineyard may escheat to Ahab, verses 5-14. **III.** Ahab goes to take possession, verses 15-16. **IV.** Elijah meets him, and denounces the judgments of God against him for his injustice, verses 17-24. **V.** Upon his humiliation a reprieve is granted, verses 25-29.” —from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible

I. AHAB'S DESIRE FOR NABOTH'S VINEYARD – Verses 1-5

A. Naboth, the Jezreelite is introduced – Verse 1

- a. Jezreel is a site frequently associated with violence and death.
- b. It was a walled city. The Bible mentions its wall, gate and tower.
- c. Ahab had a palace here.
- d. King Saul and his sons were killed by the Philistians near Jezreel.
- e. Jezebel spent much time here, and is killed here.
- f. King Jehoram, Ahab's son, was killed just outside Jezreel, and his body was cast in the field of Naboth.
- g. The heads of Ahab's seventy sons were piled by the gate of Jezreel.
- h. It is here that Naboth is murdered by Jezebel.
- i. Naboth's vineyard was located next to Ahab's Palace, and was his family inheritance.

B. Ahab covets Naboth's vineyard – Verse 2

- a. God had warned Israel about the covetousness of kings – 1 Samuel 8:9b, 14, “... shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.”
- b. Covetousness is overwhelmingly condemned throughout the Bible. Psalm 10:3 “For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.” 1 Corinthians 6:10 “Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

- c. Covetousness is the desire to have or possess that which is forbidden. Deuteronomy 5:21 “Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour’s wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour’s house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour’s.”
 - d. Covetousness is also an inordinate desire to possess almost anything. Ephesians 5:5 “For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.” 1 Timothy 6:9-10 “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
 - e. The word covet is used in a good sense only twice in the New Testament. 1 Corinthians 12:31 “But covet earnestly the best gifts....”
 - f. The Bible teaches that we are to hate covetousness. Proverbs 28:16 “... he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.”
- C. Naboth stands obedient to the old ways – Verse 3
- a. The book of Joshua tells of how the land of Israel was originally divided among the people. It was God’s purpose that each family would possess their portion from one generation to the next. Leviticus 25:23 “The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.” Numbers 36:7 “So shall not the inheritance of the children of Israel remove from tribe to tribe: for every one of the children of Israel shall keep himself to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.” Ezekiel 46:18 “Moreover the prince shall not take of the people’s inheritance by oppression, to thrust them out of their possession; but he shall give his sons inheritance out of his own possession: that my people be not scattered every man from his possession.”
 - b. The law of Moses did make provision for temporarily leasing out the land. The property automatically reverted back to the land owners every year of Jubilee.
 - c. Naboth stood true to the Word of God. (And it cost him his life.) 2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

II. JEZEBEL’S WICKED SCHEME – Verses 5-7

- A. Jezebel’s promise – Verses 5-7
- B. Jezebel’s scheme – Verses 8-10
 - a. She wrote letters in Ahab’s name; this was probably a regular practice – Verse 8
 - b. The elders were of the same character as Jezebel.
 - c. Jezebel is not above using the Law of Moses to accomplish her purpose.

- d. They are to proclaim a fast. “The public fast signified that a load of guilt was resting on the people, for which they humbled themselves before God.” from the New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible. See 1 Samuel 7:3-6
 - e. Naboth is to be set on high among the people. This was not a place of honor, but the place of the accused.
 - f. Two men are to witness against him. This too was based upon the law of God.
 - g. “Belial” means “worthlessness or wickedness.” Thus the sons of Belial were what we might call vile scoundrels.
 - h. Their lies against Naboth: that he blasphemed God.
 - i. The purpose of Jezebel’s scheme: to murder Naboth. See Leviticus 24:10-16
 - j. It wasn’t enough that they kill only Naboth; they had to kill all his inheritors as well. 2 Kings 9:26a “Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the LORD; and I will requite thee in this plat, saith the LORD.”
- C. Jezebel’s scheme is accomplished – Verses 11-14
- a. The complicity of the Elders and Nobles of Jezereel.
 - b. The murder of Naboth. (And his sons.)
 - c. Jezebel is notified — the elders knew who the instigator was.
- D. Ahab goes to possess the vineyard – Verses 15-16
- a. Note that Jezebel and Ahab were nowhere near the crime scene.
 - b. In verse 7 Jezebel declares, “I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth ,” and in verse fifteen she says, “Arise, take possession of the vineyard... for Naboth is not alive, but dead.” With this, Ahab had to know that his wife was behind Naboth’s death.
 - c. Unconcerned for Naboth, Ahab goes to claim the vineyard.

III. ELIJAH’S MESSAGE OF CONDEMNATION AND JUDGEMENT – Verses 17-24

- A. God directs Elijah to Ahab – Verses 17-18; Numbers 32:23 “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.”
- B. God’s message for Ahab – Verses 19-24
- a. Ahab is charged with the murder of Naboth – Verse 19a (He willingly turned the matter over to Jezebel; he did not inquire or interfere; he was pleased with the results.)
 - b. Ahab is again notified of his impending doom and violent death – Verse 19b
 - c. “Sold thyself to work evil.” – Verse 20 “The metaphor is taken from the practice of men’s selling themselves into slavery, and so giving themselves wholly up to work the will of their master.” from F. C. Cook’s The Bible Commentary

- d. Ahab's dynasty is abruptly ended like the dynasties of Jeroboam and Baasha – Verse 21-24
- e. Jezebel is also worthy of God's notice and condemnation – Verse 23

IV. AHAB'S HUMILITY BEFORE GOD – Verses 25-29

- A. The Bible's summary of Ahab's wickedness – Verses 25-26
- B. Ahab humbles himself before God – Verse 27
 - a. Ahab had a change of attitude because of his impending doom.
 - b. Repentance is a change within the heart, and is made evident by a change of life.
 - c. The events of the next chapter will reveal that Ahab is still the enemy of God.
- C. The results of Ahab's humility – Verses 28-29 – God's judgment is delayed, but not abandoned.

Notes

Lesson 24

THE DEATH OF AHAB

1 Kings 22:1-40

I. THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE BETWEEN JEHOSHAPHAT AND AHAB – Verses 1-4

- A. Three years have passed since God first announced the impending death of Ahab – Verse 1. See 1 Kings 20:42
- B. Jehoshaphat had made peace with Ahab – Verse 2; See verse 44
 - a. How did he do this? 2 Chronicles 18:1 “Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.”
 - b. “Affinity” means “to give a daughter away in marriage; hence to contract affinity by marriage.” from Strong’s Concordance
 - c. Ahab’s daughter, Athaliah, was married to Jehoshaphat’s son, Jehoram. 2 Chronicles 21:5-6 “Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD.”
 - d. Alliance and marriage with the ungodly is strictly forbidden for the children of God. 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel ?” Deuteronomy 7:3-4 “Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.” 1 Corinthians 7:39 “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.”
- C. Contrast Jehoshaphat with Ahab
 - a. Jehoshaphat: 2 Chronicles 17:3-4 “And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.”
 - b. Ahab: See 1 Kings 21:25
- D. Ahab takes full advantage of the alliance – Verse 3-4

- a. He proposes a military campaign. See 2 Chronicles 17:10, 12, 13-18
- b. Notice Jehoshaphat's foolish reply. (verse 4) He places himself and his people at the disposal of the wicked.
- c. He is rebuked of God for this. 2 Chronicles 19:1-2 "And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD."
- d. It seems this alliance agreement by Jehoshaphat was the result of backsliding. See 2 Chronicles 19:3-4

II. THE PROPHETS OF AHAB – Verses 5-12

A. The value of seeking God's will – Verse 5

- a. Jehoshaphat spoke before thinking. James 3:5 "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth !" James 3:8 "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."
- b. We should always seek the lord's will and guidance. Psalm 27:11 "Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies." Psalm 32:8 "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."
- c. The disservice of Ahab's prophets – Verse 6
 - i. These prophets were probably associated with Jereboam's golden-calf religion. 2 Chronicles 11:15 "And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made."
 - ii. Notice they're not afraid to prophesy in the name of the Lord – Verses 11, 12
 - iii. By their words, Ahab is sent to his death.

B. The value of spiritual discernment – Verse 7; 1 Kings 3:9 "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" Hebrews 5:13-14 "For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Psalm 119:125 "I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies." Proverbs 2:10-12 "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things."

C. The Prophet of God is introduced – Verses 8-9

- a. Ahab hates Micaiah because he speaks the Word of God in truth.
 - b. It is only natural that the world should hate the preaching & teaching of God's Word.
 - c. Anyone who names Christ as their saviour ought to have a deep appreciation for the teaching and preaching of God's Word.
 - d. Jehoshaphat admonishes Ahab for his remark about Micaiah – Verse 8. It does little good to admonish the wicked for their sins. They need to hear the gospel of salvation.
- D. Ahab reluctantly sends for Micaiah – Verse 9
- a. The performance of Ahab's prophets – Verses 10-12
 - i. God's gift of prophecy has ceased for today. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."
 - ii. Anyone today who claims the gift of prophecy is deliberately deceiving others; deceiving themselves; or is devil possessed.

III. THE PROPHET OF GOD – Verses 13-28

- A. Micaiah chose to take his stand with God and the Word of God – Verses 13-16
- B. Micaiah's reply to the servant of Ahab – Verses 13-14
- a. The world says: don't condemn; don't judge; don't expose sin; don't speak the Words of God.
 - b. Every preacher, teacher, parent, every child of God, whether young or old, ought to live by Micaiah's rule.
 - c. The world doesn't need a milksop gospel.
- C. Micaiah's reply to King Ahab – Verses 15-16
- a. He spoke sarcastically and mocked Ahab and his prophets.
 - b. This is not the first time Ahab is frustrated by Micaiah.
- D. God's message for Ahab – Verses 17-23
- E. Ahab's certain doom is announced yet again – Verses 17-18
- F. Micaiah reveals his vision of the lying spirit – Verses 19-23
- a. This is God's message for Ahab – Verse 19a
 - b. The purpose of the lying spirit – Verse 20a
- G. Micaiah's summary of God's message for Ahab.

H. The response to the message of God – Verses 24-28

I. Zedekiah is offended – Verses 24-25

- a. Zedekiah is claiming to have prophesied under the power of the Spirit of the Lord.
- b. Zedekiah's angry remark means something like, "Okay, if you know so much more than me, which way went..."
- c. Micaiah's reply is subtle. Why would Zedekiah hide? With the death of Ahab, these false prophets might have to face the wrath of the widowed Jezebel, or Ahaziah, the heir apparent. Perhaps Zedekiah would recall that God's Word demanded death for false prophets. Deuteronomy 18:20 "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die."

J. Ahab's response – Verses 26-28

- a. Ahab is offended and persecutes the prophet of God.
- b. True to the prophecy, Ahab doesn't believe Micaiah's message, but trusts his own 400 prophets.
- c. Micaiah challenges everyone to consider the final results.

IV. THE BATTLE AND DEATH OF AHAB – Verses 29-40

A. Ahab's scheme of self-preservation – Verses 29-30

B. Benhadad's scheme against Ahab – Verses 31-33

- a. Jehoshaphat is protected from harm. See 1 Chronicles 18:31-32
- b. God watches over and protects his own even when they're unaware of any danger.
- c. It is foolhardy to ignore the plain warnings of God's Word. Jehoshaphat is spared in spite of his foolishness, but King Josiah dies because of his.

C. Ahab dies according to the Word of God – Verses 34-37

D. Elijah's prophecy of Ahab's death is fulfilled – Verses 38-40

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