

1 Kings.

The Shadow fades



Key verse: 1 Kings 11:11.

So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.

Study three...



Big Idea: The faithfulness of God to his word is the reason we must trust it in the mess of life, if we don't want to make a mess of life.

Kick Off

Why do you trust your car to start when you turn the key in the ignition?

Why do you trust your phone will connect when you dial a number?

Why are you sure Christmas is coming and there'll be good food to eat?

STUDY

Chapters 10-16 of 1 Kings have two contrasting pictures. One is of Solomon's amazing kingdom and glory and splendour (Ch. 10) and the other is of the mess that follows, as the kingdom becomes a memory. There is so much teaching in these chapters but the big point of the whole section is; God's word controls the world and all that happens.

1. Chapter 10 is all positive. Work through the chapter. Is it the fulfilment of God's word to Solomon in 1 Kings 3:10-13 or not?

- Is wealth wicked or abundance evil?

2. **Three strikes and your out!** List the four rules for Kings of Israel recorded by Moses in Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

i. The King must not acquire _____

ii. He must not take many _____

iii. He must not accumulate large amounts of _____ and _____

iv. He must write for himself _____

How did Solomon go on the test in 1 Kings 10 and 11?

3. Read carefully the promise of God to David in 2 Samuel 7:14. Who will, and how will David's son be punished when he does wrong?

- List the adversaries raised up against Solomon in 1 Kings 11:14-40. Is this the fulfilment of the 2 Samuel 7:14 word of the Lord or not?

4. Chapter 12 is the record of the united kingdom imploding and the division of Israel into north and south. Israel is in the north under King Jeroboam and Judah is in the South under King Rehoboam Solomon's son. It's a fantastic read detailing the sovereignty of the Lord over the stupidity of leaders. Vv's 15 & 24 are the key verses to comprehend the whole series of events. What do they emphasize and why is this significant for us?

5. Jeroboam is the epitome of stupidity. He is a man who gets repeated clear revelation from the Lord and rejects them absolutely.

What does Ahijah the Prophet clearly tell Jeroboam he is in line for, and when will Jeroboam get this? 1 Kings 11:31, 35
Who does Jeroboam rebel against v26 and what is the result v40?

What does Ahijah promise for Jeroboam on condition of obedience v 38?
What does Jeroboam think and do in direct contradiction to God's revelation? 1 Kings 12:25-33.

What is the long term prophecy and the immediate sign, the man of God cries out against Jeroboam's pagan bull worship in 1 Kings 13:1-3?
Did the Word come to pass? v5 and 2 Kings 23:15-16
What did Jeroboam do as a result of all this revelation 1 Kings 13:33-34 and what would be the long term result?

6. The bizarre story of the man of God and his grizzly end in chapter 13 leaves us with endless unanswered questions. Read it and reflect on these things.

- i. Those who bring God's word to others must also obey God's word themselves.
- ii. God's word is NEVER contradictory, in the case of conflicting messages go with what is certain not what is sensational.
- iii. Error that is close to the truth and sounds like the truth is the hardest to detect and the most deadly.

- iv. Never take the words of any man on face value or on the authority of their office.
Test the spirits and assess all messages against the proven revelation of God's word.
Remember and apply Acts 17: 11 in all circumstances.
- v. God controls lions and donkeys so beware!!!

7. Jeroboam rejects the way of the Lord and follows his heart. All the subsequent kings of Israel are assessed by their heart attitude. They either follow King David whose heart was for the Lord or they followed Jeroboam whose heart was evil. List the kings in 1 Kings 14-16 in the following chart and assess their heart attitude and actions.

Israel			Judah		
Name	Heart	Actions	Name	Heart	Actions
Nadab	Jeroboam clone	Civil war 15:31			

THINK AND APPLY

When it boils down it's not what the kings do so much as where their heart lies that's to problem. In the mess of life following the splendour of Solomon's reign, the two options before all people were either to trust the word of the Lord or to go with their gut feelings and thrust the word of the Lord away. As New Covenant believers the same situation faces us. In the mess of life as we know it, will we be disciples of David's greater Son or will we do our own thing, call our own shots, run our own life and ignore the clear guidance of God which leads to everlasting life? We have seen by faith the glory of Christ in his first coming which supersedes the glory of Solomon. And we anticipate in godly expectation the return of that glory in all its fullness sometime soon. In the interim will we live by trusting and applying the word of God in our day to day living or not? The jury's out... Judgment day will give us the verdict. Don't come up short. There will be some on that day who to their horror will find out that even though they cast demons out in the name of Jesus will be spending eternity with demons. Matt 7:22.

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
1 Kings 17-18**