

**1 Kings 9**  
**December 1, 2024**

**Open with Prayer**

**HOOK:**

Q: When I consider our class of believers, it is my estimation that all of us have been Christians for many years. So, what do you think God expects from each of us? [Let people engage]

FU Q: If it is clear that we are to be obedient, then what causes us to “wander” from Him from time to time? How do we guard against that? [Let people engage]

**Transition:** In today’s text, God appears to Solomon for the second time. God takes the opportunity to issue a warning to Solomon to remain faithful to Him and His commands. This encounter includes a promise of protection on the condition of Solomon’s faithfulness, but a warning of discipline if Solomon begins to stray from God. (We all know how this will end!) Let’s begin.

**BOOK:**

***The Lord Appears to Solomon***

9 When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, <sup>2</sup> the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. <sup>3</sup> 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 forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

<sup>4</sup> “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, <sup>5</sup> I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’

<sup>6</sup> “But if you (plural) or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you (plural) and go off to serve other gods and worship them, <sup>7</sup> then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. <sup>8</sup> 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?’ <sup>9</sup> People will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.’ ”

*Solomon’s Other Activities*

<sup>10</sup> At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built these two buildings—the temple of the LORD and the royal palace— <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> But when Hiram went from Tyre to see the towns that Solomon had given him, he was not pleased

with them. <sup>13</sup> “What kind of towns are these you have given me, my brother?” he asked. And he called them the Land of Cabul (good-for-nothing) a name they have to this day. <sup>14</sup> Now Hiram had sent to the king 120 talents (4.5 tons) of gold.

<sup>15</sup> Here is the account of the forced labor King Solomon conscripted to build the LORD’s temple, his own palace, the supporting terraces, the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer. <sup>16</sup> (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. <sup>17</sup> And Solomon rebuilt Gezer.) He built up Lower Beth Horon, <sup>18</sup> Baalath, and Tadmor (Tamar) in the desert, within his land, <sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> All the people left from the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites), <sup>21</sup> that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites could not exterminate—these Solomon conscripted for his slave labor force, as it is to this day. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> They were also the chief officials in charge of Solomon’s projects—550 officials supervising the men who did the work.

<sup>24</sup> 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.

<sup>25</sup> Three times a year Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings (peace offerings) on the altar he had built for the LORD, burning incense before the LORD along with them, and so fulfilled the temple obligations.

<sup>26</sup> King Solomon also built ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath in Edom, on the shore of the Red Sea. <sup>27</sup> And Hiram sent his men—sailors who knew the sea—to serve in the fleet with Solomon’s men. <sup>28</sup> They sailed to Ophir and brought back 420 talents (16 tons) of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon.

### **Process Observations/Questions:**

Q: What did you most like about this passage? What resonated with you? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you least like about this passage? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you find in this passage that you didn’t understand? [Let people engage]

Q: What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? [Let people engage]

### **LOOK:**

We can trust the Lord and be confident that He will do what He says He will do. Paul is so confident in God’s promises that he is convinced that nothing can separate us from His love. If we do not cling to Him with a whole heart, our spiritual life will be choked by the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things. God’s promises are certain, so let us be all the more eager to faithfully and confidently pursue Him with a heart of obedience.

### **Close in Prayer**

## **Commentaries for Today's Lesson:**

**Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (1 Kings 9:10-13)*. Victor Books.**

### **II. Dangerous Alliances (9:10–24)**

#### *A. With Hiram (9:10–14).*

We have already seen that Solomon depended on Hiram for the wood and skilled workmen for building the temple (5:1–12). Apparently in later years, Solomon needed more money, so he “borrowed it” from Hiram, giving the twenty cities of Galilee as security. This is the “Galilee of the Gentiles” of Matt. 4:15. When Hiram saw the cities, he considered them “worthless” (which is what “Cabul” means). Second Chronicles 8:1–2 informs us that Hiram had also given some cities to Solomon as part of the transaction. In any event, such alliances with the heathen nations were prohibited by the Law, and they only led Solomon deeper into trouble. See 2 Cor. 6:14–7:1.

#### *B. With Egypt (9:15–24).*

Solomon's marriage to an Egyptian princess was strictly a political move, for he was importing horses and other luxuries from Egypt (10:28–29). To “go back to Egypt” was contrary to God's will for the Jews. “Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help!” cried Isaiah (31:1). By marrying a heathen woman, Solomon was setting a bad example for his nation and unnecessarily involving the people in the affairs of the heathen.

**Constable, C.L. (1985). *1 Kings*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, pp. 505-507) Wheaton, IL: Victor Books**

9:1–3. As God had revealed Himself to **Solomon ... at Gibeon** (3:4–5), so He did again, probably in Jerusalem. First, **the LORD** assured Solomon that He had **heard** his **prayer** of dedication and that He would **always** abide in the **temple** in a special sense. His people could always count on His **eyes** resting on them and His **heart** compassionately responding to their needs as Solomon had requested.

9:4–9. But **the LORD** also warned the king. **If** he would **walk before** God, manifesting attitudes and actions that expressed obedience to the Lord's Word, God would provide an unceasing line of descendants for Solomon who would always rule **over Israel**. **But if** Solomon or any of his descendants did not follow **the LORD** faithfully, but instead turned aside to **worship** and **serve other gods**, then **the LORD** would do two things: remove **Israel from her land** and abandon the **temple**. The Davidic dynasty, though interrupted for centuries starting with the Babylonian Captivity, will be restored by the Messiah when He sits on David's throne in the Millennium (Ps. 89:30–37). This judgment would cause other peoples to marvel at and **ridicule** Israel. **Scoff** (1 Kings 9:8) literally means “whistle in amazement.” People would know that Israel fell because of her idolatry. Not only did later kings lead Israel away from Yahweh to false gods, but also Solomon himself did (11:4–8), and the nation was on the path toward exile (2 Kings 25:1–21).

## 2. SOLOMON'S ACHIEVEMENTS (9:10–28)

### a. *His gifts to Hiram (9:10–14)*

9:10–14. Near the mid-point of Solomon's reign (after **20** of his **40 years**), after he had finished building **the temple** (7 years, 6:38) and his **palace** complex (13 years, 7:1), **Solomon gave 20 villages in Galilee** to his old friend King **Hiram ... of Tyre**. **Hiram** had previously given Solomon **cedar and pine** (cf. 5:10) and much **gold** as well. The amount of **gold** was **120 talents** (9:14; about 9,000 pounds). **But when Hiram** visited **the 20 towns ... he was** disappointed; they were apparently located near unproductive land. Hiram **called them the Land of Cabul**

("Cabul" sounds like the Heb. for "good-for-nothing").

### b. *His public works (9:15–19)*

9:15. In addition to the **temple** (chap. 6) and his **palace** (7:1–12) **Solomon** built **supporting terraces** (probably large level areas between hills made by filling in land), and **the wall of Jerusalem** which he extended farther to the north, more than doubling the size of the city. His wall surrounded the temple and probably the palace which were built to the north of the old City of David (see the map "Jerusalem in the Time of the Kings"). **Hazor, Meggido, and Gezer** were fortress cities. Hazor, north of the Sea of Kinnereth, guarded the northern part of the kingdom. Meggido protected the Valley of Jezreel that stretched from west to east in the central sector of Israel. And Gezer served as a site of defense in western Judah where it discouraged potential southern and western aggressors from attacking Israel. Israel was stronger and wealthier under Solomon than under any of its other kings.

9:16–19. **Gezer** had previously been **captured** and burned by Egypt's **king**, its residents had been executed, and the town had been given by **Pharaoh** as a part of his dowry for **his daughter** who had married Solomon. **Solomon** then **rebuilt** and fortified **Gezer**. **Lower Beth Horon** (as well as Upper Beth Horon) and Gezer were important defense towns for protection against attacks from Israel's southwest. **Baalath** stood near Gezer. **Tadmor** (later named Palmyra) was located on a caravan route between Damascus and the Euphrates River to Israel's northeast.

Solomon's **store cities**, scattered throughout Israel, were fortified towns in which surplus food was stockpiled. **The towns** where he kept **his chariots and ... horses** were ready to defend Israel against any invader. Solomon also built up other towns throughout his kingdom for various other purposes.

### c. *His labor force (9:20–23)*

9:20–23. **Solomon** used **slave labor** for his building projects. The **descendants** of the conquered native tribes did the hardest manual labor. (On the various population elements not conquered in the Conquest see comments on 2 Chron. 8:7.) **The Israelites** served as soldiers and supervisors. The labor force was obviously very large. (On the **550** supervisors along with the 3,300 foremen mentioned in 1 Kings 5:16, see comments there.)

### d. *His house for Pharaoh's daughter (9:24)*

9:24. Solomon also built **terraces** by filling in land near the residence he had built for **Pharaoh's daughter** in his **palace** complex (cf. 7:8). She moved there from her other residence in the **City of David** after the palace was completed.

*e. His annual offerings (9:25)*

9:25. All the offerings mentioned were for worship (on the **burnt offerings** cf. Lev. 1, and on the **fellowship offerings**; cf. Lev. 3). The **three** annual occasions were perhaps the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Harvest (also called Weeks and Pentecost), and the Feast of Tabernacles (also called Ingathering) since these were the major feasts of Israel (cf. Ex. 23:14–16).

*f. His navy (9:26–28)*

9:26–28. Archeologists have discovered the remains of **Ezion Geber** at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba. This site, on the east arm of **the Red Sea**, gave Israel access to the east and south by water. Hiram's Phoenician **sailors**, who joined **Solomon's**, were some of the most skillful of their day. **Ophir** was probably in southwestern Arabia (cf. 10:11; Job 22:24; 28:16). The vast amounts of **gold** brought in from expeditions to these lands helped finance and decorate Solomon's vast building projects. While 1 Kings 9:28 has **420 talents** (about 16 tons, or 32,000 pounds), 2 Chronicles 8:18 has 450 (see comments on that verse).

**Mathews, K. A. (1998). *The Historical Books*. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), *Holman Concise Bible Commentary* (p. 138). Broadman & Holman Publishers.**

***The Lord Appears Again (9:1–9)***. In response to Solomon's prayer, the Lord appeared as He had at Gibeon (3:4–15). The Lord exhorted Solomon to be obedient and warned that disobedience would result in exile and a rejection of the temple. Second Kings describes how this happened to the two kingdoms of the divided monarchy (chaps. 17; 25).

***Commercial Policies (9:10–28)***. Solomon's acquisition of wealth further demonstrated the fulfillment of God's promise to David. He acquired gold from King Hiram in exchange for twenty cities. Solomon's extensive building projects, including fortifying Jerusalem and other royal cities, required him to conscript slave labor and to install Israelites as overseers.

**Tatum, S. L. (1972). *1 Kings*. In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The Teacher's Bible Commentary* (pp. 197-198). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.**

### **The Glory of Solomon (1 Kings 9:10–10:29)**

*The passage*—After Solomon's major building program was complete, he gave Hiram, king of Tyre, twenty cities in Galilee as payment for the gold, cedar, and cypress timber which he had supplied. Hiram was not well pleased with the bargain. We are not told how Hiram was eventually made satisfied.

The glory of Solomon's building was accomplished by forced labor. The people were compelled to spend a certain amount of time in the labor of building. The burden of this fell

principally on the ten Northern tribes and was a part of the difficulty that later arose between the two parts of Israel.

Solomon had regular times for offering sacrifices to God. The three times a year mentioned in verse 25 perhaps corresponded to the main feasts of the Hebrews throughout their history.

The visit of the Queen of Sheba to Solomon is indicative of his reputation all over the world. His glory was the talk of the royal palaces everywhere. The queen came bringing spices, gold, and jewelry as gifts to the famous king. She asked him very difficult questions, and he had the answers for her. There was nothing she asked about that he couldn't explain. After she had seen his glory and experienced his wisdom, she uttered the famous lines, "The half has never been told."

The amount of gold mentioned in 10:14 would amount to more than sixteen million dollars. While this may not seem to be so much in these days of astronomical figures, it was tremendous in those days. This was typical of the other riches Solomon accumulated. His throne must have been one of the wonders of the world in his day. It was solid ivory overlaid with finest gold. It sat on an exalted platform surrounded by statues of lions. His drinking cups were of gold.

From all over the world people came to see Solomon's wealth and to hear his wisdom. As they came they brought additional wealth. The commerce of the world and the wealth of the world seemed to center in Jerusalem. It was said that silver became as common as stone.

*Truth for today*-It is unfortunate that the Queen of Sheba was impressed only by the splendor and wisdom of Solomon. She went back to her land without knowing the God of Israel who had so blessed Solomon.

**The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1984). (1 Kings 9). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.**

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