

## 1 KINGS 9:1-9

### A. Introduction

1. In our elders' meetings, we're tracing the story of King Solomon, from his coronation to his burial, as recorded in 1 Kings 1-11.

As well as seeing how he points us to the 'one greater than Solomon', we're going to focus in on what we can learn as elders from his life and particularly his downfall, as we seek to lead those whom God has made us overseers over.

2. In the opening verses of 1 Kings 9, we have a conclusion to the section of 1 Kings where Solomon used the wisdom that God gave him to build the temple.

"When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon." (1 Kings 9:1-2)

The LORD appears to Solomon a second time, and He assures Solomon that his prayer for the people and for the temple had been heard.

"The LORD said to him: I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there for ever. My eyes and my heart will always be there." (1 Kings 9:3)

Everything seems to be going well. Solomon has used the wisdom he had been given by God to rule the people and to build the temple, and his kingdom has prospered.

But when everything is going well it can be very dangerous, and so as well as assuring Solomon that his prayers have been heard, the LORD graciously warns Solomon that if he wants this blessing and prosperity to continue, he needs to remain faithful to God.

Two warnings that God gives to Solomon.

### B. The decisions he makes in the future will affect him

1. Up until this point in his life, Solomon had made almost all the right decisions.

As a result, he had enjoyed God's blessing.

But as his life and his rule continued, God warns Solomon that the decisions he makes and will make in the future will determine whether he will continue to receive God's favour or not.

2. Solomon had a choice to make.

If he chooses to continue to obey God, God would continue to bless him.

"As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws. I will establish your royal throne over Israel for ever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'" (1 Kings 9:4-5)

However, if he (or his sons) choose to disobey God, God would reject them.

"But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name." (1 Kings 9:6-7)

3. All Solomon had to do was remain faithful to God's commands and decrees, and not go off and worship other gods, and he would continue to enjoy God's favour and blessing.

### **C. The decisions he makes in the future will affect others**

1. As the king he sets the standards for the people he ruled.

His faithfulness would lead to their faithfulness and enjoyment of God's blessing.

His disobedience would lead to their disobedience and rejection by God.

2. The decisions he makes in the future would affect God's people.

"But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name." (1 Kings 9:6-7)

It wouldn't just be the king who would be rejected by God, the whole nation would be.

The disaster of God's abandonment would be on a national scale.

3. The decisions he makes in the future would affect unbelievers too.

"Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple? People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them – that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.'" (1 Kings 9:7-9)

Those outside God's people would become aware of their unfaithfulness and have a reason to reject their God.

4. We'll find out in due course if Solomon heeded these warnings.

But we do know that the 'one greater than Solomon' did.

The Lord Jesus never sinned, He lived a perfectly righteous life and died a substitutionary death in obedience to His Father's commands and decrees, and the Father has blessed Him by exalting Him to His right hand and giving Him all authority in heaven and earth.

Jesus' decision to obey meant that He could be the Saviour. Jesus' decision to obey meant that He could save us.

### **D. Application**

1. Whilst as elders we are not kings, the two warnings that God gave to Solomon do apply to us.

The decisions we make in the future will affect not only our relationship with the Lord, but others too.

2. The decisions we make will affect the members of Banstead Community Church's relationship with the Lord.

We can either lead people towards obedience to Jesus or away from it by what we teach and model.

3. The decisions we make will affect the members of Banstead community's relationship with the Lord.

By our actions we can either draw people to the Lord Jesus to hear about what He has done or we can cause people to reject him.