

## Lesson 12 – 1 Kings 9-11

Text: 1 Kings 9-11; 2 Chronicles 7:11-9

Main Characters: God, Solomon

Key Passages:

- 1 Kings 9:3-9 – God appeared to Solomon again to acknowledge his prayer; He reminded Solomon that He would bless Israel if they were obedient, but punish Israel for disobedience.
- 1 Kings 11:1-4 – Solomon’s major downfall was his love of women, particularly foreigners.

Main Storyline:

After Solomon had completed the temple and his own house, God appeared to him again to remind him that His care for Israel was dependent on their obedience to Him. If Solomon and his sons remained obedient, God promised to establish his throne over Israel. But, if they did not, and instead went after foreign gods, God promised to allow Israel to be destroyed, including the temple. Those that would pass by the ruins of the temple would know that it was because of Israel’s disobedience to Him.

It seems that part of the trade agreement between Hiram, king of Tyre, and Solomon involved Solomon’s giving 20 Israelite cities to Tyre. Hiram went and looked at the cities and was very displeased by them for some reason. They apparently were so disappointing to Hiram that he named the land Cabal (worthless). It is even possible that he gave the cities back to Solomon (see 2 Chronicles 8:1-2).

Solomon continued to build up the kingdom internally, constructing walls and cities throughout Israel. All the Canaanites that had been left in the land were enslaved by Solomon to assist in his efforts. Though the Israelites were never forced laborers, many of them became soldiers in the army, or were tasked with other efforts. Solomon also had a navy which he used for trading, and he began buying and selling horses from Egypt. All of this (trade, tribute, and taxes) ultimately earned Solomon a great deal of wealth. Jerusalem, particularly, became so wealthy that silver was said to be as common as stone.

One of Solomon’s most prestigious visitors was the Queen of Sheba, who had heard of Solomon’s wisdom and came to test him with very difficult questions. Solomon answered all of her questions with ease. She revealed to him that, though she had heard about his wisdom and wealth, she did not believe it until she had come and seen and heard it all for herself. In fact, she believed that what she had heard in her land had understated his wisdom and prosperity. The queen gave Solomon many gifts, including much gold and spices. Solomon returned her generosity with gifts of his own.

Despite all that Solomon had going for him, he had a major weakness: foreign women. Solomon married many foreign women despite God’s warnings, and eventually he had 700 wives and 300 concubines. Unfortunately, his foreign wives turned his heart from serving God and convinced him to worship and serve idols. God was furious, and He came to Solomon and told him the consequences of his sin: Israel (except one tribe, for David’s sake) would be torn from his son and given to his servant.

God raised up many adversaries against Solomon, including an Edomite named Hadad and another man named Rezon, who lived north of Israel. One of Solomon’s servants, Jeroboam, also rebelled against him. A prophet, Ahijah, met Jeroboam and told him that he would be king of 10 tribes of Israel because of Solomon’s idolatry. When he heard, Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam escaped to Egypt. Solomon reigned for 40 years before dying, and his son Rehoboam became king.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) Power and wealth can ultimately corrupt us if we do not maintain our focus on the Lord.
- 2.) Relationships with those that do not love the Lord will ultimately destroy our faith in God.
- 3.) Only God can adequately rule His people; even the best man has flaws and inadequacies.