

## Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

May 20, 2020

So last week we started looking at the Books of Kings. We looked at the final choices of David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). David's dying choices were to turn back to the Lord and honor his promises. His advice to Solomon his son was, "be strong and walk in obedience to the Lord." Let's see how that plays out as we continue in the Books of Kings.

### 1 Kings 6:1-4, 7

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> Now the house which King Solomon built for the Lord, its length was sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits. <sup>3</sup> The vestibule in front of the sanctuary of the house was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the width of the vestibule extended ten cubits from the front of the house. <sup>4</sup> And he made for the house windows with beveled frames.

<sup>7</sup> And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

So we see Solomon applying his wisdom to the details of the Lord's house. If you look at some of the detail in the picture it is amazing. I cannot imagine how, as it says in vs. 7, the construction was so precise that no hammer, chisel or iron tool was used. We use computers and CAD/CAM for that today and still need some fine adjusting with hand tools.

### 1 Kings 6:11-14, 37-38

<sup>11</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying: <sup>12</sup> "Concerning this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David. <sup>13</sup> And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

<sup>14</sup> So Solomon built the temple and finished it.

<sup>37</sup> In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid, in the month of Ziv.

<sup>38</sup> And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

As the Lord completed creation in seven days, so Solomon completed His temple in seven years. The Lord's word is consistent and true.

### 1 Kings 8:22-26

<sup>22</sup> Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; <sup>23</sup> and he said: "Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts. <sup>24</sup> You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day. <sup>25</sup> Therefore, Lord God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk

before Me as you have walked before Me.’<sup>26</sup> And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father.

Solomon followed his father’s example. David, no doubt, impressed the Lord’s commandments on his child when they sat at home, when they walked along the road, when they lie down and when they woke up. (Deuteronomy 6:7) As a result Solomon knew the Lord.

### **1 Kings 8:59-61, 65-66**

<sup>59</sup> And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the Lord, be near the Lord our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require,<sup>60</sup> that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other.<sup>61</sup> Let your heart therefore be loyal to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day.”

<sup>65</sup> At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the Lord our God, seven days and seven more days—fourteen days.<sup>66</sup> On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the good that the Lord had done for His servant David, and for Israel His people.

This was perhaps the greatest period for Israel. It is amazing what two generations of leadership walking in the Lord’s way can accomplish. Solomon adopted a servant’s heart to honor God first, and was blessed. As a result he blessed the people. They honored God and were blessed. As a result they blessed the king and were joyful and glad of heart.

### **1 Kings 11:1-2, 4-8**

<sup>1</sup> But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—<sup>2</sup> from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love.

<sup>4</sup> For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.<sup>5</sup> For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.<sup>6</sup> Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David.<sup>7</sup> Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.<sup>8</sup> And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

No one is exempt from sin or its effects. Solomon was given great wisdom; even exceeding everything the Queen of Sheba had heard about him, yet he was still a sinner in need of a savior. When we turn our heart away from the Lord, we suffer the consequences.

### **1 Kings 11:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,<sup>10</sup> and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded.<sup>11</sup> Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and

have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. <sup>12</sup> Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. <sup>13</sup> However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

Here is a picture of a God who is love and a God who is just. Look at Numbers 23:19.

### **1 Kings 11:26, 29-36**

<sup>26</sup> Then Solomon’s servant, Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite from Zereda, whose mother’s name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king.

<sup>29</sup> Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field. <sup>30</sup> Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. <sup>31</sup> And he said to Jeroboam, “Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you <sup>32</sup> (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), <sup>33</sup> because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David. <sup>34</sup> However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. <sup>35</sup> But I will take the kingdom out of his son’s hand and give it to you—ten tribes. <sup>36</sup> And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there.

Notice in verses 32-33, as a result of Solomon’s choices, the whole of Jerusalem also forsook the Lord. As the leadership goes, so goes the nation. Yet through the Lord’s infinite grace there is always remnant and a hope.

### **1 Kings 11:41-43**

<sup>41</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? <sup>42</sup> And the period that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. <sup>43</sup> Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

So the story continues. Will things be the same as they were? What will the new normal be like?