

Lesson 9 - 1 Kings 9:10-11:43

When the construction of the Temple was completed in Jerusalem, Solomon gathered all the leaders of Israel and Judah in the city to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple. The majority of 1 Kings 8 is a record of Solomon's prayer and blessing as he stood before the Temple. The chapter concludes with the king hosting a feast to commemorate the event. The beginning of Chapter 9, includes the LORD reaching out to Solomon, once again, to confirm that ***the blessings of the LORD are conditional*** on both Solomon and his people following the Commandments and refraining from worship of other gods.

1. **Read 1 Kings 9:10- 14. Share any footnotes you find helpful or interesting with your group.**
 - a. **These verses describe a business transaction between King Hiram and Solomon. What are they trading?**
 - b. **According to 2 Chronicles 8, Hiram returned the cities to Solomon. Read excerpts from 2 Chronicles here. Reflection: Why might Hiram, (Hiram), have been dissatisfied with these cities? 2 Chron 8: 2, 5, 7-9:**

“[Solomon] built up the cities which Hiram had given back to him, and settled Israelites there.⁵ He built Upper Beth-horon and Lower Beth-horon, fortified cities with walls, gates,”
2. **Read 1 Kings 9:15-25 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.**
 - a. **Solomon continues his building projects. What does he build in these verses?**
 - b. **It is now more twenty years since he began building the Temple. Where does King Solomon's labor force come from according to these verses?**
 - c. **Read Deuteronomy 20:16-17: “In the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the LORD your God has commanded” Were the Israelites supposed to enslave these people? Why might this anger the LORD?**
3. **Read 1 Kings 9:26-28 and footnotes.**
 - a. **In spite of Hiram's dissatisfaction with the cities earlier in this chapter, is the relationship between Hiram and Solomon still a good one?**
 - b. **How are the two kings collaborating in these verses?**
4. **Read I Kings 10:1-13 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.**
 - a. **Why did the Queen of Sheeba visit King Solomon?**
 - b. **How important is the interaction of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheeba in terms of interfaith dialogue? (See 10:9)**

- c. Why does the *Queen of Sheeba* believe Solomon was placed on the throne?
 - d. See 1 Kings 10:10 and 1 Kings 10:13. What gifts do Solomon and the Queen exchange?
5. Read 1 Kings 10:14-29 and footnotes. Solomon is at the height of his power. Most of this section is designed to focus on Solomon's riches.
- a. Which of the items here seem excessive?
 - b. Would shields made of gold be practical?
6. Read 1 Kings 11: 1-13 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.
How many wives did Solomon have? How many concubines?
7. Read Deuteronomy 7:3-4 here. "You shall not intermarry with them, neither giving your daughters to their sons nor taking their daughters for your sons. ⁴ For they would turn your sons from following me to serving other gods, and then the anger of the Lord would flare up against you and he would quickly destroy you."

Read also Ezra 10:10 ¹⁰ Then Ezra, the priest, stood up and said to them: "Your apostasy in taking foreign women as wives has added to Israel's guilt. ¹¹ But now, give praise to the Lord, the God of your ancestors, and do his will: separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign women." (Ezra is addressing the Israelites who are returning from exile in Babylon)

What was the reason for forbidding inter-faith marriages for Israel?

8. In 1 Kings 11:4-8, what has Solomon done, in these verses that is "evil in the sight of the LORD"?
- a. In 1 Kings 11:9-13 what is the *consequence* for not following the commandments of the LORD for King Solomon?
 - b. How does the LORD show compassion for Solomon and his father, David?
9. Read 1 Kings 11:14-25 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.
- a. Who are Hadad the Edomite and his son, Genubath?
 - b. Who is Rezon?
10. Read 1 Kings 11:26-40 and footnotes. Share any footnotes that are interesting.
- a. Who is Jeroboam?
 - b. What is the prophecy of the prophet Ahijah?
 - c. Why did the LORD choose *not* to divide the kingdom during Solomon's life?
11. Reflection: How can we remain faithful to God when faced with temptations and influences like Solomon?
12. Reflection: What lessons do we learn from the story of Solomon's life?