

II CHRONICLES 8-9

REVIEW...

- **THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE**
 - Solomon assembled the whole nation for the dedication of the Temple...
 - 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...
 - When Solomon finished - and sent everyone home - God gave him a 2nd dream...
 - It was the responsibility of God's people - the believers - to humble themselves and pray...
 - If they did - He would hear - and He would heal their Land!
 - And if Solomon would follow His commands – God would establish his dynasty...
 - But if Solomon or his sons abandoned the Lord – God would reject the Temple!

THE FALL OF SOLOMON... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST – PAYING FOR THE TEMPLE / PALACE... vs. 1-18 READ: II CHRONICLES 8:1-18**
 - 1st – After 20 years of building – Solomon had a lot of bills to pay... vs. 1-2
 - King Hiram had given Solomon Cyprus trees and 9000lbs of Gold (\$450 million)...
 - 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 - **I Kings 9:1**
 - They were worthless in comparison to what he had given - so he gave them back...
 - 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...
 - 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 money today – we will have even less 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. 3-11 / 17-18
 - He built cities all over Israel - anywhere he wanted - because Solomon loved to build...
 - But the problem with all his building projects - they were 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 and 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 get 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!
 - **Hebrews 13:5** - "Do not covet - be content with such things as you have."
- o 3rd - Solomon made an alliance with Egypt... vs. 11-16
 - As part of the treaty he married the daughter of Pharaoh...
 - It has long been a common practice to marry – as part of making a peace treaty...
 - Then the other nation is far less likely to attack you – you are family...
 - Solomon brought her to live in the City of David – but she did not stay...
 - The daughter of Pharaoh was not a believer – and did not want to follow God...
 - Solomon would not let her live in the House of David - because it was Holy!
 - Solomon did have the priests offer the required sacrifices to the Lord...
 - Yet Solomon would go to the Temple to offer sacrifices 3 times a year - **I Kings 9:25**
 - The three required feasts of Israel – Passover / Pentecost / Tabernacles...
 - Meaning Solomon only did what was required – there was very little time for God...
 - Solomon was more concerned about money / politics than spending time with the Lord!
 - There are so many distractions in this life that seem to always vie for attention...
 - Some of those things can even be good - politics - providing for our family...
 - But we need to be careful not to miss the ONLY thing that is necessary...
 - To take the time to sit at the feet of Jesus - He is the most important thing!
 - **Luke 10:41** - "You are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed..."
- 2ND – THE QUEEN OF SHEBA HEARD OF THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON... vs. 1-28 **READ: II CHRONICLES 9:1-31**
 - o 1st – She came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions... vs. 1-12
 - She arrived from the South (*perhaps Ethiopia or Arabia*) with a large group...
 - She came with a caravan of camels carrying a LOT of 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!
 - She told Solomon - 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 lead His people!
 - The people of Israel did love the prosperity they had under Solomon...
 - But that prosperity masked an underlying problem – moral bankruptcy!
 - Solomon gave the Queen anything she desired before she left...
 - There is an Ethiopian legend suggesting Solomon and the queen were more than 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 temptations of life!
 - o 2nd – The great wealth of Solomon... vs. 13-28

- Solomon received about 25 tons (666 *talents*) of Gold every year...
 - The King used it to make 200 large shields – each weighing 14lbs (\$250k each)...
 - He also made 300 smaller shields – each weighing 2kg (\$160k each)...
 - 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!
 - **Matthew 16:26** - “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
- **3RD – THE REST OF THE ACTS OF SOLOMON... vs. 29-31**
 - 1ST - There is quite a bit not mentioned about Solomon in II Chronicles...
 - But we are told they are recorded in Book of Nathan / Prophecy of Ahijah / visions of Iddo...
 - We do not have any of these books - but we do have the record of **I Kings 11**...
 - We read about Jeroboam - a hard working / smart servant of Solomon...
 - He was hired by Solomon to oversee some of the building projects in Jerusalem...
 - Solomon had incurred a lot of debt – so the people paid high taxes / overworked...
 - The people grew bitter towards the government / and towards Solomon...
 - So Jeroboam became the head of the Liberals – the revolution to overthrow the king!
 - The Prophet Ahijah came secretly to Jeroboam...
 - He took his new cloak and tore it into 12 parts – told Jeroboam to take 10 pieces...
 - Because God was going to take the Kingdom from Solomon and give it to him...
 - But not all of Israel – only 10 of the tribes would follow Jeroboam...
 - Jerusalem would continue to be ruled by the dynasty of King David...
 - Solomon had sinned – but God still had a plan for the line of David – Jesus!
 - Solomon found out and tried to kill Jeroboam – but he fled to Egypt!
 - Yet God would divide the nation in two - tearing 10 tribes away from the son of Solomon!
 - 2ND – God divided the nation because Solomon married foreign wives - **I Kings 11:1-2**
 - Solomon married women from nations God had forbidden Israel to intermingle with...
 - From the daughter of Pharaoh (*Egypt*) – to women from Moab / Edom / Ammon...
 - **Joshua 23:12-13** – “If you turn away from him and intermarry with... these nations... then know for certain that... they will be a snare and a trap to you...”
 - When choosing a spouse – take the time to think about the future...
 - Too often couples are so convinced they are ‘in love’ – they do not stop to think...

- What happens if you marry someone with a different values / faith - **II Corinthians 6:14**
- You might be convinced you can change them – but that is a HUGE gamble...
- More likely you end up in a bad marriage - so find a man or woman who loves the Lord!
- o 3rd – God divided the nation because Solomon had too many wives - **I Kings 11:3**
 - Solomon had 700 wives – and 300 concubines (*mistresses*)...
 - The wives would have been from royal or noble families...
 - He likely married many of them as part of policies alliances with other nations...
 - The concubines would have been common women – of a ‘lower class’...
 - I cannot image that his wives were happy with the arrangement...
 - Why would you want to share your husband with 999 other women!
 - Apparently every time Solomon saw a new beauty – he would fall ‘in love’ again...
 - I imagine the ‘royal weddings’ had to have been an almost monthly event!
 - I find it hard to believe Solomon even remembered the names of all 1000 wives...
 - Much less actually be able to ‘love’ that many women...
 - The problem comes with our description of the word ‘love’ – what do we mean...
 - Some young girl might say that she is ‘in love’ with some young guy...
 - So you ask her about the young man – and find out they have never talked...
 - She is in love with her imagination and his cute face – that is a fairy tail not real!
 - Or a young man falls in love with a young woman – she is all he can think about...
 - But in truth he is thinking all about the wedding night – that is not love it is lust!
 - **I Corinthians 13:4-8** – “Love is patient and kind...”
 - Love – true love – is a choice to dedicate yourself to another person...
 - When they are young and cute – and when they are old and wrinkly...
 - When the sparks fly – and when we have to change poop diapers at 2am...
 - Love means we are willing to sacrifice – putting our spouse first in our life!
 - God’s plan for marriage is for ONE man and ONE woman - **Genesis 1:27/ 2:24**
 - A relationship that is meant to last for a lifetime - ‘let no man separate’...
 - Because marriage is meant to be a picture to help us understand the love of God...
 - God defines His love for us by called us His kids / He calls us His bride!
 - After many years – a lot of marriage can seem to loose their spark / joy...
 - Many men make the mistake of thinking a ‘new woman’ will make them happy...
 - At first it might seem to work – people put on their best faces at first...
 - But over time they find they left one sinner - only to end up with another sinner...
 - The key to a happy marriage – is not to change spouses...
 - The key is to keep Jesus at the center of the marriage – so it lasts a lifetime!
- o 4th – God divided the nation because Solomon turned his heart from God - **I Kings 11:4-8**
 - When Solomon was old – he began to worship the gods of his foreign wives...
 - He even set up an altar on the Mt. of Olives to the god Chemosh / Molech...
 - Molech – God of pleasure and promiscuity - often leading to unwanted children...
 - So Molech was worshiped by sacrificing a child in his red-hot bronze arms...
 - We are not told if Solomon actually took part in these practices...
 - But at the very least he offered incense to these abominations!
 - **Deuteronomy 17:17** – “The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will lead him away from the LORD.”
 - It did not happen in a day – the wives slowly tore Solomon down...
 - Perhaps at first they just did not want to go to the Temple with Solomon...
 - Once that was acceptable – they asked if they could instead worship their own god...

- Eventually they asked if Solomon would just 'go along' with them / not join in...
- But in the end – with his will worn down – Solomon was asked to take part!
- We need to be careful whom we marry / spend our time with...
 - A powerful picture - you cannot have a friendship with an unbeliever...
 - They are not the same as you are - they are going to pull you down!
 - Do not spend all your time with 'friends' and family who do not follow Jesus...
 - Do not seek their counsel or advice - they are not going to point you to the Word...
 - People will either draw you closer to - or father away from Jesus...
 - Surround yourself with godly people - those who encourage your walk in the Lord...
 - **I Corinthians 15:33** - "...bad company corrupts good character."
- o 5th – Since Solomon did not keep the commands of God - **I Kings 11:9-13**
 - God kept His promise to Solomon – to take away the Kingdom...
 - Now was Solomon saved / did he go to heaven - a difficult question to answer...
 - We never read of Solomon repenting – and turning back to the Lord...
 - His name is not mentioned in the 'Hall of Faith' in **Hebrews 11**...
 - But there is a glimmer of hope – perhaps Solomon cried out to God in the end...
 - **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** – "Here is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands for... God will judge us for everything we do..."
 - The grace of God is an amazing thing...
 - Samson is included on the list in **Hebrews 11:32** – and he was no saint!
 - So I would not be surprised to see Solomon in heaven – because of Grace!
 - But why take the risk – why wait till the very last minute to cry out for repentance...
 - Today is the day to repent – **II Corinthians 6:2** - come back to the God of Grace!
 - Do not be like Solomon - make sure you stay close to the Lord...
 - When we stop spending time with a friend – we lose our relationship with them...
 - Our heart can grow distant from the Lord when we do not spend time with Him...
 - As we abide in Jesus - **John 15:4-5** - there is no concern about a hard heart...
 - Spend time with Jesus and you will have no question we are going to heaven!