

1 Kings 2

The Life of Solomon

This is my 14th message in this series...

You are probably ready for something else.

This morning we are going to finish up the study of the first Kings of Israel.

Our study was on the failures of these men...and what we could learn from these failures.

This last message is interesting because it leaves us with what to me is a fairly clear lesson.

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I am going to quickly walk through what we are told about Solomon.

First we have David instructing Solomon on what he must do:

Ch 2
[Slide]

...observe what the Lord
requires:

Walk in obedience to him,
and keep his commands
and laws...as written
in the Law of Moses.

Do this so that you may prosper
in all you do

1 Kings 2:3

That is good advice.

Next:

[Slide]

Make sure you kill Joab, v6

Remember Shimei,
the descendent of Saul who
cursed me...
I vowed that I would not kill him.
Make sure to kill him, v9

So be obedient to God...
and kill those I have held
grudges against.

Solomon promised his older
half-brother Adonijah that he
would not kill him IF just went
away to live a quiet life.

After David dies,
Adonijah goes to Bathsheba
[the queen Mother]
to ask Solomon if he can have
Abishag to be his wife.

This was the young virgin that
cared for King David...and kept
him warm.

So Solomon kills Adonijah, v25
He told him to live a quiet life,
Perhaps Adonijah heard that he
should "have a quiet wife."

There is a longer story, but
Solomon then kills Shimei, v46

ALL of that is in Chapter 2!!

Ch 3 opens with Solomon taking a daughter from the King of Egypt in a political treaty.

This is the first mention of what becomes the main problem for Solomon....wives and concubines.

In chapters 3-6
We are told of how great Solomon was: wisdom sayings, proverbs, he builds a large military presence...
AND

He builds the Temple.

God tells him,

[Slide]

if you observe my laws
and keep all my commandments
and obey them, I will fulfill
the promise I gave to David your
father. And...I will not abandon
my people Israel.

[Slide]

The end of Ch 6:

"Solomon spent seven years building it." 6:37

"It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace." 7:1

Solomon might argue,
"Yes, but I provided jobs."

And his palace did include a Hall for him to serve as the Judge in legal matters....since he was so wise.

In the dedication of the Temple Solomon says some interesting things:

[Slide]

Now Lord...keep the promises you made to [David...IF his decendents are careful...to be faithful.]

God's promises usually come with the condition that we live a faithful life for Him.

Then Solomon's prayer has some really good statements:

He basically says that God does not dwell in the Temple....

"The heavens cannot contain you."

This is what Stephen quotes in Acts just before he is stoned.

Solomon goes over the purpose of the Temple:

- when an enemy defeats us... we can turn back to You, oh God and be forgiven

- when there is a drought, we can turn from our sins and be forgiven

In the next chapter God appears to Solomon:

[Slide]
IF you live faithfully with integrity,
and do all I command...
I will establish your throne
as I promised David...

Ch 9 and 10 review all
Solomon's accomplishments
AND how famous he became.

Ch 11 opens:

[Slide]

King Solomon, however,
loved many foreign women...

Moabites, Ammonites,
Edomites...

2 They were from nations which
the Lord had told the Israelites,
"You must not intermarry with
them, because they will surely
turn your hearts after their gods."

Nevertheless, Solomon would
not turn away from them.

3 He had 700 wives...
and 300 concubines,
and his wives led him astray.

4 As he grew old, his wives
turned his heart after other gods,
and his heart was
not fully devoted to the Lord...
as David had been.

This is probably hyperbole, but
from all we read Solomon
apparently followed in David's
footsteps when it came to
women...

He not only allowed his pagan wives to worship,

He built places for their worship.

1 Kings 11:9 says,
"The Lord was angry with Solomon..."

He tells Solomon that He will NOT fulfill the promise in your lifetime...

I will tear the kingdom from you and give it to Jeroboam.

What was Solomon's response?

11:40 - He tried to have
Jeroboam killed.

[15min]

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What can we learn from this
story of failure?

What stands out to me is the
grace of God.

It is easy to misrepresent the
entire OT as a "works" based
religion.

But when you isolate different characters...

Abraham, Jacob, Samson, and now David and Solomon...

You see their failures, yet if you take their whole story as one unit...it remains positive.

Even Elijah.

We think of him as such a mighty prophet...(and he was)

But he runs in fear from Jezebel, and at the end of his life God gives three things to do...

And he fails to do them.
Yet he is considered one THE
most powerful characters in the
history of Israel.

I was not surprised at all with
Saul - he always gets a negative
presentation.

David...I had never seen as
clearly before.

He did some truly despicable
things...YET this is how the
writer of Solomon's story reflects
King David:

Unlike David,
Solomon's heart was
not fully devoted to the Lord...

It's not about the "good" or "bad"
that you do.

The good will not save you,
and the sins will not damn you.

It has everything to do with your
heart - your attitude - whether
you have humility or not.

Remember the famous text:
"God opposes the proud, but
gives grace to the humble."

We have to be careful that we do not merge the OT texts with what we see in the Pharisees.

Jesus consistently used the OT text to refute the Pharisees.

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He gives grace to the humble.

Each one of us needs to embrace the fact that...

We do NOT deserve His grace.

God's forgiveness is always there.

He wants integrity...own your sins.

+ Youth Group

+ We do NOT deserve God's grace - that is why we call it "unmerited favor."

+ You can give all your possessions to the poor....

+ You can have ALL the gifts of power and the HS just dripping off you...

NONE of this makes you worthy
of God's grace.

Yet HE is merciful to the sinner
who repents.

Let's learn from these lessons of
the Kings -

Live with quick repentance...
His mercy is new every morning,
"Great is Your Faithfulness
Oh God."

