

Cracks Appear
Solomon's Wealth Wisdom Women and Worship Revisited
1 Kings 9-11; November 20, 2016

Wealth (1 Kings Chapter 10:14-29)

- Originally offered as a blessing along with long life- Chp 3:10-15
- Conditional on the basis that Solomon keep the statutes and commands of the LORD
 - Deuteronomy 17:14-20 "Laws Concerning Kings"
 - Verses 16-17 in particular warn against acquiring many horses, wives and wealth.
 - Long reign for the king and his children is conditional
- Just how wealthy was he?
 - 666 Talents of Gold (in 1 year!) equal to almost 1 billion dollars today
 - 300 gold shields, a gold plated, Ivory throne (decorated with calves and lions)
 - "Silver was not considered as anything in the days of solomon" 10:21
 - Fleet of ships and 1400 Chariots and 12,000 horseman

Wealth-The Cracks

- Multiplies gold and silver for himself (makes money from trade in horses)
- Presents himself as a military power- gold shields, rebuilding fortresses, chariots etc
- Receives gifts in exchange for an audience

Bureaucracy: More money but more problems: 1 kings 9

- Built 2 houses- this required an exchange of money, goods and labor with Hiram king of tyre
 - Forced labor- King Solomon drafted slaves from the Amorites, Hittites Perizzites and Hivites and sent Israelites to work in Lebanon in shifts of 1 month away, 2 months home (10,000 a month!) 5:13
 - 550 officers in charge of work (9:23) and in charge of forced labor was Jeroboam

Wisdom

- A blessing from God (5:29)
- A light to the nations (5:34)

Queen of Sheba Chap 10: 1-13

- Curious about Solomon's wealth and wisdom (his fame has spread!)
- Gives glory to the LORD 10:6-9 (sincere?)

Wisdom- The Cracks

- Is Queen of Sheba impressed for the right reasons? Is the LORD obscured by Solomon's excessive wealth
- Despite his own writings on the subject (Proverbs and Ecclesiastes) Solomon brought down by poor judgement

Women & (false) Worship 11:1-8

- Solomon "loved many foreign women" and had 700 wives, princesses and 300 concubines- this is truly excessive and reminiscent of his excess in other areas
- His blindsighted love leads him to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD and build high places for Ashtoreth, Chemosh and Molech and even make sacrifices to them

Adversaries- Cracks appear from outside and within the Kingdom

- The Lord takes steps to remove the kingdom from Solomon
- Exterior threats

- Hadad the Edomite
 - Rezon
- Interior threats
 - Jeroboam
 - The prophet Ahijah and the garment