

# I KINGS 5-11;

## INTRO

The cracks we saw in Solomon's armor last week

## SUMMARIES OF CHAPTERS

In chapter 5, we see that work begins on the temple. Most of the wood and stone for the temple are supplied by the nation of Tyre. Forced labor was used in the building of the temple. They worked in shifts – one month on and two months off. This is 480 years after the exodus.

### Chapter 6

We have a detailed description of the temple and its dimensions, inside and out. We also have God once again telling Solomon about the blessing and cursings that follow obedience or disobedience.

**1Kings 6:11** Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, <sup>12</sup>

“Concerning this house that you are building, <sup>12</sup>if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, <sup>13</sup>which I spoke to David your father. <sup>13</sup>And <sup>13</sup>I will dwell among the children of Israel <sup>13</sup>and will not forsake my people Israel.”

It is important that we see how this is constantly repeated. It is there for a reason. It is repeated for a reason. I cannot state this with enough emphasis.

In verses 37,38, we are told that it took seven years to build the temple. Remember that.

### Chapter 7

In chapter 7, we are told that it took 13 years to build Solomon's palace – almost twice as long as it took to build the temple. In light of everything else we will see today, that is important. What does it tell you? Think about it.

We then get a detailed description of the palace. A specialist was brought in to make the temple vessels. He was Hiram, from Tyre. The Tyrians were good at this stuff. By the end of the chapter, we see that everything is being placed in the temple.

### Chapter 8

The temple is now being dedicated. Let's read the dedicatory prayer.

*1Kings 8:12* <sup>7</sup>Then Solomon said, "The LORD<sup>d</sup> has said that he would dwell<sup>e</sup> in thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I have indeed built you an exalted house, <sup>14</sup> a place for you to dwell in forever." <sup>14</sup> Then the king turned around and <sup>e</sup>blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. <sup>15</sup> And he said, <sup>d</sup>"Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled <sup>e</sup>what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying, <sup>16</sup> <sup>f</sup>"Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, <sup>e</sup>that my name might be there. <sup>17</sup> <sup>g</sup>But I chose David to be over my people Israel.' <sup>17</sup> <sup>i</sup>Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. <sup>18</sup> But the LORD said to David my father, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart. <sup>19</sup> <sup>j</sup>Nevertheless, you shall not build the house, but your

*son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’<sup>20</sup> Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.<sup>21</sup> And there I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.”*

*1Kings 8:22* Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven,<sup>23</sup> and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart;<sup>24</sup> you have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.<sup>25</sup> Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’<sup>26</sup> Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father.

*1Kings 8:27* “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!<sup>28</sup> Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day,<sup>29</sup> that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that

*your servant offers toward this place. <sup>30</sup> And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.*

*1Kings 8:31 “If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath and comes and swears his oath before your altar in this house, <sup>32</sup> then hear in heaven and act and judge your servants, condemning the guilty by bringing his conduct on his own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness.*

*1Kings 8:33 “When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and if they turn again to you and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house, <sup>34</sup> then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them again to the land that you gave to their fathers.*

*1Kings 8:35 “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them, <sup>36</sup> then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and grant rain upon your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance.*

*1Kings 8:37 “If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemy besieges them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is, <sup>38</sup> whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and*

*stretching out his hands toward this house,<sup>39</sup> then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (‘for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind),<sup>40</sup> that they may fear you ‘all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.*

*1Kings 8:41 “Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name’s sake<sup>42</sup> (for they shall hear of your great name ‘and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house,<sup>43</sup> hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order ‘that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and ‘fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.*

*1Kings 8:44 “If your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to the LORD ‘toward the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,<sup>45</sup> then hear in heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.*

*1Kings 8:46 “If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive ‘to the land of the enemy, far off or near,<sup>47</sup> yet ‘if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’<sup>48</sup> ‘if they repent with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to*

*you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name, <sup>49</sup> then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause <sup>50</sup> and forgive your people who have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have committed against you, and grant them compassion in the sight of those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them <sup>51</sup> (for they are your people, and your heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace). <sup>52</sup> Let your eyes be open to the plea of your servant and to the plea of your people Israel, giving ear to them whenever they call to you. <sup>53</sup> For you separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be your heritage, as you declared through Moses your servant, when you brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.”*

*1Kings 8:54* *Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven. <sup>55</sup> And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, <sup>56</sup> “Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant. <sup>57</sup> The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, <sup>58</sup> that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. <sup>59</sup> Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires, <sup>60</sup> that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no*

*other. <sup>61</sup> ‘Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.’*

This is a moving prayer. It looks as if Solomon was at the top of his game. I believe he was sincere. Then we are given a list of all the sacrifices that were given at the dedication ceremony.

## Chapter 9

God speaks to Solomon again, reiterating the blessings and cursings - the rewards or consequences of obedience or disobedience.

- Solomon gives Hiram of Tyre, 20 cities in Israel. Hiram’s not impressed with them. Giving away sacred space to a foreigner? IS that bad juju? Is this telling of Solomon’s state of mind?
- In verse 24, we read that Pharaoh’s daughter, Solomon’s wife, moves out of the City of David to the Millo, (citadel).
- Solomon’s wealth and fleet of ships is growing. Israel’s economy is booming!

## Chapter 10

The Queen of Sheba hears of Solomon’s wealth and wisdom. She comes for a visit. She is impressed. They trade all sorts of gifts. We then have an accounting of Solomon’s wealth. Everything is going like gangbusters! He has really got it going on, hasn’t he?

### **Dt. 17: 16 – 20**

**Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’ <sup>17</sup> And**

he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

**Deut. 17:18** “And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. <sup>19</sup> And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, <sup>20</sup> that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

Now, let's look at chapter 11.

**1Kings 11:1** *Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, <sup>2</sup> from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. <sup>3</sup> He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. <sup>4</sup> For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. <sup>5</sup> For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup> So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. <sup>7</sup> Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab,*



*and for <sup>4</sup>Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup> And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.*

*1Kings 11:9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because <sup>4</sup>his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, <sup>5</sup>who had appeared to him twice <sup>10</sup> and <sup>6</sup>had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded. <sup>11</sup> Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, <sup>7</sup>I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. <sup>12</sup> Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. <sup>13</sup> However, <sup>8</sup>I will not tear away all the kingdom, but <sup>9</sup>I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem <sup>4</sup>that I have chosen.”*

Wow! This is bad. We can definitely see that Solomon has gone downhill. And what’s more, we can see that the things that led to his downfall are the very things he was warned against in the Law. Let’s look at what God then does.

*1Kings 11:14 And the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite. He was of the royal house in Edom. <sup>15</sup> For <sup>1</sup>when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army went up to bury the slain, he struck down every male in Edom <sup>16</sup> (for Joab and all Israel remained there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom). <sup>17</sup> But Hadad fled to Egypt, together with certain Edomites of his father’s servants, Hadad still being a little child. <sup>18</sup> They set out from Midian and came to <sup>2</sup>Paran and took men with them from Paran*

*and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and assigned him an allowance of food and gave him land. <sup>19</sup> And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. <sup>20</sup> And the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house. And Genubath was in Pharaoh's house among the sons of Pharaoh. <sup>21</sup> But when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me depart, that I may go to my own country." <sup>22</sup> But Pharaoh said to him, "What have you lacked with me that you are now seeking to go to your own country?" And he said to him, "Only let me depart."*

***1Kings 11:23** God also raised up as an adversary to him, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had fled from his master Hadadezer king of Zobah. <sup>24</sup> And he gathered men about him and became leader of a marauding band, after the killing by David. And they went to Damascus and lived there and made him king in Damascus. <sup>25</sup> He was an adversary of Israel all the days of Solomon, doing harm as Hadad did. And he loathed Israel and reigned over Syria.*

Adversaries: anyone care to guess what that word is in Hebrew? It is satan. These are just men, but it is important to see how the word is used in the context. Now, look at this narrative and pay attention to what is happening.

***1Kings 11:26** Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also lifted up his hand against the king. <sup>27</sup> And this was the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king. Solomon built the Millo, and*

*closed up the breach of the city of David his father. <sup>28</sup> The man Jeroboam was very able, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious he gave him charge over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.*

Jeroboam was industrious and was given a good job in Solomon's administration. Now, look at what happens.

*<sup>29</sup> And at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had dressed himself in a new garment, and the two of them were alone in the open country. <sup>30</sup> Then Ahijah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. <sup>31</sup> And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon and will give you ten tribes <sup>32</sup> (but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), <sup>33</sup> because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and they have not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight and keeping my statutes and my rules, as David his father did. <sup>34</sup> Nevertheless, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, who kept my commandments and my statutes. <sup>35</sup> But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and will give it to you, ten tribes. <sup>36</sup> Yet to his son I will give one tribe, that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put my*

*name. <sup>37</sup> And I will take you, and you shall reign over all that your soul desires, and you shall be king over Israel.*

Enter the prophet. Once again, the prophet acts in God's stead. He prophesies that the kingdom of Israel will split. We will see this actually happen later. But we see God moving in light of all that Solomon has done. What is worse, Solomon's sins have infected the entire nation. All of Israel is guilty of idolatry and all that comes with it. Look at what the prophet then tells Jeroboam. Does it sound familiar?

*<sup>38</sup> And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and I will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. <sup>39</sup> And I will afflict the offspring of David because of this, but not forever. ”” <sup>40</sup> Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.*

Solomon somehow gets wind of all this and seeks to kill Jeroboam. And where does Jeroboam go? He goes to Egypt. Is this a sign of things to come? Is a king supposed to go back to Egypt? No. But we also need to consider that due to the extent of Solomon's kingdom at the time, Jeroboam may not have had much choice – unless, he depended on the God that just told him he would be king. HMMMM

***1Kings 11:41** I Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon? <sup>42</sup> And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all*

*Israel was forty years. <sup>43</sup> And Solomon <sup>s</sup>slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And <sup>h</sup>Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.*

We will soon see that Israel splits into two nations – the nation of Israel, the 10 northern tribes, and the kingdom of Judah, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. The Levites also, for the most part, stay in the south. But either way you slice it, things are going downhill fast. What caused this?

Do you remember last week when we saw Solomon’s blind spots? This is an important lesson. And it is the reason for what we have read today. What began as blind spots, chinks in Solomon’s armor, have now metastasized. A small infection has now gone septic.

What we have read over the past two weeks, spans a time of about 40 years. Solomon’s downfall didn’t happen in one day. In some ways, he may not have been aware of all that was happening. But he was eventually aware of most of it. That is how sin works. It creeps in, finding a weak spot, and the infection begins to grow, if it isn’t dealt with in a timely manner.

And it wasn’t like everything in Solomon’s life began to go to the dogs. From an outsider’s perspective, things were going well. If you were to look at markers like the GDP, tax revenues, the strength and growth of the kingdom, as the borders expanded, things were going great! Israel was becoming a nation with which to be dealt. People were making money, there was peace, the standard of living, as a whole, was increasing. The temple had been built and was functioning. People were offering sacrifices. There was a beautiful palace in town. People could point to all these things with pride. Surely God was on their side. Surely God was blessing all they did. But is that really the case?

God was blessing them in many ways. He was fulfilling the promises He had made to David and in fact to Solomon as well. And that is the point. God was about to fulfill ALL the promises He made, including the ones dealing with blessings and curses. God's Word will not return void.

It is important that we see Solomon's life as a warning to us as individuals, first of all. Things can be going well, and we can interpret that as, "I've got everything under control. Whatever my issues are, they don't seem to be bothering God. He hasn't struck me down with lightning. But that isn't the way to look at it. We have to be on constant guard, concerning not only our actions, but our motives. If not, we can soon find the same slippery slope Solomon found.

You see, sin often works on that slippery slope concept. We allow something into our lives, thinking we can handle it. We may think it won't grab us and that we can quit anytime we want. That is dangerous thinking. Solomon started with one foreign wife, after he went to form an alliance with Egypt. It was the prudent thing to do. That was what all kings did. But it wasn't what God's king was supposed to do. God's king was supposed to rely on God and God alone. One wife led to many. One concubine led to many. One extra expenditure led to a lifestyle that quickly got out of control. And the end result was that, 40 years later, Solomon's life was in ruins and the kingdom was headed that way.

We are also tempted to look at our nation the same way that I'm sure Solomon, the Israelites and the surrounding nations did. They saw prosperity and thought, "Surely all is well in Israel and between them and their God." But that wasn't the case. You can make money doing all the wrong things. Correlation isn't causation.

**1Cor. 5:6** Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that **a little leaven leavens** the whole lump?

Leaven often times represented sin. It is a metaphor for how sin works. It can almost imperceptible, but it swells into and changes the form of whatever, or whomever it inhabits.

In some ways, Solomon never saw it coming, until he did. And then it was too late. Or was it? The sad truth is that all Solomon had to do was to acknowledge his sin, repent and then act upon his revelation. But he didn't.

**Will we follow Solomon, or will we follow Jesus?**