

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 KINGS 11

1 KINGS 11:1-8 - SOLOMON'S LOVE

V. 3 - 700 WIVES, 300 CONCUBINES. THESE ALL WEREN'T FOR "LOVE" OR "LUST" ALONE BUT CERTAINLY FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

V. 5, 7 - ASHTORETH, THE GODDESS OF THE SIDONIANS. MILCOM: THE DETESTABLE IDOL OF THE AMMONITES. CHEMOSH, THE DETESTABLE IDOL OF MOAB, AND FOR MOLECH, THE DETESTABLE IDOL OF THE THE SONS OF AMMON.

SOLOMON WAS NOT IGNORANT NOR UNINFORMED.

DEUTERONOMY 7:1-6 - "WHEN THE LORD YOUR GOD BRINGS YOU INTO THE LAND WHERE YOU ARE ENTERING TO POSSESS IT, AND CLEARS AWAY MANY NATIONS BEFORE YOU, THE HITTITES AND THE GIRGASHITES AND THE AMORITES AND THE CANAANITES AND THE PERIZZITES AND THE HIVITES AND THE JEBUSITES, SEVEN NATIONS GREATER AND STRONGER THAN YOU, 2 AND WHEN THE LORD YOUR GOD DELIVERS THEM BEFORE YOU AND YOU DEFEAT THEM, THEN YOU SHALL UTTERLY DESTROY THEM. YOU SHALL MAKE NO COVENANT WITH THEM AND SHOW NO FAVOR TO THEM. 3 "FURTHERMORE, YOU SHALL NOT INTERMARRY WITH THEM; YOU SHALL NOT GIVE YOUR DAUGHTERS TO THEIR SONS, NOR SHALL YOU TAKE THEIR DAUGHTERS FOR YOUR SONS. 4 "FOR THEY WILL TURN YOUR SONS AWAY FROM FOLLOWING ME TO SERVE OTHER GODS; THEN THE ANGER OF THE LORD WILL BE KINDLED AGAINST YOU AND HE WILL QUICKLY DESTROY YOU. 5 "BUT THUS YOU SHALL DO TO THEM: YOU SHALL TEAR DOWN THEIR ALTARS, AND SMASH THEIR SACRED PILLARS, AND HEW DOWN THEIR ASHERIM, AND BURN THEIR GRAVEN IMAGES WITH FIRE. 6 "FOR YOU ARE A HOLY PEOPLE TO THE LORD YOUR GOD; THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO BE A PEOPLE FOR HIS OWN POSSESSION OUT OF ALL THE PEOPLES WHO ARE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

EXODUS 34:11-16 - "BE SURE TO OBSERVE WHAT I AM COMMANDING YOU THIS DAY: BEHOLD, I AM GOING TO DRIVE OUT THE AMORITE BEFORE YOU, AND THE CANAANITE, THE HITTITE, THE PERIZZITE, THE HIVITE AND THE JEBUSITE. 12 "WATCH YOURSELF THAT YOU MAKE NO COVENANT WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND INTO WHICH YOU ARE GOING, OR IT WILL BECOME A SNARE IN YOUR MIDST. 13 "BUT RATHER, YOU ARE TO TEAR DOWN THEIR ALTARS AND SMASH THEIR SACRED PILLARS AND CUT DOWN THEIR ASHERIM 14 -- FOR YOU SHALL NOT WORSHIP ANY OTHER GOD, FOR THE LORD, WHOSE NAME IS JEALOUS, IS A JEALOUS GOD-- 15 OTHERWISE YOU MIGHT MAKE A COVENANT WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND AND THEY WOULD PLAY THE HARLOT WITH THEIR GODS AND SACRIFICE TO THEIR GODS, AND SOMEONE MIGHT INVITE YOU TO EAT OF HIS SACRIFICE, 16 AND YOU MIGHT TAKE SOME OF HIS DAUGHTERS FOR YOUR SONS, AND HIS DAUGHTERS MIGHT PLAY THE HARLOT WITH THEIR GODS AND CAUSE YOUR SONS ALSO TO PLAY THE HARLOT WITH THEIR GODS.

THIS WAS AN ISSUE OF THE HEART - "HEART" - 5X IN VERSES 2-4, 1X IN VERSE 9

WE'VE READ 10 CHAPTERS ABOUT THE GREATNESS OF SOLOMON. HE HAS WISDOM, GOLD, BUILDINGS, RECOGNITION, AND ABUNDANCE. BUT HIS SIN WAS THAT HE GAVE HIS HEART TO SOMETHING OR SOMEONE(S) OTHER THAN THE LORD. HIS ISSUE, AS IS OUR ISSUE, WAS AN ISSUE OF IDOLATRY. WHAT GETS THE AFFECTION AND ATTENTION OF OUR HEART? WHAT PULLS OUR HEART TO MAKE THE DECISIONS WE MAKE?

"SOLOMON DID NOT OFFICIALLY RENOUNCE YAHWEH, BUT "HIS HEART WAS NOT COMPLETELY WITH" YAHWEH (V. 4) AND HE "DID NOT FOLLOW YAHWEH FULLY" (V. 6)." - (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 1 KINGS", PG. 114)

1 KINGS 11:9-13 - CONSEQUENCES FOR SOLOMON

V. 10 - CP. 1 KINGS 9:1-9 - COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

1 KINGS 11:14-22 - ADVERSARY #1: HADAD THE EDMITE

UP TO NOW WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING OF WAR, CONFLICT OR STRIFE IN SOLOMON'S KINGDOM. IN FACT WE HEAR THAT THE NATIONS AROUND HIM WERE COMING TO JERUSALEM TO PAY TRIBUTE. HE TOLD HIRAM IN 1 KINGS 5:4 THE FOLLOWING:

"...NOW THE LORD MY GOD HAS GIVEN ME REST ON EVERY SIDE; THERE IS NEITHER ADVERSARY NOR MISFORTUNE."

THIS PEACE AND SECURITY WAS NOT A RESULT OF SOLOMON'S GREAT MILITARY VICTORIES OR POLITICAL SKILL. IT WAS A GIFT AND BLESSING FROM THE LORD. AND AS SUCH, IT IS TAKEN AWAY AS SOLOMON TURNS FROM THE LORD.

HADAD SOUGHT TO AVENGE HIS FATHER'S (AND NATION'S) DEFEAT BY DAVID AND JOAB. HADAD WAS JUST A CHILD WHEN THIS ALL HAPPENED AND FLED TO EGYPT WHERE HE WAS WELCOMED BY PHARAOH AND BROUGHT INTO HIS HOUSE. WHEN HE HEARD OF DAVID AND JOAB'S DEATH, HE DECIDED TO RETURN TO EDOM. WHEN SOLOMON FORSOOK THE LORD, HADAD BECAME AN "ADVERSARY" TO SOLOMON.

1 KINGS 11:23-25 - ADVERSARY #2: REZON, RULER OF DAMASCUS

REZON WAS THE LEADER OF A "GANG OF REBELS (NLT)". HE WAS DEFEATED SOUNDLY BY DAVID (2 SAMUEL 10) AND DURING THE YEARS AFTER GAINED SUPPORT AND POSITION AS RULER IN DAMASCUS THE CAPITAL OF ARAM (SYRIA).

BOTH OF THESE ADVERSARIES LAID LOW DURING SOLOMON'S EARLY REIGN AND OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD. THEY BOTH HAD SCORES TO SETTLE DATING BACK TO DAVID'S REIGN BUT DID NOTHING BECAUSE OF GOD'S FAVOR AND PROTECTION OF SOLOMON AND ISRAEL.

1 KINGS 11:26-40 - ADVERSARY #3: JEROBOAM, SON OF NEBAT, FUTURE KING OF NORTHERN KINGDOM

V. 28 - JEROBOAM WAS FORMERLY IN SOLOMON'S ADMINISTRATION, LEADER OF THE FORCED LABOR OF JOSEPH. THE TEXTS CALLS HIM "VALIANT WARRIOR" AND "INDUSTRIOUS".

ESV STUDY BIBLE: SOLOMON'S MOST IMPORTANT ENEMY, JEROBOAM THE SON OF NEBAT, WAS TO BE FOUND RIGHT ON HIS DOORSTEP. HE WAS THE FORMER SUPERINTENDENT OF THE FORCED LABOR OF THE HOUSE OF JOSEPH, THOSE WHO HAD BEEN HELPING WITH THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IN JERUSALEM (VV. 27—28). HE WAS APPROACHED OUTSIDE THE CITY BY THE PROPHET AHIJAH (V. 29) WITH A PROPHECY CONCERNING THE KINGSHIP. THE SCENE IS REMINISCENT OF THE REJECTION OF SAUL IN 1 SAMUEL 15; IN BOTH PASSAGES AN OUTER GARMENT IS TORN AS A SYMBOL OF THE FACT THAT GOD IS TEARING THE KINGDOM AWAY FROM THE REIGNING KING (CF. 1 SAM. 15:27—28; 1 KINGS 11:11). THE GARMENT HERE IS DIVIDED INTO 12 PIECES, OF WHICH TEN, SYMBOLIZING 10 NORTHERN TRIBES, ARE GIVEN TO JEROBOAM (VV. 30—31).

V. 35-36 - $10+1=12?$ - **ESV STUDY BIBLE:** "ONE TRIBE IS TO REMAIN FOR THE SAKE OF DAVID AND JERUSALEM (I.E., JUDAH). BENJAMIN IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE MATH HERE (CF. 12:21), PERHAPS BECAUSE THIS TRIBE WAS REGARDED SIMPLY AS JERUSALEM'S OWN TERRITORY, ON THE ANALOGY OF THE CANAANITE CITY-STATE; THIS TERRITORY CAME WITH THE CITY, AND NEEDED NO SPECIAL MENTION.

THIS IS A NOTABLE MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD. IT IS AT THIS VERY MOMENT, AS A RESULT OF SOLOMON'S INFIDELITY TO YAHWEH, THAT THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL, THE VERY COVENANT PEOPLE OF GOD, ARE DIVIDED. WE WILL SEE AS WE WORK THROUGH 1 KINGS THAT THIS WILL NEVER BE RESOLVED. IN FACT, BEGINNING WITH JEROBOAM, THE NORTHERN KINGDOM (WHICH WILL BE CALLED "ISRAEL" WILL NEVER RETURN TO WORSHIP THE LORD. AND THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM, KNOWN AS "JUDAH" WILL RIDE THE ROLLERCOASTER OF THEIR RULER'S CHOICE TO FOLLOW THE LORD OR NOT. SOME WILL. SOME WON'T. BUT NEVER AGAIN WILL THERE BE UNITY, NEVER AGAIN WILL THERE BE A TIME LIKE ZION. INSTEAD THIS PERIOD, WHICH BEGAN WITH DAVID AND PINNACLED WITH SOLOMON WILL BECOME A PICTURE OF THE FUTURE HOPE OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD. IN SORROW WE REMEMBER THAT AT ONE POINT IN HISTORY ON THIS PLANET, IT WAS NOT A HOPE, BUT A REALITY.

1 KINGS 11:41-43 - SOLOMON DIES

V. 42-43 - SOLOMON RULED OVER JERUSALEM FOR 40 YEARS AND IS SUCCEEDED BY REHOBAM.

THOUGH SOLOMON IS FAITHLESS, GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL. THOUGH THE REALITY OF GOD'S KINGDOM IS NO LONGER SEEN IN JERUSALEM, ADVERSARIES ARE ON THE RISE AND THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED, THE PROMISE OF GOD REMAINS SURE.

1 KINGS 11:39 - I WILL HUMILIATE DAVID'S DESCENDANTS BECAUSE OF THIS, BUT NOT FOREVER."

SOLOMON'S FALL & END:

BE NOT DECEIVED. THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. IT HAPPENED LITTLE BY LITTLE. DAY BY DAY. STEP BY STEP. SOWING AND REAPING.

"LONG BEFORE YOU SEE A NEW CHEMOSH CHAPEL GOING UP OUTSIDE JERUSALEM A ROYAL HEART HAD TAKEN A TURN. THIS INFIDELITY IS ALSO SUBTLE BECAUSE IT IS GRADUAL. VERSE 4 HAS A SCARY LINE: "WHEN SOLOMON WAS OLD, HIS WIVES HAD TURNED AWAY HIS HEART AFTER OTHER GODS." IT WAS NOT SOME SUDDEN ATTACK OR IRRESISTIBLE ASSAULT THAT EXPLAINS SOLOMON'S PLUNGE INTO (IDOLATRY). NO, IT TOOK YEARS - THE RESULT OF THE CREEPING PACE OF ACCUMULATED COMPROMISES, THE FRUIT OF A CONSCIENCE DE-SENSITIZED BY REPEATED PERMISSIVENESS." (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 1 KINGS", PAGE 113)

BEFORE THE IDOL IS SET UP IN THE BEDROOM, IT'S ALLOWED ON THE FRONT PORCH. BE ON GUARD. REJECT THE FIRST HINT OF THIS IN YOUR HEART, MIND AND LIFE. INSTEAD BUILD YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD LITTLE BY LITTLE, DAY BY DAY, STEP BY STEP, SOWING AND REAPING