

1 Kings 9:1-28

God Responds to Solomon's Prayer

1 Kings 9:1-2 - "And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do, That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon."

2 Chronicles 7:12 says this appearance came at night, as it did the first time at Gibeon "in a dream" (**1 Kings 3:5-9**).

This was about 24 years after Solomon became king, and some time - maybe years - after the dedication of the Temple.

God had already displayed his acceptance of the Temple by fire descending and consuming the sacrifices. But now He had something more to say to Solomon.

1 Kings 9:3 - "And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."

God "hallowed" the Temple by occupying it with His presence.

I have heard thy prayer

God loves to answer the prayers of His children.

- **Jeremiah 33:3** - Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

- **Luke 11:9** - And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

If we know God hears our prayer, we know He will answer it according to what is best in His plan and for our benefit.

"mine eyes and mine heart" - God would look with benevolence on the Temple, provided Israel's eyes and heart would be with Him.. The Targum Jonathan explains, "And My Shechinah shall dwell there if My will is done."

1 Kings 9:4-5 - "And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel."

God is repeating the promise He made to David in **2 Samuel 7**.

David had sinned and committed adultery and murder, but he repented, so God looked at him and saw only the integrity and uprightness of his son Jesus.

A Warning

1 Kings 9:6-7 - "But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:"

This harkens back to an earlier warnings in **Leviticus 26** and **Deuteronomy 28**:

- **Leviticus 26:31-32** - "And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savor of your sweet odors. And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it."

1 Kings 9:8-9 - "And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house? And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil."

The rest of the chapter, **verses 10-28**, relay more information about Hiram and Solomon's other accomplishments, showing the extent, riches and power of his kingdom.

The very richness of the kingdom, though, may reveal the beginning of Solomon's downfall. Kings were not supposed to "multiply to themselves silver or gold."

- **Deuteronomy 17:16-17** - "But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold."

Perhaps greed was a precursor opening him up to deception later by his many foreign wives toward idolatry.

Summary

God is reminding Solomon that even though the Temple is a wonderful building, it only has significance because of who lives there. The same with Israel itself. If Israel turns

away from God, it will bring desolation upon itself.

Recall Jesus' statement:

- **Luke 21:5** - "As some of the disciples were remarking how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and consecrated gifts, Jesus said, "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

In one sense, God's warning is simply an expanded repeat of what God told Adam and Eve in the Garden.

- **Genesis 2:16-17** - "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

We will soon see that despite his wisdom, Solomon will in fact be drawn away from God - as were Adam and Eve.

Solomon had said "there is no man that sinneth not." The remedy is repentance.

For Cain, who murdered his brother, God said "if thou doest not well, the sin offering lieth at the door."

We can appropriate the sin offering of Christ through repentance and faith.