

## 1 KINGS 9:10-28

### 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. 'Solomon in all his glory', the description the Lord Jesus uses in Matthew 6:29, is good way of describing the first half of King Solomon's reign as described in chapters 1 to 9, and recounted here in these final verses recorded for us in 1 Kings 9.

24 years into his 40-year reign, Solomon has accomplished everything he set out to.

He has subdued his rivals, organised the nation, built the temple and himself a palace, made beneficial alliances and given his people rest from war.

24 years into his 40-year reign, Solomon has showed himself faithful to the LORD.

He trusted God to give him the throne, asked for wisdom rather than wealth, saw the temple filled with the glory of God, and had his prayers heard and answered by God.

And here in verses 10 to 28 we have further evidence of the glory of Solomon.

### B. The glory Solomon had

1. Solomon's reign continued to be glorious as he carried on doing what kings do.

He engaged successfully in trade agreements – adding to his wealth.

"At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built these two buildings – the temple of the LORD and the royal palace – King Solomon gave twenty towns in Galilee to Hiram king of Tyre, because Hiram had supplied him with all the cedar and pine and gold he wanted. But when Hiram went from Tyre to see the towns that Solomon had given him, he was not pleased with them. "What kind of towns are these you have given me, my brother?" he asked. And he called the Land of Cabul, a name they have to this day. Now Hiram had sent to the king 120 talents of gold." (1 Kings 9:10-14)

He enlisted a large workforce to complete huge building projects – strengthening the defences of the nation.

"Here is the account of the forced labour King Solomon conscripted to build the LORD's temple, his own palace, the supporting terraces, the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer. (Pharaoh king of Egypt had attacked and captured Gezer. He had set it on fire. He killed its Canaanite inhabitants, and then gave it as a wedding gift to his daughter, Solomon's wife. And Solomon rebuilt Gezer.) He built up Lower Beth Horon, Baalath, and Tadmor in the desert, within his land, as well as all his store cities and the towns for his chariots and for his horses – whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and throughout all the territory he ruled. All the people left from the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites), that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites could not exterminate – these Solomon conscripted for his slave labour force, as it is to this day. But Solomon did not make slaves of any of the Israelites; they were his fighting men, his government officials, his officers, his captains, and the commanders of his chariots and charioteers. They were also the chief officials in charge of Solomon's projects – 550 officials supervising the men who did the work." (1 Kings 9:15-23)

He planted a garden for his bride, in addition to the palace he had built for her.

"After Pharaoh's daughter had come up from the City of David to the palace Solomon had built for her, he constructed the supporting terraces." (1 Kings 9:24)

He continued to be faithful to the covenant by offering the required sacrifices at the Feast of Passover, Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles – setting an example of righteousness for the people to follow.

“Three times a year Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar he had built for the LORD, burning incense before the LORD along with them, and so fulfilled the temple obligations.” (1 Kings 9:25)

He expanded his commercial reach by means of a navy – further increasing his wealth.

“King Solomon also built ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath in Edom, on the shore of the Red Sea. And Hiram sent his men – sailors who knew the sea – to serve in the fleet with Solomon’s men. They sailed to Ophir and brought back 420 talents of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon.” (1 Kings 9:26-28)

## 2. Solomon reign as king of Israel truly was glorious.

He had everything he could have possibly wanted.

But if this was to continue so that both he and the people of Israel enjoyed God’s blessings (such as his provision and his protection), he needed to continue to obey God.

Within the report of all of Solomon’s successes are hints that maybe Solomon wasn’t as faithful as he appeared to be.

### **C. The glory Solomon tainted**

#### 1. Solomon starts to act like Pharaoh.

“So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.” (Exodus 1:11)

He builds cities of storage.

“He built up Lower Beth Horon, Baalath, and Tadmor in the desert, within his land, as well as his store cities and the towns for his chariots and for his horses.” (1 Kings 9:17-19)

He forced foreigners to be his slaves.

“All the people left from the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites), that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites could not exterminate – these Solomon conscripted for his slave labour force, as it is to this day.” (1 Kings 9:20-21)

#### 2. Solomon allows the entrance of Pharaoh’s influence.

“After Pharaoh’s daughter had come up from the City of David to the palace Solomon had built for her, he constructed the supporting terraces.” (1 Kings 9:24)

Pharaoh’s daughter worshipped different gods to the Israelites.

#### 3. Yet there was another king, ‘one greater than Solomon’, whose glory was not tainted.

He is the King who obeyed God all the time and every time.

He is the King who can provide for and protect His people.

He is the King who has planted a garden for His bride live.

Praise God for Him and for His provision for us and His protection of us and the place He is preparing for us.

## **D. Applications**

1. A warning to us about our motivations.

We are to be careful that our desire to see the church grow is so Jesus is glorified, not that we look good because we lead a growing church.

2. A warning to us about how we treat the members of the church.

We are to be careful to make sure we encourage people to serve not coerce or pressurise them into serving.

3. A warning to us about the influences we let into the church.

We are to be careful about who we let speak to the church (from the pulpit) and what church and organisations we partner with.