

## I Kings Lesson 9

I Kings Chapter 9

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Memory verses for this week: ***2Pe 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

**Introduction:** We studied last week about the ark being brought up into the temple and the contents of it. Solomon brought a dedication message and went through the history of all the things involved in getting the temple built from his Father David's desire to the ultimate building under Solomon's reign. It took seven years to complete the temple. This week we get into the prayer that Solomon prayed which is one of the great ones of the bible along with those found in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Daniel Chapter 9. Of course perhaps the greatest is the prayer of our Lord in John Chapter 17.

### I. God's Second Appearance to Solomon

***1Ki 9:1** And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,*

***1Ki 9:2** That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.*

“The second time” is a phrase worth tracing through the Word. “The Word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time,” recorded in Jonah 3:1.

Here Solomon was privileged with a second appearance of God, coming to him on the night following the dedication of the temple. This supernatural vision contained direct answers to Solomon's inaugural prayers. Details of Solomon's commercial enterprises, and his ambition of earth, are before us. Alas, these rapidly corrupted his mind, turning King and people away from God. The temple was high in ideals as well as in elevation, and apostasy was inexcusable. Yet, in spite of warning against disobedience, Solomon turned from God. The remarkable achievement recorded in this chapter resounded through the world, but, turning to Ecclesiastes, we hear the cry of an unsatisfied heart: “All is vanity” (Eccl. 1:1).

Earthly glory disappeared as a soap bubble. God has set eternity in the heart of man, and thus no earthly splendor or wealth can ever fully satisfy that heart. This divine manifestation to man was an act of gracious condescension, that is undeserved by man. This Divine manifestation occurred at a critical time. We know that God chose to appear at Gibeon at the beginning of Solomon's career.

Here He appears again at the pinnacle of his career, to warn Solomon when he needed to be warned. With this Divine manifestation came a solemn responsibility. Solomon had 3 areas he needed to address in responsibility

- i. A responsibility to apprehend and appreciate its significance.
- ii. A responsibility to carry out the Divine command.
- iii. A responsibility because it was possible to abuse the blessing conferred.

*1Ki 9:3 And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*

*1Ki 9:4 And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:*

We can learn some lessons from this Divine Covenant. The TRUE Religion of a nation does not consist in anything external. God hears from the heart, and pomp and circumstance are not nearly as important to Him as it is to man. God is not moved by the grandeur of temples nor in the elaborateness of its ritual.

True religion consists in the sincere worship of God, according to the Bible. True religion is dependent on the presence and approval of God. If things do not line up with the Word of God, God is not honored and glorified and is not well pleased with his servants. The true religion of a nation (meaning all saved Christians) depends on their obedience to God.

Verse 4 gives us three clear paths of obedience that are needed and an example of obedience in King David.

- i. Obedience is regulated by clearly defined commands. (God's Word with his statutes and judgments)
- ii. Obedience is to be genuine and complete.
- iii. Obedience was illustrated by the life of David who was a man after God's own heart.

*In Barnes Notes on the Bible, he said this about verse 3.*

*When God puts His Name in the temple He does it, in intention, "forever." He will not arbitrarily withdraw it; there it will remain "forever," so far as God is concerned. But the people may by unfaithfulness drive it away 1Ki 9:7-9.*

*1Ki 9:5 Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.*

*1Ki 9:6 But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:*

*1Ki 9:7 Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:*

When we obey God, he is pleased with us. Obedience insures perpetuity of blessing according to verse 5. Obedience is better than burnt offerings and sacrifices. Remember what Samuel told King Saul.

*1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

The decay of true religion in a nation is followed by national ruin. The ruin of its national greatness and the ruin of its religious prestige. America is headed in this direction if we do not change our path. America used to be known as a great Christian nation, the greatest on earth. But our very history is being attacked on a daily basis by those who oppose our Christian values and rules.

*1Ki 9:8 And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house?*

*1Ki 9:9 And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.*

The ruin of a nation is held up as a terrible warning to all generations.

Please note 2 Chronicles 7:14, which is a parallel passage.

*2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Forsaking God is a very serious sin. Note that nothing is said about pagans or non-believers in II Chronicles Chapter 7:14. It says if "MY PEOPLE" will humble themselves, and turn from their wicked ways, then God will heal their land. It is up to you and I, the saved Christians to change our ways and come back in humility to the Lord God Jehovah. Past blessings cannot guarantee future blessings when a people depart from God. This should serve as a serious warning to our own nation.

## II. Solomon's Dealings with Hiram

*1Ki 9:10 And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD, and the king's house,*

*1Ki 9:11 (Now Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar trees and fir trees, and with gold, according to all his desire,) that then king Solomon gave*

*Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.*

We see Solomon sending a tardy gift to King Hiram. Why he had waited 20 years is unclear and it seems to have been too long. But a good deed late is better than no deed at all. He gives him one city for each year of building. We have to wonder if in this Solomon disobeyed God's command? Perhaps these cities were not his to give. However good our intentions, we need to be sure that they do not break God's commands.

*Leviticus 25:23 The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.*

*1Ki 9:12 And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him; and they pleased him not.*

*1Ki 9:13 And he said, What cities are these which thou hast given me, my brother? And he called them the land of Cabul unto this day.*

*1Ki 9:14 And Hiram sent to the king sixscore talents of gold.*

It seemed to be a great gift, but we find a disappointed king. Apparently King Hiram was expecting greater cities. As Christians we must be clear in our promises so that others will not misunderstand what we are promising. But we find Hiram while disappointed is still an Honorable King there in verse 14. Evidently the deal had been made and King Hiram did not back out, but sent several million dollars worth of gold. You would not expect this of Hiram.

John Gill gave some insight as to why King Hiram was not pleased with the cities King Solomon gave him.

**1 Kings 9:12**

**And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him,**.... For these cities, being in or near Galilee, were not far from Tyre:

**and they pleased him not;** being either out of repair, as some think; see [2Ch 8:2](#) or the ground barren, and unfruitful; which is not likely, being in a very fruitful country, as the tribes on which they bordered were: but they were not agreeable to him, they did not suit with the disposition of him and his people, who were given not to husbandry, but to merchandise; and the land about these would require a good deal of pains and labour to till, which they were not used to.

### III. The Material Prosperity of His Kingdom

*1Ki 9:15 And this is the reason of the levy which king Solomon raised; for to build the house of the LORD, and his own house, and Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer.*

*1Ki 9:16 For Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up, and taken Gezer, and burnt it with fire, and slain the Canaanites that dwelt in the city, and given it for a present unto his daughter, Solomon's wife.*

We talked about what an extensive building program that Solomon undertook in his early reign. He built the House of the Lord and also his own house. Other houses were built in this 20 years of building. Verse 15 speaks of Milo which was a fortress to protect Jerusalem. Hazor became a stronghold to protect from Syria, while Megiddo was a fortress protecting the plains of Jezreel, where many historical events have taken place. The valley or plain of Megiddo was part of the Plain of Esdraelon, which was the great battle-field of Palestine. It was here Barak gained a notable victory over Jabin, the king of Hazor, whose general, Sisera, led the hostile army.

Barak rallied the warriors of the northern tribes, and under the encouragement of Deborah, the prophetess, attacked the Canaanites in the great plain. The army of Sisera was thrown into complete confusion, and was engulfed in the waters of the Kishon, which had risen and overflowed its banks (Jude 4:5).

Many years after this (B.C. 610) Pharaohnecho II, on his march against the king of Assyria, passed through the plains of Philistia and Sharon; and King Josiah, attempting to bar his progress in the plain of Megiddo, was defeated by the Egyptians. He was wounded in battle, and died as they bore him away in his chariot towards Jerusalem (2 Kings 23:29; 2 Chronicle 35:22-24) and all Israel mourned for him. Armageddon occurs only in (Revelation 16:16), as designating the place where the "battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:14), shall be fought. The word properly means the "mount of Megiddo." It is the scene of the final conflict between Christ and Antichrist. The idea of such a scene was suggested by the Old Testament great battle-field, the Plain of Esdraelon.

*1Ki 9:17 And Solomon built Gezer, and Bethhoron the nether,*

*1Ki 9:18 And Baalath, and Tadmor in the wilderness, in the land,*

*1Ki 9:19 And all the cities of store that Solomon had, and cities for his chariots, and cities for his horsemen, and that which Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.*

*1Ki 9:20 And all the people that were left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which were not of the children of Israel,*

*1Ki 9:21 Their children that were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel also were not able utterly to destroy, upon those did Solomon levy a tribute of bondservice unto this day.*

*1Ki 9:22 But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no bondmen: but they were men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots, and his horsemen.*

*1Ki 9:23 These were the chief of the officers that were over Solomon's work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work.*

Forced labor was used in all of this building Verse 20 speaks of the levy which means forced labor and perhaps forced taxes. A costly court was maintained. This is what Samuel told Israel (1 Samuel 8:10-18) what a king would do.

*1Sa 8:10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him*

a king.

*1Sa 8:11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.*

*1Sa 8:12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.*

*1Sa 8:13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.*

*1Sa 8:14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.*

*1Sa 8:15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.*

*1Sa 8:16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.*

*1Sa 8:17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.*

*1Sa 8:18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.*

Funny how that years later, isn't this is what people want today, a government that will take care of them, but it never turns out the way they expect. We better put our trust in God, and not in man.

Matthew Henry talked about all the greatness of Solomon and his buildings.

We have here a further account of Solomon's greatness.

His buildings. He raised a great levy both of men and money, because he projected a great deal of building, which would both employ many hands and put him to a vast expense, [1Ki 9:15](#). And he was a wise builder, who sat down first, and counted the cost, and would not begin to build till he found himself able to finish. Perhaps there was some complaint of the heaviness of the taxes, which the historian excuses from the greatness of his undertakings.

He raised it, not for war (as other princes), which would spend the blood of his subjects, but for building, which would require only their labour and purses. Perhaps David observed Solomon's genius to lie towards building, and foresaw he would have his head and hands full of it, when he penned that song of degrees for Solomon, which begins, *Except the Lord build the house, those labour in vain that build it* ([Psa 127:1](#)), directing him to acknowledge God in all his ways, and, by prayer and faith in his providence, to take him along with him in all his designs of this kind.

*1Ki 9:24 But Pharaoh's daughter came up out of the city of David unto her house which Solomon had built for her: then did he build Millo.*

*1Ki 9:25 And three times in a year did Solomon offer burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built unto the LORD, and he burnt incense upon the altar that was before the LORD. So he finished the house.*

Verse 24 records how Solomon's wife, the daughter of Pharaoh, moves to her home. Someday Christ's bride shall move into her prepared place.



**Joh 14:1** *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*  
**Joh 14:2** *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*  
**Joh 14:3** *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

It says in verse 25 that they setup a regular system of sacrifice. Three times a year they brought burnt offerings and peace offerings unto the Lord.

**1Ki 9:26** *And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.*  
**1Ki 9:27** *And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon.*  
**1Ki 9:28** *And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to king Solomon.*

King Solomon made a navy of ships and used them in commerce. If you look up Eziongeber and Eloth on your Bible map it may be that Ophir was either in Africa, Arabia or India. This was great wealth brought in, as it was 420 talents of gold brought to King Solomon.

\* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Oct. 2013.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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