

Lecture 29- Solomon & His Wisdom: 1 & 2 Kings (II)

And that the LORD may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

1 Kings 2:4

Key Terms

Taking charge, firmly established, “according to the statutes of David,” God’s grace, request & response, problems

Lecture Objectives

- Briefly outline Solomon’s reign, including potential problems
- Identify the issues associated with potential problems and explore implications for life and service today

Preliminary Questions

- In what ways can wealth and prosperity help in our relationship with God? In what ways can they be a hindrance?
- What are some principles that you might identify for the safe use of wealth?

Solomon & His Wisdom: 1 & 2 Kings (II)

I. Solomon’s Great Gain (1 Kings 1)

II. Solomon Takes Charge (1 Kings 2) (cont.)

* Adonijah

* Joab

* Abiathar

* Shimei

* 1 Kings 2:46 “The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon’s hands.”

* 1 Kings 2:12 “very firmly established”

* “In the hand of Solomon” or “by the hand of Solomon”

III. God’s First Appearance to Solomon (1 Kings 3)

A. Solomon’s state as chapter 3 opens (verses 1-3)

1. Pharaoh’s daughter

a. Deut. 7:3

b. Deut. 17:16

2. The sacrifices of the people

a. Deut. 12:1ff

3. Solomon walks according to the statutes of David

“Solomon loved the Lord enough to walk according to the statutes of his father David.”

4. Solomon goes to Gibeon

a. Joshua 9:22-27

Is Solomon worshipping false gods?

What is the general spiritual condition of Solomon, given these initial verses?

B. God’s grace to one in need

1. Solomon is aware of his need

2. His own wisdom has failed (blood on his hands)

Can we compare Solomon's wisdom to David's wisdom in 1 Samuel 27:1?

3. God is gracious to Solomon even after he has blown it.

C. Solomon's request

1. "Discerning heart" = discerning mind
2. God is pleased because it is not a selfish request.
3. Is there another request which would have been better?
4. It is one thing to be competent; it is another thing to be true to God.

Illustration: Rudy

2 Chronicles 1:3 mentions the tabernacle being in Gibeon. Does this give Solomon a reason to be there?

D. God's response

1. God blessed him with more than he asked.
2. Beware: blessings can become snares to us.

Does 1 Kings 3:28 match with the pattern of demonstrating himself to be king?

What blessings in your own life can be (or are) snares for you in your walk with God?

IV. Solomon's Glorious "Ministry" and Building Projects (1 Kings 4-8)

A. Problems: 1 Kings 4:20ff

1. Prosperity (4:20-25)

A Domestic prosperity (v. 20)

B Foreign security (v.21)

C Royal luxury (vv. 22-23)

B Foreign security (v. 24)

A Domestic prosperity (v. 25)

The structure raises the question of whether things are out of balance.

Is there a resonance of 1 Samuel 8?

Are some of these lands lands that should have been dispossessed?

2. Horses and taxes (4:26-28)

- a. Deut 17 - forbids storing up chariot horses
- b. I Kings 10:28 - horses from Egypt
- c. District officers - probably for taxation

Would these details have been more obvious to the first readers? Imperceptibility communicates what is happening – faithfulness in little things.

3. Wisdom (4:29-34)

a. Positive

1) Derek Kidner - our faith should address all of life

2) Pietism and Humanism shut God into a certain sphere.

b. Negative

B. Proposition: Since good times can breed bad habits, we must beware when God blesses!

1. Since good times can breed carelessness toward God (v. 26)
2. Since good times can breed callousness towards others (v. 27-28)
3. Since good times can breed casualness towards our mission (v. 29-34)

4. Proverbs 27:21 “a man is tested by his praise”

Is Solomon wrong for having the material prosperity he has? What is a biblical attitude toward wealth and possessions?