

Life-Study of 1 and 2 Kings Summaries - Messages 7-11

The Tragedy of Israel's History

Solomon's fall was in his **indulgence of his lust** by loving many foreign women, in addition to Pharaoh's daughter. Solomon's fall was also in his **forsaking God**, who appeared to him twice, and in worshipping the Gentile idols through the seducing of the foreign women he loved. As a result of Solomon's fall, **God's chastisement came in**.

The **division of the kingdom of Israel** was due to the fall and corruption of Solomon. The kingdom of God's elect was split into two. **Judah was genuine**, but Israel was a division in **apostasy**. The reign of Rehoboam over Judah was a reign over just one tribe. The division of the kingdom and the loss of ten tribes were caused by Jeroboam's rebellion. Jeroboam made **two calves of gold**, putting one in Bethel and the other in Dan, in order to distract his people from worshipping God in Jerusalem. He built a **temple at the high places** and appointed **common people to be priests**. He ordained a **feast like the feast that was in Judah** and **offered sacrifices on the altar at Bethel to the calves he had made**. Finally, Jeroboam ordained a feast for the children of Israel and went up to the altar to burn incense. The apostasy of Jeroboam in the five items could be considered a type of the **apostasy of today's Christianity**.

For David's sake Jehovah gave David a lamp in Jerusalem, raising up his son after him and establishing Jerusalem. Jehovah did this because David was upright in the sight of Jehovah, not turning aside from anything that Jehovah had commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

The Reign of Ahab over Israel

1 Kings chapters 16-22 shows us the reign of Ahab over Israel. Ahab did what was evil in the sight of Jehovah more than all who were before him. In the days of Ahab, Jericho was rebuilt, and this brought in the curse to them as Joshua had prophesied.

What we are, what we desire, what we intend to do, what we want, and how we behave ourselves have very much to do with our **enjoyment of Christ**. We must learn to be watchful and careful in taking care of the enjoyment of Christ. We should not try to be today's Elijah. Rather, **we should endeavour to be today's Paul**. Paul could declare that he had been crucified with Christ and that he lived no longer but Christ lived in him. He could also say that he magnified Christ and lived Christ, even in prison, through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Our life today should be like this. Elijah ran away in fear because, unlike Paul, he did not have the **Triune God wrought into him**. (Life-Study of 1 and 2 Kings – Messages 7-11).