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## 1-2 Kings

## Study Notes

### Lesson 5 - 1 Kings 9:10-11:43

#### Introduction

In our pursuit of a life lived for God we can run into all sorts of challenges and roadblocks that may steer us in the wrong direction. In our study we will see the various challenges that Solomon faced as he embarks on his journey as king of Israel and how his choices and decisions affect his future and that of God's people.

#### Review

In our previous study (1 Kings 5:1-9:9) we learned a great deal about Solomon and the manner in which God blessed him and the nation of Israel under his care. We took special care to notice the role of the temple and specifically that of the ark of the covenant.

- What does this say about the relationship of Israel and the God who chose her?
- Name one or two things learned about wisdom in the life of a believer.

#### Study Questions

1. In chapters 9-11, how well does Solomon continue to make use of the wisdom God has given him? (Indicate the passages that shape your answer).
2. In the remainder of chapter 9 (vs.10-28), the account of Solomon's activity after the construction of the temple and his palace picks up on several themes from chapter 5 - particularly his treaty with Hiram and his use of forced labour. As you read this portion of the text, do you sense any hints of imperfection or suspicion regarding Solomon's character?
3. In chapter 10 we have facts concerning Solomon's wealth repeated from chapters 3 and 4. Why do you think this is done by the author?
4. Why did the Queen of Sheba visit Solomon (10:1)? What was her impression of the God of Israel as a result of seeing Solomon's wealth and experiencing his wisdom?
5. In 10:14-17 are listed some examples of Solomon's wealth (take note of the amount of gold). What do you make of this? What does this say about Solomon and his abilities?

6. What do make of 11:1-8 and Solomons love for foreign women and how this turned his heart away from God? Are there any hints in the first 10 chapters that make this less surprising?
7. In 11:9-43 the Lord responds to Solomon's disobedience by promising to tear his kingdom away from him after his death and by raising up adversaries within his lifetime. How do you see God's judgment of Solomon mitigated with mercy? Consider especially heres 12-13 and 34-39.
8. How would you assess and describe Solomon's relationship with the Lord through these chapters?

**A Lamp in Jerusalem.**<sup>1</sup> In this section (9:11-11:43) and beyond, God's unconditional resolve to preserve the Davidic monarchy despite the rebellion of Israel against it is demonstrated. When God promises to tear the kingdom away from Solomon, he makes the concession that he will leave one tribe to Solomon's line "for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen" (11:13). Later he stipulates he will leave one tribe to Solomon's line "that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put my name" (11:36). . . . The imagery of a burning lamp signals God's unconditional faithfulness to his promises despite the frequent disobedience of his people, directing our expectation to Jesus Christ, the Davidic Messiah who rules "on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore" (Isaiah 9:7)

### Personal Reflection

As we consider the impact of this lesson to our lives, take a moment to consider how the New Testament builds on some of what we have seen thus far.

- What impact do the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:24 and 6:33 have on our understanding of wealth?
- Read Philippians 3:1-14. What significance might this text have concerning our discussions? What does God desire from us? How should this shape our view of the things of this world.
- Spend time in prayer specifically asking God to give you wisdom as you pursue a life pleasing to him.

*Up next. . . The Dividing of the Kingdom - 1 Kings 12-1-14:20.*

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<sup>1</sup> Gavin Ortlund "Knowing the Bible" pg. 31