

1 KINGS 7:1-51

October 17, 2024

1. Read 1 Kings 7:1. Last week we studied the completion of the Temple building which became the house of the Lord. What can we learn about Solomon from the fact he built the Lord's house before he built his own house?
2. 1 Kings 7:1-12 explains the construction of a complex of buildings which made up Solomon's palace. Read the following verses and list the names of what was built.

7:2-5

7:6

7:7

7:8

3. Glance at 1 Kings 7:13-51. This is a very detailed account of the Temple furnishings. Solomon's palace took 13 years to build and involved multiple buildings, yet only 12 verses discuss it. Why might this be true? Also read Psalm 63:1-2.
4. Read 1 Kings 7:2-5 again which details the House of the Forest of Lebanon. Explain some purposes for this building from 1 Kings 10:16-17, 21.
5. Read 1 Kings 7:6-7. The Hall of Pillars would have been a colonnaded entry hall or waiting area for the Hall of the Throne where Solomon rendered justice. What different kinds of people would be found in these buildings?

Read 1 Kings 4:29-30. What could the people expect from Solomon when they came before him?

6. Read 1 Kings 7:8 which describes the residences of Solomon and his Egyptian wife. Solomon's palace was believed to be near the Temple. What would be the benefits of this location?

According to John 1:14 and Hebrews 10:19-22, in what ways has Jesus made it possible for us to come into the presence of God?

7. Read 1 Kings 7:9-12. What word or words are used to describe the stones used to build Solomon's palace?

What are we building as God's precious stones today? Read 1 Peter 2:4-5.

8. After Temple was finished, the Temple furnishings had to be made. Who made that happen and why did Solomon choose him? Read 1 Kings 7:13-14.
9. Read about the two bronze pillars Hiram created for the vestibule of the Temple in 1 Kings 7:15-22. These pillars were 34 feet high including the capitals and 18 feet in circumference. Hiram named them Jachin (God will establish) and Boaz (In God is strength). In what ways would these pillars be a source of encouragement for Israel?

10. 1 Kings 7:23-26 describes the sea of cast bronze. It was a holding tank filled with over 11,000 gallons of water for the priest's cleansing. Read these verses along with 1 John 1:7-9. As believers, how are we cleansed for ministry today?

11. Read 1 Kings 7:27-40. The stands were water carts used for rinsing sacrificial animals in the Temple. Each stand held 200 gallons of water. What can Hiram's beautiful intricate details for the Temple furnishings teach us today?

12. Read 1 Kings 7:48-50. Bronze was used for the furnishings outside the Temple. Gold was used for the furnishings inside the Temple. Make a list of what gold might represent in the house of the Lord.

13. Read 1 Kings 7:51 along with 1 Chronicles 29:1-9 and part of David's prayer to God in 29:19. What inspiration do you find in these verses?

What was the result of Israel's generosity in 1 Chronicles 29:9?

Share some ways you have been blessed by being generous to others.

14. Write out a prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

1 KINGS 8:1-53

October 24, 2024

1. Take time to review 1 Kings 1-7. In 1-2 sentences, summarize what has happened in the story so far.
2. Read 1 Kings 8:1-11. List everyone assembled for the ark to be brought into the Temple.
3. Read Exodus 25:8, 12-15, 17, 22, which details how the ark of the covenant was to be handled by the Levites, or the priests of Israel, and explains why the ark was significant to Israel. Compare that with the way the ark is handled in 1 Kings 8:3-6, 8. What do you notice about the reverence given to the ark in these verses?

In 1 Kings 8:6, the ark of the covenant is brought into the Most Holy Place in the Temple. For hundreds of years, Israel has waited for the ark of the covenant to rest at last in the Temple. How do you imagine this moment felt for the Israelites?

4. Read 1 Kings 8:12-21. In this chapter, Israel experiences a mass fulfillment of promises: the nation is stable, Solomon is king, the Temple is complete. As the ark is placed in the Temple, Solomon recounts God's faithfulness to Israel. Which of Solomon's statements stands out to you, and why?

Share a current circumstance in your life that reminds you of God's past faithfulness.

5. In 1 Kings 8:22-53, Solomon dedicates the Temple to the Lord and prays for God's people, Israel. Read verses 22-26. List all the words and phrases Solomon uses to describe the Lord in these verses.

Why do you think Solomon would spend time reminding the people of the Lord's past faithfulness as he begins this prayer of dedication?

Look again at the words and phrases Solomon uses to describe the Lord. Which of these resonates with you? Which one do you most struggle to believe, and why?

6. Read 1 Kings 8:27-30. What does Solomon admit in verse 27 about the Temple?

What does Solomon ask of the Lord in verses 28-30?

Why do you think these were the first things Solomon asks for?

7. Read 1 Kings 8:31-53. Solomon makes several petitions to the Lord as it relates to the future and well-being of Israel. These follow a pattern: the circumstance, the acts of God, and the result for the people for a specific purpose. In the space below, list each of them in the appropriate spot from verses 33-40. (The first one has been completed for you.)

CIRCUMSTANCE

Verses 31-32: Somone sins against his or her neighbor

Verses 33-34:

Verses 35-36:

Verses 37-40:

ACT OF GOD

Verses 31-32: Hear in heaven, act, judge, condemn

Verses 33-34:

Verses 35-36:

Verses 37-40:

RESULT OR PURPOSE

Verses 31-32: Vindicate and reward the righteous

Verses 33-34:

Verses 35-36:

Verses 37-40:

8. 1 Kings 8:41-53 follows a similar pattern as it relates to the way Israel interacts with others and God Himself. Why do you think Solomon spends so much time praying for Israel's pardon if they sin against the Lord?

9. In this chapter, the treatment of the ark and Solomon's prayer of dedication demonstrate how seriously he takes the holiness of God. In what ways does his example encourage or correct you as you consider God's holiness?

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

1 KINGS 8:54-9:28

October 31, 2024

1. Begin by reviewing the prayer of Solomon in 1 Kings 8:22-54. What posture did Solomon take as he began his prayer in verse 22, and then how is his posture described as he concludes his prayer in verse 54?

What does Solomon's posture communicate about his relationship with the Lord?

In what ways would this be an encouragement to the Israelites?

2. Read 1 Kings 8:54-61. A benediction is a blessing given at the end of a service. In verse 56, who does Solomon bless, and why?

List the ways you are encouraged by remembering God's faithfulness.

3. Reread 1 Kings 8:54-61. Solomon asks God to hear his prayer. In verses 57-58, what are the things he requests of God?

In verse 61, Solomon tells Israel to make their hearts wholly true to God. What connection do you see between the rest Solomon mentions in verse 56 and the command Solomon gives his people in verse 61? See Proverbs 3:5-8 for further insight.

4. Read 1 Kings 8:62-64 along with 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 which gives additional details. What glorious signs did God give them?

What special accommodation did they have to make according to 1 Kings 8:64 because of the large number of sacrifices made at the dedication?

5. Read 1 Kings 8:65-66. After celebrating the feast and the Temple dedication, what was the attitude of the nation as they returned home?

List the ways gathering together as the church can affect your attitude.

6. God was gracious to Solomon and appeared to him a second time. Read 1 Kings 9:1-5. What assurances does God give Solomon in verse 3?

1 Kings 9:4-5 is a reminder to Solomon of a promise he has heard many times before. Why might God remind him yet again now that his building projects are all complete? See Psalm 119:9-11.

We all need to be reminded of God's words often. What are some habits you can implement in your life so you can walk with God and follow His commands?

7. Read 1 Kings 9:6-9. The first portion of God's response was specifically meant for Solomon, but in verse 6, God also includes all of Israel. What warnings does God give Israel in verse 6?

What are the consequences of doing these things according to verse 7?

8. The completion of the Temple was the pinnacle of Israel's history. The rest of chapter 9 shows the many things Solomon does well and highlights some of the blessings God has given Solomon and the nation. Read 1 Kings 9:10-28. List the blessings Solomon receives and the good he is doing for Israel.

These verses also hint at ways Solomon is not wholly following God. List some possible stumbling blocks for Solomon from these verses. See also Proverbs 16:16, Ecclesiastes 5:10, and Deuteronomy 17:16-17.

9. Look at Matthew 6:19-21. We, too, can focus on the earthly blessings instead of focusing our hearts on the Lord. What are the treasures in your life that distract you from wholly following the Lord?

Spend some time with God in confession and then write down a few things to help your heart be wholly true to God.

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

1 KINGS 10:1-29

November 7, 2024

1. Paul and Barnabas are talking to the Jewish people in Acts 13:47. What has the Lord commanded them?

What is God's plan for those of us who follow Christ according to Matthew 5:16?

Share a time when someone's light made a difference in your life spiritually.

2. Read Solomon's prayer and God's response in 1 Kings 3:9-13. What does God give Solomon that he did not ask for, and what would be the result?
3. Read 1 Kings 10:1-2. What words would you use to describe this queen who traveled 1,200 miles to meet Solomon?

Who does the queen of Sheba connect with Solomon's fame?

4. Read 1 Kings 10:3. Who is the source of Solomon's wisdom? Also read 1 Kings 4:29.

5. Read 1 Kings 10:4-5. What would have impressed you most from this list of all that impressed the queen? Why?

Queen Sheba's response to Solomon's kingdom took her breath away. What are the riches of God's kingdom that can take the breath away of those who finally meet Him? Read Ephesians 3:14-20 and Colossians 2:2-3 for added insight.

6. Read the queen of Sheba's conversation with King Solomon in 1 Kings 10:6-10. List the reasons she believes God has blessed Solomon.

The queen of Sheba witnessed what Solomon had desired for his reign over Israel. Read Solomon's prayer in Psalm 72 and jot down the words or phrases in these verses that express his hopes as Israel's king.

72:1-3

72:4-7

72:15-17

72:18-19

7. Years after the queen of Sheba visited Solomon, Jesus used her visit as a teaching moment. Read Luke 11:31. What did the queen of Sheba do in her pursuit of wisdom which Jesus' generation refused to do even with Jesus in their midst? Also read Mark 6:1-3.

What more do we learn about seeking God from Deuteronomy 4:29?

8. Read 1 Kings 10:11-13. Verses 11 and 12 may reflect a trade agreement that resulted from the queen's visit. What two phrases in 10:13 describe the extent of Solomon's generosity to the queen?

9. Read about Solomon's 25 tons of gold in 1 Kings 10:14-22. Solomon used the gold for the Temple furnishings. What else is the gold being used for in these verses?

10. Read 1 Kings 10:23-25. If you wrote a book about Solomon, what would you title it?

11. Read 1 Kings 10:26-29 along with Deuteronomy 17:16 and Psalm 20:7. What might be the danger in acquiring an abundance of horses and chariots?

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

1 KINGS 11:1-43

November 14, 2024

1. Solomon amassed great wealth, built the Temple, and formed a well-equipped military which caught the attention of many great leaders around him. Although impressive to others, Solomon's greatness failed to impress the Lord. Read 1 Kings 11:1-3. What in these verses reveal Solomon's disobedient and divided heart?

What might be some possible reasons Solomon wanted so many wives?

2. Read 1 Kings 11:4-8 along with Deuteronomy 7:1-4, 6 and Deuteronomy 17:17. How had Solomon violated God's commands?

In your own words, describe how violating these commands led to Solomon's demise.

How can we also be negatively influenced by the company we keep?

3. Gradually, physical pleasures and wealth became more important to Solomon than being fully committed to the Lord. What do the following portions of Scripture say about choosing worldly pleasures over the Lord?

Romans 12:2

James 4:4

1 John 2:15-17

What are some practical ways you can guard against compromise pulling your attention away from the Lord?

4. Continue by reading 1 Kings 11:9-13. What reasons are recorded in verses 9-10 for Solomon to follow the Lord's commands wholeheartedly?

Look back at 1 Kings 3:14 and 1 Kings 9:4-7 and record God's promises to Solomon.

5. In 1 Kings 11:11, what does the statement, "Since this has been your practice..." say about Solomon's struggle with sin?
6. Read 1 Kings 11:14-25. Solomon's reign has enjoyed peace. According to verse 14, why is Solomon now facing adversaries? Also look at 2 Samuel 7:12-15 for further insight.

Who was Solomon's first adversary? What prompted him to leave Egypt and return to his own country of Edom?

According to 1 Kings 11:23-25, why did Rezon loathe all of Israel? Look at 2 Samuel 8:5-6 for further insight.

7. Continue by reading 1 Kings 11:26-28. What is one major difference between Solomon's two adversaries recorded in the previous verses and Jeroboam who is from the tribe of Ephraim in Israel?

Which do you think would have the most damaging effect on King Solomon's reign and the nation of Israel, external or internal adversaries and why?

8. Read 1 Kings 11:29-43. Summarize the encounter Jeroboam has with the Shilonite prophet named Ahijah recorded in verses 29-36.

Why did the Lord take ten tribes of Israel away from Solomon and give them to Jeroboam?

For what reason would one tribe remain with Solomon and eventually his son, Rehoboam who was crowned as Solomon's successor to the throne?

9. According to 1 Kings 11:37-40, what were the conditions for God to fulfill His promise of success to Jeroboam?

10. What should have been Solomon's correct response to God's warnings and discipline? Look at Acts 3:19 and 2 Corinthians 7:10 for insight.

11. We have learned King Solomon was a wise man whose disobedient and divided heart ultimately led to his downfall. In what ways can you guard against this being said about you at the end of your life?

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.