

Life-Study of 1 and 2 Kings Summaries - Messages 1-6

Introduction

The burden of this life-study can be expressed by four statements:

- (1) David committed the greatest gross sin against God, and God forgave him after his repentance and gave him a son as God's beloved, although God still disciplined him for the sake of His righteousness.
- (2) Solomon insulted God with many idols through his many pagan wives and concubines, and because of this God cut away ten tribes from his kingdom but still left one tribe with him for David to have a lamp in Jerusalem.
- (3) The children of Israel forsook God and went after idols, so God dispersed them into all the nations yet, in His eternal love, would bring them back to their fathers' land in the last days.
- (4) God's being so gracious to David, Solomon, and Israel was to keep the lineage of Christ's genealogy that Christ might come into humanity and to keep a people to possess the land of Emmanuel that Christ may come to establish His kingdom on the earth.

The central thought of the books of Kings is **God's governmental dealing**, in God's economy, with the devastation and ruin of the divine kingship on the earth by the kings and the tragic issue of the just dealing of God, that is, the loss of the holy land, which was the base of God's kingdom on earth, and the capture of the holy people who maintained the lineage of Christ's genealogy.

The Reign of Solomon

Solomon reigned for forty years in Jerusalem. One very positive point concerning Solomon was his **seeking God**. He loved Jehovah and walked in the statutes of David his father. However, he sacrificed and burned incense in the high places. In the Old Testament "high places" is a negative term. In this matter Solomon was **foolish and lacking in vision**. Solomon asked Jehovah to give him **wisdom and an understanding heart** to judge God's people. This request pleased God, and God promised to give him a heart of wisdom and understanding.

Solomon's God-given wisdom made him great in the world in his days. Solomon's wisdom was absolutely in the **physical realm**, without any spiritual element. His wisdom was altogether different from the wisdom of Paul. Paul's wisdom was a **spiritual wisdom** concerning Christ making His home in our hearths, our walking and having our being according to the spirit, and the two spirits—the divine Spirit and the human spirit.

Solomon built the temple of God with his own palaces. **The temple was a type of Christ and also of the Body of Christ**. The temple replaced the tabernacle as God's dwelling on earth. It first signifies the incarnated Christ as God's dwelling on earth. It also signifies the church, including all the believers, the members of Christ, as the enlargement of Christ to be God's dwelling on the earth.

1 Kings 8:22-53 are a record of Solomon's prayer. In his prayer, Solomon prayed for seven conditions, the last of which was concerning the future captivity of God's people. In the last condition, three things are stressed: **the holy land, the holy city, and the holy temple**. These three things are the three **crucial** things regarding God's economy. They are all types of Christ. **Today, our prayers should be aimed at the holy land, city, and temple**. This means that our prayers should be aimed at the interest of God, that is, at Christ and the church as God's interests on earth. To pray properly, we must pray to God in the name of the Lord Jesus, aiming at God's interest for His economy. (Life-Study of 1 and 2 Kings – Messages 1-6).