

## 1 Kings Ch9-10

Vs1-2

Ch 8 concluded the dedication of the temple whereby you recall the joyous occasion, and celebration during that 2 week period when Israel was just feasting and enjoying the great works that God had done in establishing them in the land, granting them the rest (as it were) that He had promised them. And that was in essence ratified in the completion and consecration of the temple as ark of the covenant was placed in the Holy of holies and the glory of the Lord filled the temple, and the priests were overwhelmed and couldn't continue ministering. And Solomon began to remind the people of the God's faithfulness to them in the past, how He had fulfilled His word to them. And then he began to pray and implore God to continue in His faithfulness to them in the future, to be merciful and forgiving to a faulty and frail people as they are quickened by the chastisements of the Lord when they fall and cry out in confession and repentance. And it was just a phenomenal experience and time spent in the Lord, 22,000 bulls were sacrificed, and 120,000 sheep over this 2 week period. (Remember no doubt the largest BBQ in the history of mankind, that Guinness would do well to take note of) and vs 66 of ch 8 tells us that the people went to their tents joyful and glad of heart. Jesus wants us to experience life in a manner that's full of joy, His joy, we spoke about that a couple of Sundays ago. This is the right frame of heart to have when one has spent time with the Lord, that we go our way joyful and glad of heart.

But because of the order of the ch's it seems to elude to the fact that with in a few days of the dedication, the Lord appeared to Solomon again. Not so, probably the writer placed this event here because of it's connection with the temple and Solomon's prayer of dedication, but as for the actual chronology, as you read this 1<sup>st</sup> vs you realize that it was actually some 12 yrs later that this took place. This is 23-24yrs into Solomon's reign. The Lord appeared to Solomon the 1<sup>st</sup> time some 3-4 yrs into his reign, then Solomon took 7yrs to build the temple, and it was on the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the 8<sup>th</sup> yr that Solomon dedicated the temple, and it took him another 13 yrs to build his own home. And so you add that up you have 23-24yrs there, and we read here in the 1<sup>st</sup> vs that it was after Solomon had completed his own home (meaning 12yrs after the temple dedication ceremony) that the Lord appeared to him the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

Couple of things to glean in that, and if you'll allow me to dip just a bit back into this principal that we seen last week, but I didn't really establish it, we seen there how that Solomon had built a temple for the Lord. And that's all that it was, it was an empty, hollow shell, but once the ark was brought *into* the temple, the presence of the Lord *filled* the temple, and Solomon was at that point purposed on his heart to have that temple dedicated to the Lord *perpetually*. Now you may or may not know that in typology, the ark is a profound picture of Jesus Christ in that the wood speaks of His humanity, the gold overlaying it speaks of His deity.

And then of course the Mercy Seat, or the lid to the ark covered the Law, and it was there upon the Mercy Seat that once a year on the Day of Atonement that the high priest would enter in to the Holy of Holies, sprinkle the blood of the sin offering upon the Mercy Seat and there above the Mercy Seat the Lord appear in the cloud and forgive the sin of the nation. And all that to say that as the Ark was brought into the temple, it was then that the presence of the Lord filled the temple, and it was dedicated and consecrated to God and by God. Now the NT teaches that your body, and my body is the temple of God. But until Jesus Christ (who is our Mercy Seat in whom God meets with us) has come into the heart of our temple, the most holy place, the inner sanctuary of our hearts, all we are is an empty, hollow shell.

But once Jesus Christ comes into us, we're filled with the Spirit and profound presence of God, and it needs to be purposed on our hearts to lead our lives dedicated to God from that point perpetually. And again this is where that testy subject of eternal security enters into the equation, but suffice it to say for now that our sin separates us from God, and God won't fight you for the prominent position in your heart, you can choose to enthrone Him, or to walk away from Him and give *something*, or *someone* else that place. It's the John 15 principal that we've been studying lately, we're to abide in Christ, and allow His Word to abide in us, and lead sanctified lives that are set apart to Him and His purposes *exclusively*.

Now as for this 2<sup>nd</sup> appearance, there's a balance here that we need to see. #1 We do well to not rely on yesterday's experiences to get us through today. God may've revealed Himself to you in a special way 20yrs ago, that's awesome, but how is He revealing Himself to you today? How is He speaking to your heart today, God should be moving and stirring in your heart and your mind consistently, and commonly throughout the days, weeks, months, and years. That one time that God did something really neat, and manifested Himself to you uniquely is good, but we need to be in fellowship with God and seeking after God daily. However on the flipside of that #2 When it comes to the emotional experiential encounters that God grants us from time and again, we need to be careful not to get all caught up in that as if the emotional encounter is the barometer of our spirituality. Solomon had an encounter of this sort twice in his life and they were 20 yrs apart. And so we need to realize that it's not about walking by these profound appointments as such, but rather by faith and in obedience to the word of God. Realizing that He has said that He'll never leave us, and never forsake us, and that He will guide us by His righteous right hand and by faith I believe it. And God knows how to get my attention should I begin to veer off with no ill intent of my own, but meanwhile if I'm staying in prayer, in fellowship, and in the word of God personally/devotionally, and then with the body corporately, I'm going to hear the Lord's still small voice and He's going to be leading and guiding my life. Not necessarily by any big emotional encounter, but as I simply stay in tune and in line with the *word* of God, I can trust that I'll be functioning within the sphere and the parameters of the *will* of God for my life.

Plus something else the text seems to allude to here is that the 1<sup>st</sup> time God appeared to Solomon it was to comfort and encourage him. But the 2<sup>nd</sup> time God appears to him it's to caution and advise him. Solomon has been on the throne for over 20 yrs, it's been 12-13 yrs since the dedication, things are going great, the kingdom is at it's height of prosperity, and it never seems to be at the low points in life that we need to really worry. Because we're on our faces before God, but with prosperity comes the potential of pride. When things aren't so great, or we feel less than inadequate when it comes to our role in a certain situation it serves to keep us in that position of humility, but once God begins to bless, and a little experience sets in, we begin to rely less on the Lord, and more on our own strength. When the fact is that there's never a time when we need the Lord less, we're always in need of Him as much we've ever been in need of Him, but somehow material comforts and successes have this way of blinding us, and deceiving us as to the need of our soul, which is to cling desperately to Jesus Christ.

### Vs3-10

So God graciously appears to Solomon a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, and reminds him of his prayer, and issues him a warning to be careful to walk in His ways, and keep His word even as Solomon had prayed. And so right as Solomon is at the height of his success, the kingdom is at it's culmination, God appears to Him and says, be careful, there's danger on the trail.

And there's obviously a # of things in this section. And to me it's just another demonstration of God's amazing grace, He was by no means bound to appear to Solomon. He didn't have to do that, yet He appears to Solomon and warns him not to violate the standard of practical holiness, and staying true to Him as the One True Living God, that's been set.

And as we go through this portion there are a few things we see here along the way. #1 in Vs 3 we see 2 things, #1 the Lord said, "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me;" (underline that). The prayer that Solomon made would've been pointless, and powerless if God hadn't heard it, but here's the unveiling of this text, God hears your prayers. He really does, He hears my prayers, sometime we feel that our prayers ascend maybe about as high as the ceiling, but the fact is that God hears your cry, and your prayer with which you pray to Him. Now if you're not seeking to walk with Him, or you've walked away from Him, that may be another story, the bible says, "*One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.*" Prov 28:9 and Again, "*The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.*" Prov 15:8 So God hears the prayer of those who are seeking after Him, again we read, "*The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.*" Ps 34:15 and You no doubt recall the vs we brought up Sunday morning, "*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*" 1 John 5:14-15 So God hears our prayers, and our supplications.

And when we ask according to His will He responds in a positive manner, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> thing I want you to see in this vs. God says, “*I have consecrated this house.*” Solomon *dedicated* it, but it was God who *consecrated* it. Now going back to the premise that the bible establishes regarding our own bodies as being the temple of the Holy Spirit, we might say that the acts of supplication, and even dedication belong to us, but the act of consecration belongs to God. God alone is able to consecrate something as holy, and set apart to Him, so supplication, and dedication are yours, but consecration belongs to God. And of course He consecrates us by His very presence with in us, by the power of His Holy Spirit, and practically through the washing of the water by His Word at work in us, keeping us from that which would otherwise defile us, and separate us from Him.

But then God goes on here to remind him of the standard as found in his father David, and the necessity to keep the Word of God. And we see 3 things that God brings up about David for Solomon to be careful to walk in. #1 See it there, Integrity of heart and in uprightness. It’s not to say that David never faltered or fell, we know that he did. But God is saying that he never went after foreign gods, which in reality aren’t gods at all. But that his heart was true before God, he knew who the Lord was, and he never sought to serve another, there were times when he was stumbling around, but he never called upon the name of another, or sought to honor any god other than the God of Ab, Isaac, and Jacob, the only true God. It’s so important that we walk in uprightness, and integrity of heart before God, that the wholeness of our heart be open *before* God, and available for scrutiny *by* God. And these are the things that clue us in on the warning that God is issuing here, it’s been over 20 yrs and things are *looking* good. But it’s possible that in Solomon’s heart around now, he’s beginning to vacillate a bit, and God says, “Hey, remember our deal, don’t lose focus, quit entertaining other notions in your heart, walk in integrity of heart before Me.” and #2 Do the things that I command, and #3 Keep My statutes and My judgments, and according to vs 5, these are the things that make for “eternal security” in a certain sense of the word. Again it’s that abide in Christ and allow His word to abide in you, and you will be established securely forever.

“But” vs 6-9 goes on to say, if you choose to sever that relationship with Me, and turn (notice) *at all* from following Me, then you will reap the penalty accordingly. And he even mentions “other gods” specifically, “Solomon, I know what’s in your heart.” God knows what’s swimming around in our hearts, even when things are looking so good outwardly, and He says, “If you sow to the wind you’re going to reap the whirlwind.” Israel will be cut off, and the temple which He has consecrated, He says will be cast out of His sight. And as you know that’s exactly what happened, there where it says people will “hiss” in vs 8, literally should read, “whistle.” People will be astonished and just (whistle) in amazement as they see the calamity that’s taken place.

3 Things you guys and then we'll start blazing, #1 and We've talked about this before, but 20 plus yrs had passed, "Time never alleviates the sanctity of our relationship with God." It's so easy to begin to relax after time passes in our relationship with God, but God would remind us of the importance of integrity of heart and uprightness before Him, the need to abide in His Word and allowing His word to abide in us. #2 Listen, "God never warns until we need to be warned." God is not into wasting His breath, and He doesn't speak if there's nothing that needs to be said. So many times we'll hear a warning and we'll think, "Hey, it's all good, you don't have to worry about that in my life, there's no way I'd *ever* succumb to *this*, or take part in *that*." and Yet if the warning didn't need to be said, trust me, God wouldn't warn you. Anytime God sees fit to warn me, or warn you about something, you can count on their being a reason for it. He sees what's up the road ahead of you and is warning you accordingly, and thank God He's faithful to warn us. And then #3 "God never forgets that which we devote/dedicate to Him." and If we dedicate it, and God consecrates it, then we do well to not desecrate it by some sin in our lives. My point is that no doubt most if not all of us here have dedicated our lives to God, and God has consecrated us by His Son Jesus Christ Now we're not to follow after other priorities, and turn away *at all* from following Him, not even a little bit. Because once we've dedicated ourselves *to* the Lord, and then walk away *from* the Lord, there are penalties involved, God keeps His word to us, and would that we would keep our word to Him. Prov 20:25 tells us, "*It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, And afterward to reconsider his vows.*" But as we know Solomon didn't heed God's warning and history confirms God's Word regarding the severity with which He would deal with them.

#### Vs10-14

It would seem to me that as for the wisdom of Solomon that this wasn't really to wise, because he was making payment on a loan by giving away land that God had given them as part of the covenant. But apparently Hiram had loaned Solomon some resources, or given him this gold in exchange for these cities so that Solomon could finance the building projects, but when he came and checked out what he'd signed off on he felt like he got a bum deal. And I read somewhere that a talent was about 70lbs. So around 8,400 lbs of gold Solomon was given which at today's market value would be around 56.5 million dollars. So, foreign relations are an ancient practice.

#### Vs15-21

Now we know that this wasn't God's perfect will but rather His permissive will. Because they were supposed to annihilate the inhabitants of the land as they came in. But again it's a picture of God's grace in being able to take our failures, and use them to ultimately accomplish His purposes, our God is a redeemer, and even when we fail Him, He's faithful to us, and He'll use us, and utilize even our failures if we'll give them to Him.

Vs22-28

Again foreign relations, some say Ophir was India, others say Arabia, no body is truly certain. But it was exploits like this that caused Solomon's fame to become worldwide. And so it's no doubt that this is the basis for this next account that we'll steam roll through.

## Ch 10

Vs1-3

So as these ships were being sent here and there, the word about what God was doing there in Jerusalem and the wealth and wisdom of Solomon was spreading everywhere. And at this point Israel is doing what they were called to do, they were being a light and a witness of God to the world. And even as Solomon had said in his prayer there in ch 8, of how the foreigner would hear of God's great name, His strong hand, and His outstretched arm, this is a testimony to just that. And people were coming from all around to seek out what God was doing in Israel, in the OT the world was to come to the temple to hear and see, in the NT Jesus sends us out to the world.

And the queen of Sheba was an honest skeptic, but when she heard of all this she mounted up, with a massive entourage, no doubt some military as well to accompany her with all these riches, and set out on this journey to see with her own eyes what she'd heard. She had some questions, riddles concerning the mystery of life in her own heart, as does everyone who doesn't know the Lord. And I Love that there in vs 2, "She spoke with him about all that was in her heart." She seen the wisdom of God in this man, and just began to pour out her heart before him, how much more should we bring to the Lord, all that is in our heart. Believe me there's nothing to difficult for Him that He can't give you the answer *to* it and peace in the midst *of* it. And surely this is a challenge to us, to be those who rightly divide the word of truth so that when people come to us with difficult questions we can direct them in the word of God. Peter said, "...*sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*" 1 Peter 3:15 The Word of God gives to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, and we can't know all the "why to's" and "how for's" of life, but I can tell you that the sum total of life is bound up in the person of Jesus Christ. And there's a big difference between an honest skeptic, and one who's simply sarcastically critical. God will go a long way in seeking to reveal Himself to the honest skeptic, but to those who are just looking for a fight, you won't win, because they're not looking for the truth, and so it's best to simply not waste your time. Because those people can be pawns of the enemy, and they're only distracting you from the people who *will* respond, and so don't feel inclined to have to have it out with those who are just arguing for the sake of an argument. But that's not who this woman was, and so Solomon spent time ministering to her.

## Vs4-8

So as she observed the way God was moving and blessing there in the land of Israel and in the life of Solomon, it took her breath away. And I can't help but be reminded of what it was like when we came into the Kingdom. It was the same way, we'd been told, but we didn't really believe it, but then when we were able to see it with our own eyes, man, not everything was true, and at that not even the ½ of it was told. God's Kingdom is just so awesome, and I have a feeling that as much as we've tried to glean about Heaven on this side of it, our response will be just the same when we're there for ourselves. As much as we know, and as good of a grip as we'd like to think we have, it'll take our breath away, and not even the ½ of has truly been revealed to us.

## Vs9

Jesus said, "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*" Matt 5:16 and Solomon has got it going on that way, she's seeing what's happening, and it's causing her to give glory to God, as opposed to Solomon. And this is what makes us think that she was converted during this visit. Because #1 she gave glory to God, and #2 because Jesus said as He spoke to the Pharisees, "*The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.*" Matt 12:42

You see, how could one who was condemned rise up in judgment to condemn another? But Jesus was saying, this woman sought out Solomon diligently to hear the wisdom of God, and yet *I've come to you*, and you're rejecting Me! Solomon had wisdom *from* God, but Jesus is the wisdom *of* God, Solomon had answers, Jesus *is* the answer. But by the words of the queen herself and the witness of Jesus to her, that's what causes many of us to believe that she went away saved.

## Vs10-14

666...Sound familiar? and I don't want to over spiritualize anything, but I'll just read you what The Pulpit Commentary says on this, "The correspondence with the number of the Beast (Rev 13:18; cf. Ezra 2:13) is in all probability not altogether accidental. It is possible, i.e., that the number of the beast is a reminiscence of this number of talents. For we may surely see in this statement of Solomon's prodigious wealth an indication of his worldliness, the turning point, perhaps, in his estrangement from God. "The love of money" may have been the root of all his evil. It is certainly remarkable that from this time forward his career is one of steady declension. It is also remarkable that while he is here represented to us as a "royal merchant," the mark of the beast is on the buyers and sellers (Rev 13:17)."

So as he began to acquire this unreal amount of wealth, his heart began to slide further and further from the Lord, but as we'll see that was in no small way coupled with his weakness for women, and it would seem as though it didn't matter to him whether they were godly or not. Which as you know is a snare to anyone.

#### Vs15-17

The Larger shields were about \$50,400 ea for a total of \$30,240,000 in large shields, the smaller were approx \$25,200 a piece for a total of \$7,560,000 in smaller shields. Altogether about, \$37,800,000 just in the decorative shields, they wouldn't have been used for battle because the metal was too soft. So a \$40 million decorative shield bill, for parades and what not isn't too bad...

#### Vs18-20

Perhaps as an emblem to the 12 tribes of Israel.

#### Vs21-22

Some versions say "peacocks," there instead of monkeys. By the way this is the only mention of Israel having any kind of a naval fleet, during the days of Solomon, and apparently they were venturing off to the coasts of Africa, perhaps India, and even various parts of Spain based upon the cargo they were carrying.

#### Vs23-24

See, the work that God was doing there was having global impact, and that was God's design and desire for Israel from the beginning. But not long from this point things begin to decline, this is the kingdom at it's finest in Israel's history as it pertains to God's agenda concerning it.

#### Vs25-26

Now this was a big "no no." God had told them that their kings weren't to multiply horses and chariots and all, because that was the latest military technology, and God wanted them to trust in Him to be their defense. "*Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, ' Says the LORD of hosts.*" Zech 4:6

#### Vs27-29

And so that's a bit of insight regarding the magnitude of what God was doing through Solomon, but spiritually speaking God wants to do so much more through us for His glory. The bible says, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*" Eph 1:3 There is no good thing that God has withheld from us in Christ, and if we'll allow Him, He'll utilize those things, and use us for His glory, to draw many unto Himself, so that all the earth might be impacted from the work that God is doing right here in this place, and in your life.

