

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 KINGS 9

1 KINGS 8:54-61 - SOLOMON'S CHARGE AND BLESSING TO THE NATION

1 KINGS 8:62-66 - SACRIFICE, FEASTING & CONCLUSION OF DEDICATION

WE CLOSE THE CHAPTER WITH ANOTHER SCENE OF ABRAHAMIC COVENANT FULFILLMENT AND A FORESHADOW TO THE MESSIAH'S ETERNAL KINGDOM. THE KINGDOM STRETCHES FROM THE EUPHRATES (ENTRANCE OF HAMATH) TO THE BORDER OF EGYPT (BROOK OF EGYPT) (V. 65). THE KINGDOM FROM KING TO PEASANT IS WORSHIPPING THE LORD (V. 65). AND THE NATION IS FILLED JOYFUL AND GLAD HEARTS BECAUSE OF ALL THE "GOODNESS THAT THE LORD HAD SHOWN TO DAVID HIS SERVANT AND ISRAEL HIS PEOPLE."

1 KINGS 9:1-9 - THE LORD APPEARS TO SOLOMON A SECOND TIME

V. 3 - "I HAVE HEARD YOUR PRAYER" → I HAVE CONSECRATED THIS HOUSE

V. 4-5 - DAVIDIC COVENANT CONFERRED TO SOLOMON.

THE TERMS OF THIS COVENANT TO SOLOMON WERE DEPENDANT ON HIS OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD. THE ETERNITY OF THE COVENANT WERE ALREADY CONFIRMED BECAUSE OF DAVID'S OBEDIENCE, BUT THE TEMPORAL BLESSING AND RELATIONSHIP OF THE COVENANT WERE BASED ON THE OBEDIENCE IN WORSHIP OF EACH DAVIDIC HEIR.

WE HAVE SEEN IN SCRIPTURE THAT GOD IS MERCIFUL TO HIS PEOPLE - BUT THE LORD IS A JEALOUS GOD. HE DOES NOT TOLERATE RIVALS OR "ADULTERY" FROM THOSE WHOM HE HAS MADE COVENANT WITH. THE AGREEMENT IS NOT BASED ON SINLESS PERFECTION, BUT A LOVING DEVOTION. DAVID SINNED THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE - BUT HE NEVER FORSOOK THE LORD AND WORSHIPPED IDOLS. HERE "(GOD) ASSURES SOLOMON THAT HE WILL ENJOY DAVIDIC COVENANT BLESSING SO LONG AS HE LIVES A DAVIDIC-LIKE LIFE" (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 1 KINGS" PG 96).

SOLOMON HAS BEEN REMINDED OF THIS THROUGHOUT HIS ASCENT TO THE THRONE. IN FACT BEFORE DAVID DIED, HE CHARGED HIS SON WITH THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

1 CHRONICLES 28:9 - "AS FOR YOU, MY SON SOLOMON, KNOW THE GOD OF YOUR FATHER, AND SERVE HIM WITH A WHOLE HEART AND A WILLING MIND; FOR THE LORD SEARCHES ALL HEARTS, AND UNDERSTANDS EVERY INTENT OF THE THOUGHTS. IF YOU SEEK HIM, HE WILL LET YOU FIND HIM; BUT IF YOU FORSAKE HIM, HE WILL REJECT YOU FOREVER.

V. 6-9 - "BUT IF YOU TURN AWAY..." - THE LORD BINDS HIMSELF TO THIS SECOND PART OF THE COVENANT AS WELL. IF SOLOMON OR HIS SONS TURN FROM THE LORD, THEN THE LORD WILL "CUT OFF" ISRAEL FROM THE LAND WHICH GOD GAVE THEM AND FROM THE HOUSE THAT HE CONSECRATED FOR HIS OWN NAME.

THE VERY TEMPLE WHICH WAS A SIGN TO THE NATION OF THE LORD'S BLESSING AND PRESENCE AMONGST THIS SPECIAL PEOPLE ISRAEL IF THEY STAYED FAITHFUL TO YAHWEH WOULD BE A SIGN TO THE NATIONS OF THE CURSING AND REJECTION OF ISRAEL THROUGH ITS DESTRUCTION.

"YAHWEH'S SECOND (COMING) TO SOLOMON IS SO BORING. OVER HALF OF HIS WORDS CONSTITUTE WARNING. YAHWEH WANTS TO IMPRESS SOLOMON WITH THE HIGH COST OF APOSTASY. INFIDELITY WILL BRING THE LOSS OF TURF, TEMPLE, AND THRONE. THE FIRST INVOLVED THE LOSS OF THE LAND (V. 7A) AND THE ECLIPSE OF THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (GEN. 15); THE SECOND INVOLVES THE LOSS OF THE SANCTUARY AND THE VISIBLE MEANS OF GRACE JUST CLIMAXED UNDER SOLOMON'S REGIME (VV. 7B-8A); AND THE THIRD (IMPLICITLY FROM V. 4-5) WILL ENTAIL THE LOSS OF KINGSHIP AND THE ECLIPSE OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT (2 SAM 7). ONLY A FOOL WOULD FLIRT WITH FAITHLESSNESS. (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 1 KINGS" PG 96).

THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS COMMON FOR THE COVENANTS OF GOD BETWEEN HIS PEOPLE. JUST BEFORE ISRAEL ENTERS THE PROMISED LAND - MOSES READS THE BLESSING AND CURSING OF THE COVENANT TO THE PEOPLE AND THEY ARE CHARGED TO "CHOOSE LIFE OR DEATH..." (DEUT 30:15, 19). GOD'S DESIRE WAS FOR HIS PEOPLE TO REPRESENT HIM ON THE EARTH. THEY WERE TO BE A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS - A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS. IF THEY FORSOOK HIM AND TURNED TO WORSHIP OTHER GOD'S, HIS REJECTION OF THEM WAS SURE. HE WILL NOT HAVE A PEOPLE, CALLED BY HIS NAME MISREPRESENTING HIM AND HIS REPUTATION ON THE EARTH. THROUGHOUT HISTORY, WHEN THIS IS THE CASE, HE RISES UP IN JUDGMENT, EVEN AGAINST HIS OWN PEOPLE.

DEUTERONOMY 29:22-29 - SIMILAR WARNING TO ISRAEL

1 KINGS 9:10-14 - HIRAM, KING OF TYRE & GIFT OF CITIES

"APPARENTLY SOLOMON RAN UP MORE DEBT THAN HE COULD PAY IN FOODSTUFFS (CP 5:9, 11) AND SO CEDED TWENTY BORDER TOWNS TO HIRAM...HIRAM TOURED THE AREA AND WAS UNIMPRESSED. (HOWEVER) NOT MUCH HE COULD DO ABOUT IT BUT OBJECT. HE COULD TELL SOLOMON HE THOUGHT THEY WERE SORRY EXAMPLES OF TOWNS. BUT HIRAM IS NO DUNCE. HE'S NOT ABOUT TO BE SO UPSET THAT HE WOULD BOYCOTT JOINING SOLOMON IN A LUCRATIVE SEA TRADE (V. 26-28)" (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 1 KINGS" PG 97).

1 KINGS 9:15-23 - CONSTRUCTION & LABORER DETAILS

1 KINGS 9:24-28 - SOLOMON'S OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS