

Sunday Evening Message Series

1st and 2nd Kings

February 4, 2024

Title – Chapter Nine – *A Firm Warning*

Text – 1st Kings 9

Introduction

Here in chapter nine, we are still within the context of the dedication of the Temple. Everything seems to be going well. Solomon and the people of God have committed themselves to serving the Lord, and now here after the conclusion of Solomon's prayer, God appears to Solomon for the second time, and gives Solomon a firm warning about remaining faithful to Him.

Note - This chapter finds its parallel in 2 Chronicles 7:11 – 8:18.

I. **The Second Appearance of the Lord to Solomon (1 – 9; also 2 Chronicles 7:11 - 22)**

V. 1 - The temple was started in the second month (Zif – April / May) of 966 BC (see 1 Kings 6:1). It was completed in the eighth month (Bul – October / November) of 959 BC.

V. 2 - The first time God appeared to Solomon was recorded in 1 Kings 3:5 – 14. This is the famous passage where God allows Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted, and Solomon's request was for wisdom so that he could effectively minister to the congregation of Israel.

V. 3 – God acknowledges the prayer of dedication and promises to put His name there at the Temple forever.

Vs. 4 - 5 – However, there is an “if” regarding both Solomon and the Temple that he built.

The parallel passage for these verses in 1 Kings 9 is found in 2 Chronicles 7:17 – 22:

"17 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments; 18 Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel. 19 But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; 20 Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations. 21 And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house? 22 And it shall be answered, Because they

forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them." (2 Chronicles 7:17-22)

The "if, then" clause given in these verses indicates condition. The conditional aspect of God's promise was told to Solomon by David when he was about to die and turn the kingdom over to him:

"1 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; 3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: 4 That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel." (1 Kings 2:1-4)

If Solomon and the people of Israel would obey the Lord, then God would continue to bless them.

Vs. 6 – 9 - However, if the people or the king forsake God, then there would be severe consequences, including their removal from the land that God had given them as well as destruction of their beloved city, Jerusalem along with the very Temple that they were now in the process of dedicating.

Moses prophesied regarding a future time when the Lord would be forced to judge His people by removing them from their land:

"24 Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger? 25 Then men shall say, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them forth out of the land of Egypt: 26 For they went and served other gods, and worshipped them, gods whom they knew not, and whom he had not given unto them: 27 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book: 28 And the LORD rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day." (Deuteronomy 29:24-28)

The ultimate fulfillment of Moses' prophecy will come in 586 BC when the City of Jerusalem, including the temple that Solomon built, is destroyed.

God does promise though that even though the children of David forsake the Lord, He will keep one of David's seed sitting on the throne of Israel.

"30 If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; 31 If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; 32 Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. 33 Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. 34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. 35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. 36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. 37 It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah."

(Psalm 89:30-37)

In chapter twelve, we will read how the northern kingdom will split away from the tribe of Judah, and will leave Solomon's son, Rehoboam with only one of the twelve tribes.

Practical Point – there are some unconditional promises given to God's people, even today. God promises that if you receive the gift of salvation than you will be saved and eternally secure in that salvation. You cannot lose it; it is unconditional.

However, if you choose to forsake the Lord and live contrary to what He desires for His children, then you will experience the negative consequences of temporal punishment. Life will not go so well for you down here. The blessings of God for eternity in Heaven because of salvation are unconditional, but the blessings of God on your life and family while you are still living here on earth are conditioned upon your obedience to God.

We see this pattern repeatedly in the Scriptures. When the people were living in obedience to God, He blessed them. When the people forsake the Lord, He judges them by allowing all kinds of negative consequences to come into their lives.

Today, we often see a person trust Christ as Saviour, and initially they strive to live a life that is pleasing to God which results in many blessings coming their way; but often they or their children will gradually slip away from God and eventually the consequences of their choices begin to take their toll.

II. Hiram's Cities (vs. 10 – 14)

Note – the contents of the remainder of this chapter can also be found in 2 Chronicles 9:1 – 18.

V. 10 – The Temple took seven years to build, and Solomon's palace took thirteen years to build, for a total of twenty years. They completion of Solomon's house was in 946 BC.

Vs. 11 – 13 – Cabul (קַבּוּל – Kabul), meaning "limited" or "good for nothing." Hiram was not pleased with these cities and according to 2 Chronicles 8:2, he eventually gave them back:

"2 That the cities which Hiram had restored to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there." (2 Chronicles 8:2)

V. 14 – Hiram was the source of 4.5 tons (144,000 oz.) of gold that apparently went into the construction of Solomon's palace as according to 1 Chronicles 22:14 – 16, Solomon had stored up enough gold for the Temple. The collateral for the gold was the twenty cities. Solomon's palace must have been extremely extravagant. It seems that Solomon was basically borrowing this gold from Hiram so that he could build his palace.

Was this wise?

Is debt a good idea?

And was it wise for him to give away twenty Israelite cities as collateral? These cities along the border of Lebanon were given by God to the Tribe of Asher when Joshua divided up the land.

Perhaps, we are beginning to see some unwise decisions made by Solomon. Why? It appears in these verses that it may have been covetousness. How much is enough? How big of a house did Solomon need? What was he living in before this extravagant palace was built? Wasn't that enough?

Illustrate – Warren Buffet's House

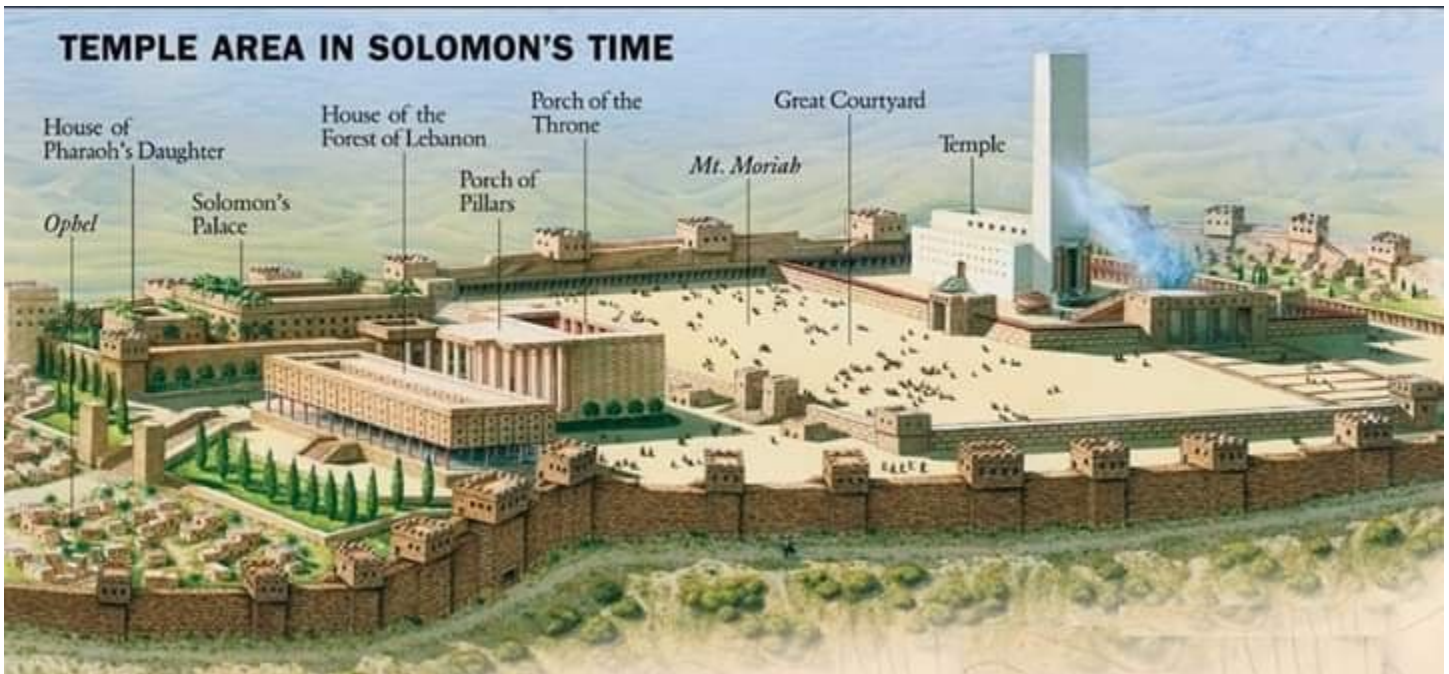


Warren Buffet – Lives in a simple house in a neighborhood in Douglas County, Nebraska; the same one he built in 1958 for \$38,000.00. Drove a pick-up truck. He would stop at the grocery store on the way home from work to buy some popcorn. He likes to stop for Egg

McMuffin on his way into work. He clips coupons. He has simple tastes, though he is a multi-billionaire (\$117 Billion net worth – Jan 2024).

III. The Levy for the House (vs. 15 – 25)

The word “levy” (מַס – *mas*) here has to do with forced labor. It is sometimes translated “tribute,” which has to do with taxes, but here it is clearly dealing with government labor. Solomon needed workers to build the Temple, his palace, and all the cities mentioned here in this passage.



v. 15 - Millo – according to Eerdman’s Dictionary of the Bible

1. A fortification, or construction, at an unspecified location within Jerusalem. After David captured Jerusalem from the Jebusites, he occupied their stronghold and constructed the Millo (from *ml'*, “to fill”). It was somehow incorporated into David’s wall of Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5:9 = 1 Chr. 11:8), and is seen to be a breach in the city wall, a filled stone tower, or a filling of the Tyropoeon Valley connecting the eastern ridge of the city with its western crest. Kathleen Kenyon identified the Millo with the 14th–13th b.c.e. Jebusite terracing she excavated on the eastern slope of the city of David, S of the present-day temple mount. This structure was further excavated by Yigal Shiloh (area G), and found to consist of stone-filled terraces, which created an additional area of approximately 200 sq. m. (240 sq. yds.) on top of the hill. Shiloh suggested that it formed the podium of the Jebusite citadel. The Millo was later repaired by Hezekiah (2 Chr. 32:5). Some scholars propose that

during the divided monarchy the term Millo was replaced by “Ophel” (cf. 2 Chr. 27:3; 33:14).

2. A construction of Solomon, following his completion of a palace for his wife, Pharaoh’s daughter (2 Kgs. 9:15, 24; 11:21). Whether Solomon simply repaired David’s Millo, or created his own, is unknown.¹

V. 16 – Pharaoh conquered the Canaanites that were living in Gezer, and he gave the city to his daughter as a wedding gift. Solomon fortified the city.

Vs. 15; 17 – 19 - Notice on the maps (pp. 8 – 9), the places that Solomon built. These cities were strategically placed as fortifications for Israel, and some of them were for storage:

"12 And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store." (2 Chronicles 17:12)

"27 And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honour: and he made himself treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels; 28 Storehouses also for the increase of corn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks. 29 Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance very much." (2 Chronicles 32:27-29)

Vs. 20 – 23 – The Canaanites that were not killed or driven out of the land were made into slaves. The Israelites did not serve as slaves but were drafted into Solomon’s army.

V. 24 – The house for Pharaoh’s daughter (See “Temple Area in Solomon’s Time”):

"8 And his house where he dwelt had another court within the porch, which was of the like work. Solomon made also an house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife, like unto this porch." (1 Kings 7:8)

Notice again the reference to the Millo (also v. 15).

V. 25 – Solomon offered at the Temple three times in the year: Unleavened Bread, Passover, and Tabernacles. You will recall that Solomon used to sacrifice at Gibeon where the Tabernacle was then located (1 Kings 3:2 – 4) but now that the Temple was finished, Solomon worshiped at the Temple in Jerusalem.

"16 Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in

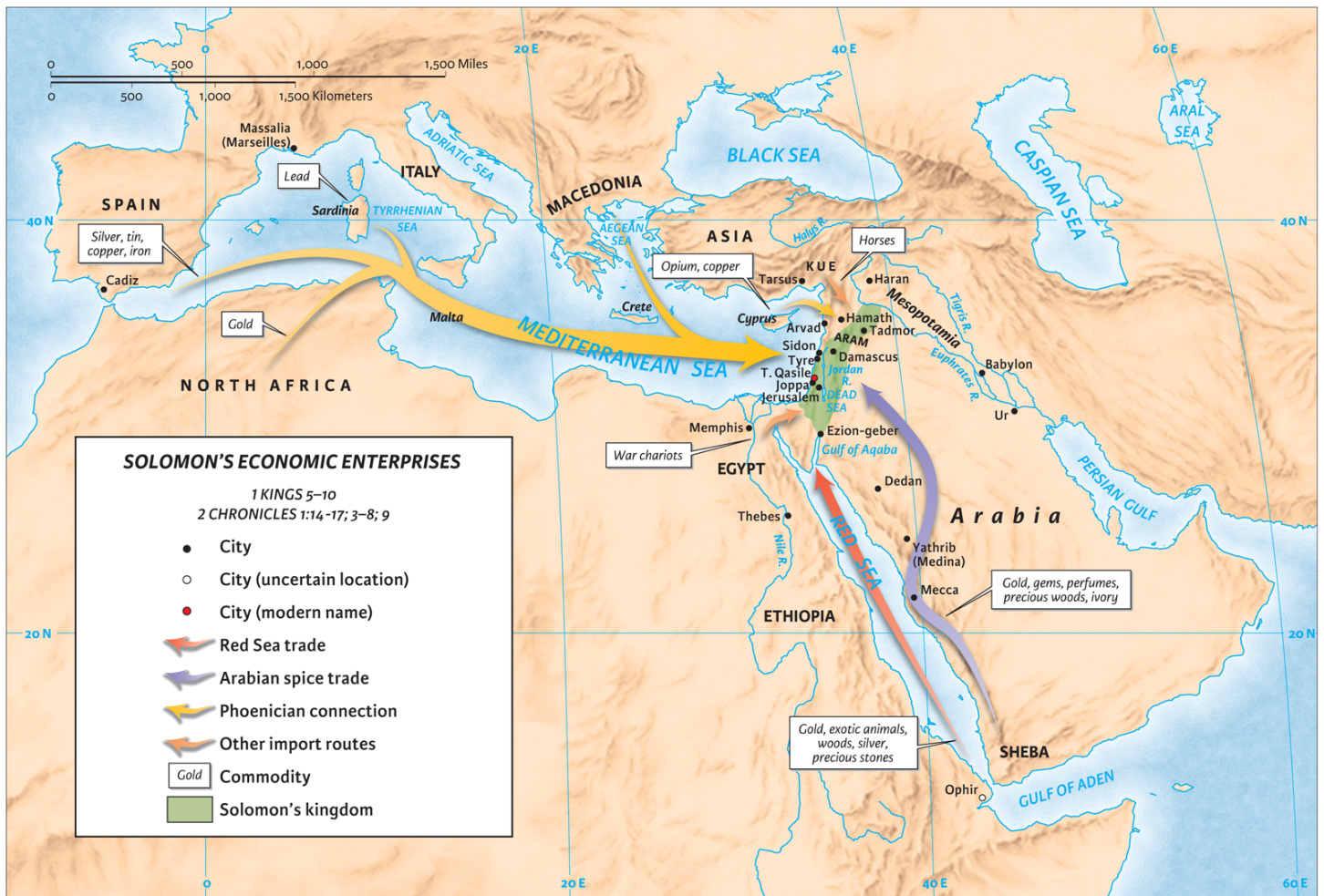
¹ Kenneth Atkinson, “Millo,” ed. David Noel Freedman, Allen C. Myers, and Astrid B. Beck, *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000), 901.

the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty: 17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee." (Deuteronomy 16:16-17)

IV. Solomon's Navy (vs. 26 – 28)

The navy spoken of here was not likely used for military purpose, though it could certainly be used to transport soldiers. It was used rather for commercial purposes, for trading. It extended Solomon's reach and enabled him to trade with exotic places (See Map Below). From Ophir, Solomon acquired 15.75 tons of gold.

"21 And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon. 22 For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks. 23 So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom." (1 Kings 10:21-23)





SOLOMON'S BUILDING ACTIVITIES

1 KGS. 6-7; 9:1-22;
2 CHR. 2-4; 8:1-12

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- City (modern name)

Hazor City built or rebuilt by Solomon

- Cities and towns showing building/rebuilding in the 10th century B.C.

■ Fortified by Solomon

- Fortified enclosures

— Major routes

— Other routes

■ Territory ceded to Hiram of Tyre

