I Kings 9-10

Review…

- **Dedicating the Temple…**
  - Solomon assembled the whole nation for the dedication…
    - He waited 11 months – till the feast of Tabernacles – on the year of Jubilee…
    - All Israel gathered to celebrate their deliverance from Egypt / freedom from debt…
    - And the completion of the House of God – the festival lasted for a full two weeks!
  - The Ark of the Covenant was brought into the Holy of Holies…
    - Then the Glory of the Lord filled the Temple – forcing everyone to go outside…
    - Solomon turned to the people and told them – there is no God like our God…
    - He is faithful to keep all His promises – everything He says is true!
  - The Solomon prayed – asking God to listen to prayers made towards the Temple…
    - If the people had sinned - and were taken away in captivity / or God sent a famine…
    - But then repented and turned towards the Temple – God hear their prayers…
    - Solomon finished his prayer and offered countless peace offerings to the Lord!

The wealth of Solomon… (*3 things*)

- **1st – God appeared to Solomon in a dream a 2nd time… vs. 1-9** Read: I Kings 9:1-9
  - 1st – When Solomon finished the Temple and his Palace - God gave him a 2nd dream… vs. 1
    - God told Solomon He had heard his prayer – **I Kings 8**...
      - It had been over 15 years since Solomon first had the dream in Gibeon…
      - That is a LONG time to go without hearing anything from the Lord…
      - We often get the impression that people in the Bible heard from God every day…
      - Every time they went to prayer – God was quick to send His answer…
      - It turns out that is not true – there were often YEARS in between hearing from God…
      - It may only be a couple of chapters for us – it was often decades for them!
    - If it seems like God is not answering our prayers – we should check out heart…
      - Sin can keep us from hearing from the Lord – leaves prayers unanswered…
      - Our prayers hit the ceiling of our sin - and we end up talking to ourselves!
      - **Psalm 66:18** – "If I had… sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened."

- But just because God does not answer right away – does not mean He is not listening…
  - **I Peter 3:12** – "The Lords… ears are open to the prayers of those who do right."
  - Often we give up praying because we do not get a quick answer…
  - We are not to simply pray once – we are to be praying – **I Thessalonians 5:17**
  - So often we miss God's answer simply because we stop asking!
  - God has a book where He records every time we talk about Him – **Malachi 1:16**
  - The Lord is listening – we just need to be patient and wait for his answer!

- 2nd – God accepted the Temple as His own – He would watch over it… vs. 2-9
  - And if Solomon would follow His commands – as his father David did…
    - Then God would establish his dynasty over the nation of Israel forever!
      - God did not say if Solomon 'continued' to follow – but if Solomon 'would' follow…
      - This was not the beginning of the Solomon's reign – he had been King for years…
      - The suggestion is Solomon was now following the Lord – and needed to repent!
    - Solomon certainly had all the outward appearance of following God…
      - He built the Temple – he prayed beautiful prayers in public…
      - He gave countless amounts of riches / silver / and gold – to the Lord…
      - But in spite of the outward appearance – his heart was not dedicated to God!
      - **I Samuel 16:7** - "People judge by outward appearance, the LORD looks at the heart."
      - IF someone has a good 'Christian smile' – we tend to think they love the Lord…
      - But loving God is not about the outside – it is about the heart…
      - Even if we fool everyone else – there is no fooling the Lord – He sees the heart!
      - If we are wondering where our walk with the Lord is - examine ourselves...
      - Stand in the light of Christ and be honest about what is in our hearts...
      - **I John 1:7** - "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
  - If Solomon or his sons abandoned the Lord – worshiped other gods…
    - Then God would reject the Temple – and let it be completely destroyed…
      - The Temple was impressive now – but people would stand amazed at its ruins!
      - People would ask what happened – the answer - Israel rejected their God!
    - Solomon's Temple stood for almost 400 years – through 20 kings of Israel…
      - But ultimately the kings of Israel and the people – did abandon the Lord…
      - So in 587 B.C. God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to destroy it…
      - God was done with their divided hearts – so He kicked them out of the Land!
    - We cannot live our lives with a divided heart - living for God and for the world!
      - We end up lukewarm - knowing the right answers - but living for the world...
      - **Revelation 3:15-16** - "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, I will spit you out of my mouth!"
      - I have met so many believers who are miserable – there is no joy in their lives…
      - They have too much love for the world – to be happy in the Lord…

        - The problem is they think the world has something to offer them…
        - Yet every time they try to 'have fun' the Holy Spirit is there to convict them…
        - So they are not happy in the world – cause they know too much about the Lord…
        - They are miserable wherever they are – because they are divided in their heart!
    - God rejected the Temple – but He never rejected Israel…
        - God promised to the nation of Israel would always be His people…
        - **Jeremiah 31:36** - "I am as likely to reject my people Israel as I am to do away with the laws of nature!"
        - As long as the sun rises – waves crash on the seashore – Israel is God's nation!
        - Even thought they were hard – and abandoned God – God did not abandon them!
        - That should bring great comfort to our hearts – cause no matter how bad we get…
        - Like the parable of the 'Lost sheep' – **Matthew 18:12** – God never gives up on us…
        - But Jesus is never ever farther away than turning around (*repentance*)
        - He is always looking for us when we wander – waiting for us to come home!
- **2ND – PAYING FOR THE TEMPLE / PALACE… VS. 10-28** READ: I KINGS 9:10-14
    - 1st – After 20 years of building – Solomon had a lot of bills to pay… vs. 10-15
        - King Hiram had given Solomon Cyprus trees and 4500kg of Gold (*9 billion pesos*)…
            - So in return Solomon gave him 20 cities near the Sea of Galilee…
            - But when King Hiram went to look at the cities – he was not happy at all…
            - He called them 'Cabul' – which literally means worthless!
            - Not that they were worth nothing – just nothing compared to what he had given!
            - In the end Solomon had to heavily tax the people to pay back the loan!
        - The problem with loaning money – is we never have enough to pay it back…
            - Have you ever noticed how easily it is to get people to loan you money…
            - If you want to draw from your pension - or get a 5/6 from dungganon – no problem…
            - Because the moment you take their money – they own you!
            - **Proverbs 22:7** – "The rich rules over the poor, the borrower a slave to the lender."
            - It does not help to borrow money - especially with interest - it sinks us!
            - If we borrow for food today – how are we going to pay for our food tomorrow…
            - We still have no money – and now we are in debt – we dig a ditch we cannot get out of!
            - **Romans 13:8 –** "Owe no one anything except to love one another..."
    - 2nd – It was not just the Temple and the Palace Solomon built… vs. 16-23 / 26-28
        - Solomon also built a huge wall around Jerusalem to protect the city from attack…
            - He filled the 'Milo' – the name of a large valley he filled in to build his palace on top…
            - He also built up cities all over Israel - Hazor / Megiddo / and Gezer…
            - Solomon loved to build – and he built to his hearts content – but it was EXPENSIVE!
        - There were still some nations in the Land unconquered from the time of Joshua…
            - Solomon forced them to be slave laborers to help cut the cost of building…
            - He even built a fleet of ships in the Red Sea - to go out in search of more riches…
            - Every 3 years they brought 16T gold / rare wood / and monkeys from Africa / India…

- Even though Solomon had A LOT of money – it was not enough – he spent more…
  - I have listened to people complain they have no money…
  - Then they getter a 'better job' – earning a LOT MORE money…
  - But it seems that the more we earn – the more we spend…
  - **Haggai 1:6** - "Wages disappear as though putting them in pockets filled with holes."
  - The funny thing about money – is no matter how much we have – it is not enough…
  - The greater blessing is to learn to live off our income / live within our means!
- 3rd – Solomon would go to the Temple to offer sacrifices 3 times a year… vs. 24-25
  - The three required feasts of Israel – Passover / Pentecost / Tabernacles…
    - Meaning Solomon only did what was required – there was very little time for God…
    - He was too busy running around trying to make money / and spend it!
  - The pursuit of money / paying off loans – sucks up a LOT of time…
    - We miss Sunday service – because we are out in the field / watching the store…
    - We have no time for our Bible / prayer – because we are earning more money!
    - If we always chase after money – we will find we have very little time left for God…
    - Instead be content with food and clothing - **I Timothy 6:8** / our wages - **Luke 3:14**...
    - **Hebrews 13:5** – "Do not covet - be content with such things as you have."
    - Learn to be content as we experience that nothing in life satisfies us but Jesus!
    - **Philippians 4:11** – "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content..."
- **3RD – THE QUEEN OF SHEBA HEARD OF THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON… VS. 1-29** READ: I KINGS 10:1-7
  - 1st – She came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions… vs. 1-13
    - She arrived from the South (*perhaps Ethiopia or Arabia*) with a large group…
      - She came with a caravan of camels carrying spices / a LOT of gold / and gems…
      - Solomon was able to answer ALL of her questions – on any subject…
      - And when she saw the amount of food on his table / the beauty of his palace…
      - She was breathless – she had not believed what she had heard about Solomon…
      - But it turned out it was all true – in fact she had only heard the half of it!
    - How happy Israel must be – to have a wise King ruling over them…
      - The Lord must love Israel – to make a just King like Solomon rule His people!
      - The people of Israel did love the prosperity they had under Solomon…
      - But that prosperity masked an underlying problem – moral bankruptcy…
    - The queen gave 5 tons of Gold to Solomon / gems / and countless spices…
      - In return Solomon gave the Queen anything she desired before she left…
      - There is an interesting story from ancient Ethiopian legend…
      - Suggesting Solomon and the queen became more than just friends…
      - And when she left she also took with her the gift of a son!
      - When we are lacking - we often pray for God to provide for our needs...
      - But if there is not a need - we rarely take the time to seek the Lord...
      - The easier life becomes - the harder it is for us to depend on the Jesus!
      - In our prosperity we spend less time with God - and forget all He did for us...
      - And when we forget God – it is easy to fall into the many temptation of life!

- 2nd – The great wealth of Solomon… vs. 14-29
  - Solomon received about 25 tons of Gold every year…
    - The King used it to make 200 large shields – each weighing 7kg (*14 million pesos*)…
    - He also made 300 smaller shields – each weighing 2kg (*4 million pesos*)…
    - He hung them up as DECORATION in his palace – the 'Forest of Lebanon'
    - King Solomon also made a great ivory throne – overlaid in pure gold…
    - All of the drinking cups Solomon used were made out of pure gold…
    - Nothing was made from silver – because it was considered as worthless as rocks!
  - Solomon became richer and wiser than any other King on earth…
    - But for all of his wisdom – he did not follow the commands of God…
    - Solomon added horses – from Egypt – buying them by the thousands…
    - But the King was not to add horses – especially from Egypt – **Deuteronomy 17:16**
  - Solomon had it all in this life – all the riches / prosperity he could want...
    - If we are honest – we are jealous – we would love to have the riches of Solomon…
    - Who would not choose to have fabulous wealth if given the choice…
    - IF - this life was all there was - IF we did not have to think about eternity...
    - But life is not about how much money we have – or how much stuff we can buy…
    - Life is a gift - with only one purpose - it gives us the opportunity to make a choice...
    - Where will we go when our time here on earth is up - where will we spend eternity!
    - Sadly many choose to 'enjoy' the couple years of riches this life offers to us...
    - Rather than invest in the eternity of riches God has prepared for us in heaven...
    - But nothing this world can offer is worth an eternity separated from God!