

THE REIGN OF SOLOMON AND THE LIGHT OF ISRAEL

Introduction:

1. These two chapters present the nation of Israel at its pinnacle and peak.
2. With the construction of the Temple and palace of the King completed, the nation entered into a time of peace and prosperity.
3. More than that, for a time they truly became a light into the world of darkness, revealing the power and love of Jehovah to the nations around them.

- I. The Answer to Solomon's Prayer (2 Chronicles 7; 1 Kings 9:1-9)
 - A. At the dedication of the Temple, Solomon prayed a humble and powerful prayer to Jehovah.
 - B. Following his prayer, God showed His approval by sending fire from heaven to consume the sacrifices.
 - C. It was at this time that the glory of God filled the Temple.
 - D. Some time after this, the Lord appeared to Solomon and answered his prayer by establishing a covenant with him.
 1. God accepted the Temple as a house of worship for His name.
 2. He would hear and answer the prayers of those who repented, obeyed, and called upon Him (vs. 15; cf. 1 Pet. 3:12).
 3. If Solomon would walk before God in obedience, then his descendants would continue to reign in Israel.
 4. If he and the people were disobedient and worshipped idols, God would remove them from the land and destroy the Temple.
 - E. The purpose of God's blessings and punishments was to make His name and His nature known throughout the world.

- II. The Influence of Israel's Prosperity (1 Kings 9:10-28; 2 Chronicles 8)
 - A. Through the relationship with Hiram, Israel had an influence for good upon the nation of Tyre (9:10-14).
 - B. Through the building up of Israel's cities, there was an influence upon the nation of Egypt [and others] (9:15-19).
 1. Solomon had married the daughter of Pharaoh (1 Kings 3:1).
 2. Thus, Egypt was well aware of Israel's growth and power.
 - C. Through taxation and servitude, Israel had an influence over the remaining Canaanites (19:20-21).
 - D. Through a growing naval power, Israel had an influence over many nations of the world (9:22-28).
 1. To this point in their history, Israel had been mainly an agricultural nation.
 2. Now, they are entering into the world of merchandise and trade.
 3. Note the statement concerning Pharaoh's daughter in 2 Chron. 8:11.

- III. The Visit of Sheba's Queen (1 Kings 10:1-13; 2 Chronicles 9)
 - A. Notice that Israel has become a light to the Gentile world.
 1. The fame of Solomon has spread into the world.
 2. But, it was fame concerning the name of Jehovah!
 - B. The Queen of Sheba came to Israel with many gifts to meet and examine the wisdom of Solomon.

1 Kings 9 – 10

1. Sheba was located on southern end of the Arabia Peninsula.
 2. Some place it in modern day Yemen.
 3. Others claim that Sheba was much larger, occupying the entire southern half of modern Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, UAE and Qatar.
- C. As she questioned Solomon, he was able to answer every inquiry with wisdom given from God.
- D. She declared that all she had heard was true, but she did not believe it until she saw it with her own eyes.
- E. Her response honored Jehovah who had placed Solomon upon the throne of Israel (vs. 8-9; cf. Matt. 18:10).
- F. Both rulers gave gifts to one another and the Queen returned to her home.
- G. Jesus teaches a powerful lesson from the story of the Queen of Sheba (Matt. 12:42; Luke 11:31).
- IV. The Wealth of Israel's King (1 Kings 10:14-29)
- A. This passage describes the extravagant wealth of Israel during Solomon's reign.
 - B. However, the key to understanding it is found in verse 24.
 - C. It was all to be used to influence the world for the glory of God!