

Bibles???

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

Turn your bibles with me 1 Kings 9

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

And we are currently in the portion of 1 Kings where Solomon has just finished the building of the temple –

Let's pray...

In our study last week – we looked at the dedication of the temple by King Solomon –

And part of the dedication ceremony was this prayer that Solomon prays.

And I kind of touched on it during the study as well as the Q/A session afterwards.

And part of Solomon's prayer is the anticipation of the failure of the nation.

When anyone sins against his neighbor

When Your people are defeated because they have sinned against You

When there is drought in the land because they have sinned against You

When You deliver them into the enemy because they have sinned against You.

Solomon knew they were going to turn their back on God.

They were going to rebel.

They were going to suffer the consequences from their rebellion.

But also – toward the end of the prayer, we saw that Solomon anticipated repentance among the sinners –

[1Ki 8:50 NKJV] 50 "and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them

And if there is one thing that we all share in the room today is that we are all prone to wander.

We are all weak

We have a heart that is deceitfully wicked.

But I want you to turn to Romans 8

[Rom 8:1 NKJV] 1 [There is] therefore **now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**

Right now – there is no condemnation for the believer.

God is not condemning you or me for our sin.

There might be conviction – but for those who are believers, our past sins have been forgiven, our present sins are forgiven, even our future sins are forgiven.

So again – the scriptures clearly state that there is now no condemnation coming from God to the believer.

We might receive condemnation from the enemy,

We might receive condemnation from other believers and

We might even receive condemnation from our own deceitful hearts.

But not from God.

And the reason is – that God has done a finished work through Jesus Christ.

And the reason that I bring this up is because many of us struggle with condemnation.

We might even be the ones that are condemning others instead of helping and encouraging them.

And we are going to see this in our text this evening.

[1Ki 9:1-28 NKJV] 1 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he

wanted to do, 2 that the LORD appeared to Solomon the **second time**, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon.

So, Solomon after more than 20 years – he finishes building the temple (7 years), the palace (13 years) and some of the other projects that were on his wish list.

But I want you to notice that the scriptures clearly tell us that part of Solomon's desire included the building of the temple.

And I think sometimes we tend to focus on his extravagance and how he started so well but then he stumbled toward the end of his life –

But one thing that we cannot question was that Solomon wanted to bless the Lord.

Because what he did foremost – was build the temple.

And he finished it –

He wanted to bless the Lord in response to what the Lord had done in his life.

Remember, last week, at the dedication ceremony – Solomon kept on bringing up the Lord's faithfulness over and over again.

I also had you make a note of verse 2 – that the Lord appeared to Solomon once again.

Remember, the first time was back in 1 Kings 3

It was in a dream.

God asked Solomon, “Ask! What shall I give you?”

And Solomon – knowing that he wasn’t a warrior like his father was or a leader like his father was or even had the experience that his father had.

He asked for Godly wisdom to rule over God’s people – and God answered Solomon’s prayer.

Fast forward 20+ years, Solomon is finished with the temple – God appears to Solomon again.

And I think one of the things that we have to consider and grasp is that there can be great spans of time between the Lord’s dealing with us.

And I think it is very important for us to understand that.

God might have answered a prayer in our life or intervened on our behalf – in the most powerful way – we have a personal encounter with the Lord.

But when we have those experiences sometimes we can begin to think that the Lord should be speaking to us all the time like that.

And when He doesn’t – then we begin to think that something is wrong with us.

Is God mad at me???

But when we look at the scriptures, we have example after example of individuals who went long periods between these events.

Abraham went years without hearing from the Lord –

God tells him to pack his things – Move to a land that I will show you and I will make you a great nation

Abram shows up in the land – and when there is famine in the land –

What does he do?

he goes to Egypt.

Why did he go to Egypt? He hadn't heard from the Lord – he took it upon himself.

And the same goes for our lives – we don't hear from the Lord – something is wrong – and it can lead to wrong responses on our part if we don't understand that.

Elijah was someone else – he was constantly hearing from the Lord – but as soon as a little time passed by without hearing from the Lord – he panicked and began to mope.

He was expecting God to speak to him in an amazing way again – but God spoke to him in a still small voice.

God is working and He is waiting.

And He will reveal His word to us right when we need to hear it.

But He is still working and He is still engaged in our lives.

We continue to trust Him, we continue to abide in Him and His Word and we continue to be led by the Holy Spirit while desiring to have a new encounter with Him.

We all want that second visit – like Solomon

We all should want a fresh visit.

3 And the LORD said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

Who built the temple? Solomon

Who dedicated the temple? Solomon

Who consecrated it (consecrate means – to set apart, to make holy)? God

Here is truth

Man can build – but only God can consecrate what man has built

Anything that you and I build in this life – spiritual things

Anything we want to build for the kingdom of God – at the end of the day, for it to be of any value, it needs to be consecrated by the Lord and it needs to be something that He wants to consecrate.

Think of how many times, people go off wanting to build something for the Lord – without ever seeking His council, without ever seeking His direction and then we want Him to bless it when we are done.

And then He doesn't.

Because at the end of the day – God says, it isn't what I wanted.

Here is a question – do you think that the Lord would have consecrated the temple of David had said – I am going to build the temple anyways. No

At the end of the day what matters the most is what God consecrates

4 "Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, [and] if you keep My statutes and My judgments, 5 "then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

God tells Solomon –

Solomon, if you walk like your dad, if you follow your dad's example, your dynasty will continue forever.

And I had you make a note of the phrase - in integrity of heart and in uprightness,

This is how God saw David

Now, for those that were here last year when we went through 1 and 2 Samuel – we might not use this phrase regarding David.

We might remember him for his sins – but that isn't how God remembered David

God remembers David for the integrity of his heart and his uprightness

And isn't that the case in our lives.

For those of us who have the Holy Spirit living inside of us – there is far more integrity of our heart and uprightness than stupid sin.

Jesus has clothes us with His white garment – with His righteousness and this is much greater than all the times we stumble.

By the way, one of the things that we never read of David is that he pursued other gods.

He remained faithful and true and loyal to the One True God even though there was personal failure – there was an overall commitment to God.

We all experience personal failures in our lives

But sometimes there are individuals who chose to focus on past failures instead of God's faithfulness in our lives.

6 "[But] if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments [and] My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, 7 "then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

Here is the warning for Solomon –

If you and your sons turn their back on me, I am going to make you an example for the nations to see.

8 "And [as for] this house, [which] is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?' 9 "Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the LORD has brought all this calamity on them.' "

If you do this, then I will do that.

If you don't do this, then I won't do that, and I will do this instead.

This is a conditional promise.

This is under the Old Covenant

We don't live under the Old Covenant – which was predicated on them following the Mosaic Law

we live under the New Covenant

our salvation is not based on a conditional promise.

10 Now it happened at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house 11 (Hiram the king of Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress and gold, as much as he desired), [that] King Solomon then gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee. 12 Then Hiram went from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him, but they did not please him. 13 So he said, "What [kind of] cities [are] these which you have given me, my brother?" And he called them the land of **Cabul, as they are to this day. 14 Then Hiram sent the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold.**

Back in chapter 5 – we saw that as Solomon was preparing to have the temple built, he made a deal with Hiram to get the lumber to build the temple and get the wood for the inside paneling – and Solomon paid the King of Tyre

He supplied him with food

Here – it appears that Solomon wanted more gold

So he makes a deal with Hiram

He gives him 20 cities in Northern Israel in exchange for the gold

Hiram – went to look at the cities and didn't care for them

In fact, he called the land Cabul – which means good for nothing.

Beginning in verse 15 we have a summary of what Solomon built.

15 And this [is] the reason for the labor force which King Solomon raised: to build the house of the LORD, his own house, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer. 16 (Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and taken Gezer and burned it with fire, had killed the Canaanites who dwelt in the city, and had given it [as] a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife.) 17 And Solomon built Gezer, Lower Beth Horon, 18 Baalath, and Tadmor in the wilderness, in the land [of Judah], 19 all the storage cities that Solomon had, cities for his chariots and cities for his cavalry, and whatever Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion. 20 All the people [who were] left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who [were] not of the children of Israel-- 21 that is, their descendants who were left in the land after them, whom the children of Israel had not been able to destroy completely--from these Solomon raised forced labor, as it is to this day. 22 But of the children of

Israel Solomon made no forced laborers, because they [were] men of war and his servants: his officers, his captains, commanders of his chariots, and his cavalry.

23 Others [were] chiefs of the officials who [were] over Solomon's work: five hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people who did the work. 24 But Pharaoh's daughter came up from the City of David to her house which [Solomon] had built for her. Then he built the Millo.

Again we see that Solomon in his godly wisdom – really focused on the infrastructure and in these storehouses that were scattered throughout Israel.

25 Now three times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar which he had built for the LORD, and he burned incense with them [on the altar] that [was] before the LORD. So he finished the temple.

I had you make a note of the two type of offerings that Solomon offered up

Three times a year

By the way

It would be during Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles that this would occur.

Turn with me to Leviticus 1

[Lev 1:1-5 NKJV] 1 Now the LORD called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of the livestock--of the herd and of the flock. 3 'If his offering [is] a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD. 4 'Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him. 5 'He shall kill the bull before the LORD; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that [is by] the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

So the purpose of the burnt offering was for a person to be accepted before the Lord, to have atonement, to have his sins covered.

And this was done by the laying of hands on top of the bulls head – it was supposed to be the transferring of sins.

The animal's death was a substitute for the death of the sinner.

Jesus did this for us as well.

[Isa 53:4-5 NKJV] 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He [was]

wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

The peace offering was a similar offering that we find in Leviticus ch 3 –

However, the peace offering was for the purpose of being able to have fellowship with God.

[Rom 5:1-2 NKJV] 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

26 King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at Ezion Geber, which [is] near Elath on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom. 27 Then Hiram sent his servants with the fleet, seamen who knew the sea, to work with the servants of Solomon. 28 And they went to Ophir, and acquired four hundred and twenty talents of gold from there, and brought [it] to King Solomon.

So one of the things that we see in the life of King Solomon is that after the building of the temple – one of the things that happens is that he gets distracted.

And that is really what we are going to see over the next few weeks.

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.'

