

Handout: 1 Kings Lesson 4

*In the name of the Lord God, of him who is called the God of Israel, you amassed gold like so much tin, and made silver as common as lead. You abandoned your body to women; you became the slave of your appetites. You stained your honor; you profaned your stock, so bringing retribution on your children and affliction for your folly: the empire split in two, from Ephraim arose a rebel kingdom. But the Lord never goes back on his mercy, never cancels any of his words, will neither deny offspring to his elect nor stamp out the line of the man who loved him. And hence, he has granted a remnant to Jacob and to David a root sprung from him. Sirach [Ecclesiasticus] 47:18-22/19-25*

III. The failures of the reign of King Solomon (9:1-11:43)

- A. Reiteration of the Davidic Covenant (9:1-9)
- B. Disobedience of Solomon to the covenant laws for Israel’s kings (9:10-11:8)
- C. Chastisement of Solomon for breaking the covenant laws (11:99-40)
- D. Death of Solomon (11:41-43)

The condition that would allow an unbroken line of Davidic kings to rule over Israel, for God’s continuing protection of His Temple, and the promised consequences for failure are listed in 1 Kings 9:6-9. There was only one condition: Solomon and his successors must faithfully keep God’s laws and ordinances. Failure to keep the laws outlined in the Ten Commandments and enumerated in the expanded law of the Torah, especially the command not to worship other gods, would result in:

1. Israel being exiled from the land (1 Kng 9:7a).
2. God disowning the Temple (1 Kng 9:7b).
3. Israel being known among the other nations for having deserted Yahweh their God (1 Kng 9:9).

But these failures would not terminate the Davidic covenant that is an eternal covenant.

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 states that the Israelites were forbidden to intermarry with the pagan inhabitants of the land (also see Ex 34:15-16; there was an exception for foreigners who fully converted like Caleb and Ruth).

Leviticus 25:23 states that the land did not belong to Israel or her kings; the land belonged to Yahweh and the Israelites were God’s tenants on the land.

LIMITED POWER OF A KING Deuteronomy 17:14-20	SOLOMON’S FAILURE AS A KING 1 Kings 5:6; 10:14-29
He must not acquire many horses (Dt 17:16a)	Solomon had many horses (1 Kng 5:6; 10:26)
He must not send to Egypt to increase the power of his army (Dt 17:16b)	Solomon imported a chariot from Egypt and built up a force of chariots and cavalry (1 Kng 10:26-29)
He must not have many wives (Dt 17:17a)	Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kng 11:3)
He must not acquire vast quantities of wealth (Dt 17:17b)	The weight of gold received annually by Solomon amounted to 666 talents of gold (1 Kng 10:14)
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