

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 11

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through 1 Kings

Let's pray...

[1Ki 11:1-43 NKJV] 1 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, [and] Hittites-- 2 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.

In our study last week in 1 Kings 10 – we saw how Solomon began to drift from the Lord by becoming a collector of horses and a collector of wealth.

Here is chapter 11 –

We see the trifecta –

He began to collect wives.

The three very things that God commanded those who would rule over His people to not collect.

Now – I have mentioned before through our studies that it was a common practice for a king during this time to make political alliances by marrying the daughters of other kings.

But Solomon was not supposed to be just another worldly king –

He was God’s appointed king over His people. He was supposed to be set apart.

He could have been thinking – “Well everyone else is doing it – why not me”

Same excuse many people use today to excuse their decision to walk in disobedience to the Lord.

This could be one of the reasons he collected women.

But what about lust?

What about fulfillment???

[Ecc 2:9-11 NKJV] 9 So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. 10 Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. 11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all [was] vanity and grasping for the wind. [There was] no profit under the sun.

Anything Solomon desired – he took for himself – including the women.

He tried to honor the desires of his eyes and his heart – meaning he was looking to find fulfillment in these things.

And so later in his life – he says it was all vanity.

He got to a place late in his life when he realized that all these things he was looking to for fulfillment – in the end, it was empty and meaningless.

It didn't fulfill what he wanted fulfilled.

Don't miss this church –

Solomon had godly wisdom – I had you make a note of that at the end of 2:9

So what was causing that hole in Solomon's life that he needed fulfillment in?

Wisdom without relationship – leaves a hole in our heart.

God wanted a relationship with Solomon.

God kept reaching out to Solomon.

But Solomon turned to relationships with money, power and women.

Same as we do today – as we try to fill our lives with a bunch of stuff.

While God is reaching out to us and saying,

“I am all you need”

“My grace is sufficient for you”

“I am sufficient for you”

“I want to be what brings fulfillment, what brings contentment, what meets the desire of your heart – you don’t need those other things.”

[Pro 27:20 NKJV] 20 Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

This is the problem with accumulating all these things to find fulfillment – at the end, we don’t find it because it I never enough.

How much money is enough?

How many wives are enough?

For Solomon – “maybe the next one will bring me fulfillment.”

But they never did.

To make matters worse –

Solomon isn’t simply accumulating wives –

He is accumulating foreign wives.

those that the Lord prohibited the Children of Israel from marrying.

Deut 7:1-6

These were the instructions that were given to the Children of Israel – when they came to the Promised Land.

Stay away from the ites (men and women) – don't marry them

4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. 5 But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

Don't marry them – cut down their altars

Solomon not only marries them – he eventually builds altars to their pagan gods.

And I had you make a note of the last phrase –

Solomon clung to these in love

The NLT says that Solomon insisted on loving them anyway.

I know what the word of God says – but... I am still going to do what my heart desires.

Yes, God is important – but these women are more important.

3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

By the way – this is exactly what God said would happen – in the verse we read a few minutes ago in Deut.

If you marry these strange women – they are going to get you to turn your hearts against me.

You see, when God says something – He means it

God doesn't put something in His Word and say, if we disobey - maybe this will happen.

No – He says this will happen.

4 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.

David was not a perfect man.

He too had problems in marriage, like his adultery with Bathsheba.

He also had a handful of wives.

He also made some dumb decisions that affected his entire family – and the nation as a whole.

So why do the scriptures say that Solomon's heart was not loyal to God in the way that David's hearts was.

David never strayed from his loyalty to God.

However, Solomon allowed his affection for his foreign wives to affect his worship of God.

And we see this in our next few verses.

5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as [did] his father David. 7 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. 8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

There are two names here that are very important –

Ashtoreth and Molech

The other pagan gods that are here are simply different variations of these two pagan gods.

And these were the pagan gods of pleasure and prosperity

And these two gods are going to be the same gods that we will see the nation of Israel worship until God sends them into captivity.

Solomon is building altars – he is worshipping these pagan gods –

Molech was a bronze statue that the people would heat up until it was burning red and the people would place their babies on the outstretch arms of the statue.

Human sacrifice –

And I had you make a note – that Solomon didn't build these altars in a distant land

He built them right across the valley from the temple.

On the Mount of Olives – the same place where Jesus prayed, “not my will but Yours be done,”

Solomon builds an altar there.

Not only did he worship there but his wives worshipped there and many nation worshipped there.

So we see how Solomon's sin infected the entire nation with this nonsense.

I think one of the things that we can learn this evening is that we can have the wisdom of God and not follow the wisdom of God.

That we can be very wise (meaning that we know what we need to know and we know what we need to do) and still act very foolishly.

9 So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 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.

Usually when we read about God becoming angry in the scriptures – it is usually in reference to a group of people – usually the Children of Israel because they turned their back on the Lord or because they worshipped other gods.

But God is angry at an individual here – Solomon.

And the reason that God is angry at Solomon is not simply because he multiplied wives or wealth or horses

God is angry at Solomon because of this privilege that Solomon has traded off.

Solomon had a God that who is living and desired a relationship with him.

Solomon had a God who spoke to him, worked through him and did many amazing things through him.

And yet, Solomon turns to a bunch of dead idols.

Solomon is trying to form a relationship with something that can't even talk.

It is like Solomon was thumbing his nose at God

Showing a lack of gratitude for everything God had done.

11 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.

Even though we're going to see some problems with Rehoboam that will lead to the division of the kingdom, the actual blame for the kingdom dividing falls on Solomon.

And the individual who is going to receive the Northern Kingdom – his name is Jeroboam – we will meet him in a few verses.

12 "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. 13 "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."

I had you make a note of the word – “nevertheless”

And in the scriptures – this is one of those words that we should find comfort in.

You know why?

Because they often speak of God's faithfulness to man even when man has been unfaithful.

This word usually comes in between what man has done and what God is about to do

Man rebels against God – nevertheless, this is what I am going to do -

It is God demonstrating His grace to us.

Think about it – God could have taken the kingdom away from Solomon right there.

But He gives Solomon time –

And I think he gave him to repent – to come back to the place that he ought to be.

I also had you make a note of the word however –

Once again we see grace –

I am not going to take away the kingdom from you Solomon – I am giving you time

Also, I am not going to take away the entire kingdom

Grace upon grace

God is not going to simply cast us out when we stumble

We sin and we reap consequences of our sin – no question about it

Yet, if we belong to Him – if we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ, God preserves us despite our sinful failures.

God is preserving His people because of David – and God will preserve us because of the Greater David – Jesus.

14 Now the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he [was] a descendant of the king in Edom. 15 For it happened, when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army had gone up to bury the slain, after he had killed every male in Edom 16 (because for six months Joab remained there with all Israel, until he had cut down every male in Edom), 17 that Hadad fled to go to Egypt, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him. Hadad [was] still a little child. 18 Then they arose from Midian and came to Paran; and they took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house, apportioned food for him, and gave him land. 19 And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him as wife the sister of his own wife, that is, the sister of Queen Tahpenes. 20 Then the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house. And Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh. 21 So when Hadad heard in Egypt that David rested with his fathers, and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me depart, that I may go to my own country." 22 Then Pharaoh said to him, "But what have you lacked with me, that suddenly you seek to go to your own country?" So he answered, "Nothing, but do let me go anyway."

God raises up an adversary to Solomon –

And the reason that we have this historical account of this guy Hadad who God raised to become an adversary of Solomon -

Is to show us that what Solomon did by building alliances with other nations – by marrying the daughter of Pharaoh

It didn't work.

Because the first person to turn on him – the first country where he took a foreign wife.

God said over and over again -

Don't mess around with Egypt – Don't mess around with Egypt.

And God raises this adversary to come against Solomon –

We are not even told what he did to Solomon

Simply that God stirred his heart to come against Solomon

And it was the king of Egypt that allowed him to return.

23 And God raised up [another] adversary against him, Rezon the son of Eliadah, who had fled from his lord, Hadadezer king of Zobah. 24 So he gathered men to him and became captain over a band [of raiders], when David killed those [of Zobah]. And they went to Damascus and dwelt there, and reigned in Damascus.

25 He was an adversary of Israel all the days of Solomon (besides the trouble that Hadad [caused]); and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

So – here we have another adversary that God raised against Solomon

Through Jewish historical writings – we are told that both of these adversaries they join forces and they begin to raid the nation of Israel.

One from the south Hadad and Rezon from the North.

But God is not done –

Here is a third one.

The difference with this adversary is that it was someone who Solomon had a connection to.

26 Then Solomon's servant, Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite from Zeredah, whose mother's name [was] Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king. 27 And this [is] what caused him to rebel against the king: Solomon had built the Millo [and] repaired the damages to the City of David his father. 28 The man Jeroboam [was] a mighty man of valor; and Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, made him the officer over all the labor force of the house of Joseph.

So Jeroboam was put in the position to get these building projects up – and it is this one particular project that stirs the heart of Jeroboam to rebel against Solomon.

Jewish writings tell us that Jeroboam was not a fan of forced labor.

I also had you note that Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor –

He was a warrior – he was brave – he was a leader

The opposite of what Solomon was.

29 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. 30 Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that [was] on him, and tore it [into] twelve pieces.

God sends a prophet to Jeroboam –

He is wearing this new garment and when he gets to Jeroboam – he tears up the garment in 12 pieces.

Why did he do it?

Why 12 pieces?

Because God wanted Jeroboam to get a visual representation of what He was going to do as a result of Solomon turning his back on God.

He was giving him 10 of the 12 nations.

31 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 32 '(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), 33 '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. 34 '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. 35 'But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and give it to you--ten tribes. 36 '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.

So – the message to Jeroboam is not only that God is going to make him ruler over ten of the tribes but he also learns why God is giving them to him.

Because they haven't been faithful to Me.

What should this say to Jeroboam?

That he better be faithful then or the same thing is going to happen to him.

37 'So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel. 38 'Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do [what is] right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. 39 'And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever.' "

Notice what God is offering Jeroboam –

This is very similar to the offer God gave to David.

Remember, David followed up a bad king – King Saul

And David changed things for the better.

Saul had become corrupt.

So we have the same thing here.

Solomon had become corrupt

So God tells Jeroboam – that he will have a kingdom like David – if he just obeys Him.

40 Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

So even in the end – we see Solomon’s rejection of the Lord and His word

Instead of yielding to God’s will in the manner – he tries to change it by trying to kill Jeroboam.

And the same can be asked about our lives –

Do we yield to God’s will when He wants to bring changes into our lives – or do we try to change the circumstances on our own.

Because if we are kicking, if we are yelling, if we are fighting against God as He is doing a work in our lives – it says that we are not yielding to Him.

It reveals where are heart is.

David is Psalm 53 –

[Psa 51:3-4 NKJV] 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin [is] always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done [this] evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, [And] blameless when You judge.

David is saying, “Lord, I don’t have a leg to stand on, You have every right to judge me, You have every right to wipe me out – if that is what You chose to do, I have nothing to say against that- Your will be done.”

41 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? 42 And the period that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel [was] forty years. 43 Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

Lot’s of lessons for us in the life of Solomon

Great achievements – and yet, we are warned that great achievements can be very meaningless if our heart isn’t in the Lord.

If we are not in a relationship with Him

He did lots of things that were great

Lot’s of wisdom – but wisdom without relationship is meaningless – and in the process Solomon made many mistakes and we are going to see the consequences of those mistakes – how they effected the nation of Israel as we continue our study in 1 Kings.

Amen

Let’s pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

