

“If the Lord be God follow Him” & Endure to The End

Come Follow Me

“Saul, David, and Solomon, the first three kings of Israel, all started out with so much promise. Humble, courageous, and wise, they each found favor with the Lord—at least at first. Sadly, each king also gave in to human weaknesses and temptation. They put their own desires before the Lord’s. And as we’ve seen over and over in the scriptures—and in our own lives—that led to tragedy.”

2 Samuel 11:1-5 - Being in the wrong place at the wrong time

1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent [Joab](#), and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

2 ¶ And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king’s house: and from the roof he [saw](#) a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to [look](#) upon.

3 And David sent and inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this [Bath-sheba](#), the daughter of Eliam, the wife of [Uriah](#) the Hittite?

4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he [lay](#) with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

[2 Samuel 12:1–10](#) - Nathan warns David with a parable of the poor man's lamb

7 ¶ And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I [anointed](#) thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

8 And I gave thee thy master’s house, and thy master’s wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

9 Wherefore hast thou [despised](#) the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight? thou hast [killed Uriah](#) the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his [wife](#) to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast [despised](#) me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

2 Samuel 14:25-26 Absalom

25 ¶ But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

26 And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year’s end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king’s weight.

2 Samuel 18:9 - Absalom meets beauty betrays him

9 ¶ And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

1 Kings 2:3-4 - David Counsels Solomon to follow the Lord

3 And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to [walk](#) in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his [commandments](#), and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest [prosper](#) in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

4 That the Lord may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy [children](#) take [heed](#) to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their [heart](#) and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the [throne](#) of Israel.

1 Kings 3:16-28 - Two mothers one baby

28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the [wisdom](#) of God was in him, to do judgment.

1 Kings 4:29-31- Solomon's Wisdom and Prosperity exceed all

29 ¶ And God [gave](#) Solomon [wisdom](#) and [understanding](#) exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

31 For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.

1 Kings 8:60-61 - Temple Dedicatory Prayer - Keep God in your heart

60 That all the people of the earth may [know](#) that the Lord is [God](#), and that there is [none](#) else.

61 Let your [heart](#) therefore be [perfect](#) with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

1 Kings 9:2-5 - God covenants with Solomon and warns him not to go astray

2 That the Lord [appeared](#) to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at [Gibeon](#).

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.

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:

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.

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:

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:

1 Kings 11:1-12 - The kingdom is taken from Solomon - Must endure to the end

1 But king [Solomon](#) loved many [strange women](#), together with the [daughter](#) of [Pharaoh](#), women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

2 Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will [turn away](#) your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his [wives](#) turned away his heart.

4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his [wives](#) turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, [as was the heart](#) of David his father.

5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

6 And [Solomon](#) did evil in the sight of the Lord, [and](#) went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father.

7 Then did Solomon build an high place for [Chemosh](#), the abomination of Moab, in the [hill](#) that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

9 ¶ And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was [turned](#) from the Lord God of Israel, which had [appeared](#) unto him twice,

10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after [other](#) gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded.

11 Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my [covenant](#) and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the [kingdom](#) from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.

1 Kings 12:1-14 - Rehoboam - Wicked Kings seek their will above all else

1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

6 ¶ And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

12 ¶ So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

Come Follow Me - The condition of the people and the Kingdom

"The house of Israel was in disarray. The kingdom had divided, with ten tribes forming the Northern Kingdom of Israel and two tribes forming the Southern Kingdom of Judah. But worse than their separation from each other was both kingdoms' separation from their covenants. Wicked kings led the people away from the Lord, and many people wavered in their faith."

Matthew 20:26-28 - Christlike leaders serve others

26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Qualifying for the Lord's blessings requires faith and sacrifice

[1 Kings 17:8-16](#) - The Faith of a Widow

8 ¶ And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying,

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

12 And she said, As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah.

Famine in the land leads people to worship Baal, the God of Rain rather than God

1 Kings 18:17-18, 21-22 - Elijah testifies and counsels them to choose the one true God

17 ¶ And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

18 And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

1 Kings 19:36-40 - Baal's power is tested, God's power is manifest

36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.

40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

If we need or require miracles our hearts are already past feeling the Lord

1 Kings 19:12 - Elijah is taught how to hear & trust God - The world speaks louder than the spirit

9 ¶ And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they [seek](#) my life, to take it away.

11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake:

12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a [still](#) small [voice](#).

Helaman 5:30

30 And it came to pass when they heard this voice, and beheld that it was not a voice of thunder, neither was it a voice of a great tumultuous noise, but behold, it was a still voice of perfect mildness, as if it had been a whisper, and it did pierce even to the very soul