

Longing for a Better King **1-2 Kings**

1

1 Kings 1-11: Reign of King Solomon

Solomon's Temple
(1 Kings 5-8)

Now it came about when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all that Solomon desired to do... (1 Kings 9:1)

3

¹⁰ It came about at the end of twenty years in which Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house ¹¹ (Hiram king of Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress timber and gold according to all his desire), then King Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee. ¹² So Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him, and they did not please him. ¹³ He said, "What are these cities which you have given me, my brother?" So they were called the land of Cabul to this day. ¹⁴ And Hiram sent to the king 120 talents of gold.

15 Now this is the account of the forced labor which King Solomon levied to build the house of the LORD, his own house, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer. 16 For Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and captured Gezer and burned it with fire, and killed the Canaanites who lived in the city, and had given it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife. 17 So Solomon rebuilt Gezer and the lower Beth-horon 18 and Baalath and Tamar in the wilderness, in the land of Judah, 19 and all the storage cities which Solomon had, even the cities for his chariots and the cities for his horsemen, and all that it pleased Solomon to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land under his rule.

5 6

1

²⁰ As for all the people who were left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, who were not of the sons of Israel, ²¹ their descendants who were left after them in the land whom the sons of Israel were unable to destroy utterly, from them Solomon levied forced laborers, even to this day. ²² But Solomon did not make slaves of the sons of Israel; for they were men of war, his servants, his princes, his captains, his chariot commanders, and his horsemen.

²³ These *were* the chief officers who *were* over Solomon's work, five hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people doing the work.

²⁴ As soon as Pharaoh's daughter came up from the city of David to her house which *Solomon* had built for her, then he built the Millo.

²⁵ Now three times in a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar which he built to the LORD, burning incense with them on the altar which was before the LORD. So he finished the house.

(1 Kings 9:10-25)

7

8

Now it came about when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all that Solomon desired to do, ² that the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. (1 Kings 9:1-2)

God's Word to Solomon

- 1. His Answer (to Solomon's prayer)
 - He has indeed set apart this temple as the place where Israel will have access to His gracious presence
 - God truly listens and responses to His people's prayers!

9

10

God's Word to Solomon

- 2. His Promise
 - He will establish Solomon's throne forever, if Solomon walks in covenant obedience
 - God's priority is not the physical temple but a heart of obedience

God's Word to Solomon

- 3. His Warning
 - infidelity by the king will result in devastating judgment – loss of land and temple
 - the temple is no guarantee in itself that Israel will escape God's judgment

11

12

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, \(^2\) "Stand in the gate of the LORD's house and proclaim there this word and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah, who enter by these gates to worship the LORD!" \(^3\) Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. \(^4\) Do not trust in deceptive words, saying, This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.' \(^5\) For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor, \(^6\) if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin, \(^7\) then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

⁸ "Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and swear falsely, and offer sacrifices to Baal and walk after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰ then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered!'—that you may do all these abominations? ¹¹ Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your sight? Behold, I, even I, have seen *it*," declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 7:1-11)

13 14

God's Word to Solomon

- > Application
 - 1. Beware of trusting in externals and masking an unbelieving, idolatrous heart (Heb. 3:12)
 - We need and have a better King, Jesus, who, by His perfect obedience, secures the kingdom for us

15