

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6-12

10/4/16

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6**

- Solomon begins to build the Temple after agreeing again to walk in God's statutes and obey His ordinances
- This, as in **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 2**, is a call to remain a monotheist vs a polytheist
- The Temple will become the place where God can "dwell among His people"
- The *Book of Genesis* tells us that God planted the *Garden of Eden* as the place where He would "dwell among his people"

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- This indwelling will ultimately be fulfilled in the **Incarnation**
- Christ's promised return from Heaven at the end of time will result in the **re-establishment of the Garden of Eden** for all eternity as promised in the *Book of Revelation*
- Thus, God's original plan will not be thwarted by the evil one
- Look at the imagery within the sanctuary of the Temple
  - It does not appear that God has a problem with "graven image" as Solomon produces a 15 foot statue of two Angels as well as multiple images of gourds, flowers, pomegranates

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- His problem, as will see repeatedly, is with **idolatry (Ex 20:4\*)**
  - Graven (carved) image is a bad translation
  - From the Hebrew and Greek it should be translated as “idol”
  - Some of the newer translations of the Bible (New American Bible) present “idol” in this verse

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 7**

- Solomon completes the building of his “house” (palace) followed by a description of the completion of the external objects within the Temple grounds

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- **1st Kings 8**

- Upon completion of the Temple, Solomon offers an elaborate dedication celebration
- We witness the arrival of the “Ark of the Covenant” followed by the entry of the “Glory Cloud” (*shekinah*) into the sanctuary (Holy of Holies)
- Remember that the purpose of building the Temple was to provide a place where God could “dwell among His people”
- Inside the Ark were the two stone tables containing the Word of God (10 Commandments)

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- This Word of God was understood to be a covenant
- The first commandment “I am Yahweh your God and you shall have no other gods before me.”
- God riding on the wings of two angels, sits on the “mercy seat” above the Ark (Ex 25)
- The Holy of Holies is the throne room of God and is now filled with the “Glory Cloud” while Solomon stands and prays
- Solomon completes the celebration with a seven day feast including many sacrifices and eloquent prayers
- Remember, the temple is not a place just to offer sacrifices but it is **the place of God’s presence among His people**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 9**

- After completing the Temple, the Lord appears to Solomon a second time stressing the need for him to remain a monotheist (*“walk before me as David your father walked”*)
  - The concern for obedience to the letter of the Law (*Torah*) was a 1<sup>st</sup> century Pharisee issue
- Did David always walk in uprightness?
- No way!
  - David and Bathsheba (**2<sup>nd</sup> Sam 11:1-27**)
  - Nathan’s prophesy and David’s repentance (2<sup>nd</sup> Sam 12:1-25)

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- But David was a perfect **monotheist** which was in great contrast to the kings who will follow
- **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 9:5-9** is a very important passage as it presents the **playbook of the Bible (Monotheism vs Polytheism)** from here through the Babylonian captivity and destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC
  - The previous passage (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 9:3-4) starts with seemingly permanent language (put my name there forever)
  - But then He says: “But if you turn aside from following me...”

*The promise will no longer exist*

*If you break your promise, God will break His promise*

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- The chapter continues with some of the problems that will arise due to his marriage to the daughter of Pharaoh
  - The labor force Solomon raises was to restore the city of Gezer which was part of his Egyptian wife's dowry
  - He also builds store-cities and cities for his chariots and horsemen
  - Solomon's Egyptian wife moves from Jerusalem to the house he built for her in one of the northern cities
- He also builds a large fleet of ships for commerce

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- Next, we will be introduced to another amazing issue impacting on the life of Solomon
  - If you know your Old Testament, you will understand that the author is pointing you to **Du 17:14-20\***
  - These are the three prohibitions for all future kings of Israel (Solomon breaks all three)
    - Horses and chariots from Egypt
    - Hoarding gold
    - Multiple wives
  - These acts result in King Solomon falling into polytheism

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- **1<sup>st</sup> Kings 10**

- Here we hear of an account of Solomon's reputation for wisdom through the visit of the Queen of Sheba
- Next, 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 10:14-15 while demonstrating Solomon's vast wealth also answers one of the Bible's most confusing questions:
  - "What is the meaning of the **number 666**?"
- Most people who read **Rev 13:18** have never read **1<sup>st</sup> King 10!**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- **Old Testament numerology:**
  - 3 Perfection – the perfect number
  - 6 Represents creation
  - 7 The divine number of completion, and covenant
  - 8 Resurrection, regeneration, a new beginning
  - 12 Complete

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- The message of this passage is that Solomon was considered to be the wealthiest man in the Fertile Crescent, and, therefore, was really, really rich and very wise!

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# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- **1<sup>st</sup> King 11**

- This chapter continues with the third consequences of violating **Du 17**, this time by attaining many wives
  - 700 wives
  - 300 concubines
- Solomon covers the Mount of Olives (a very high place) with pagan temples for his pagan wives which will not be destroyed until the reign of Josiah, great king of Judah
- The verse *“you shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart”* refers to the problem of monotheism vs polytheism rather than the modern understanding that God will provide everything for your comfort

# 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1-12 (Cont)

- Next, we see how, in response to Solomon's actions, the Lord raises adversaries against Solomon
  - *Hadad* of the royal house of **Edom**
  - *Rezon* King of Damascus in Syria
  - ***Jeroboam*** the Ephraimite
- We get a hint of some impending “bad news” when we are given the name of a **man's mother** indicating that he is about to **become a king!**