

## GOD AND KINGS

### WEEK 1 – 1 KINGS 3:5-14 (Solomon)

Today we begin a new series "**GODS AND KINGS: THE RISE AND FALL OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH**" in this series we moving through the 2 books of KINGS (1 & 2 Kings) – we look at some Kings that allowed bad choices to define their reign and ultimately lead to the division and downfall and the Nation of Israel.

#### BACKGROUND OF 1 & 2 KINGS

The 2 books of Kings (originally one book) spans across 400 years of history of Israel from reign of Solomon thru their captivity in Babylonia. It chronicles the lives of the Kings of Israel and gives us an account of how they served – and their choices. Question is --- Did they serve God or idols? Were they fully devoted to God or did they follow him half-heartily? And how did their choice affect the Israelites.

We just studied the book of Judges – I thought they were leading God’s people. Where did these Kings come from? Wasn’t Israelites told to follow God – Judges and now Kings – I’m confused?

So were the Israelites. God was to be the ruler of Israel. God led the people through Moses and Aaron, and then through priests and they rebelled and he raised up judges to govern the people.

In Samuel’s time, they wanted to be like all other nations and have a king rule them instead of the Lord. Their request for a king was a rejection of God’s way of leadership over them.

All this sound a bit familiar??? We go through life and we have a choice on who we will listen to – man – the world (be like everyone else – OR GOD)

If we choose the world way – we will suffer the consequences of our own choices.

**BIG IDEA OF SERIES: Everyone has the opportunity to choose what is right(righteousness) over what is wrong(sin)**

In KINGS THERE ARE TO GROUPS OF PEOPLE - KINGS AND PROPHETS –

KINGS WERE men with flawed characters (human) -- 39 KINGS and as we will find out - most of them made bad choices – ultimately led the Jewish people down the wrong path – resulted in a Divided Kingdom and eventually captivity.

The PROPHETS were the ones always calling the people back to the Lord.

Main principle we will learn in this series the **Principle of “Unintended Consequences”**

The basic idea is that it is virtually impossible to anticipate what the ultimate outcomes of our choices will be, and those outcomes are often not what we intended at all.

At the moment Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, do you think she had any idea where her sin would lead?

Actions that may seem trivial at the time have profound consequences, for good or evil.

How many times have you looked at some choice you made in your life, considered the results and wished there were some way you could go back and choose again?

Not sure what this guy was thinking but I bet he wished he could go back and make a better choice.....

### **Watch clip "MAN CATCHING TREE"**

I wonder when this guy finally figured it out that

For the next 8 weeks we will look at the choices of some of these KINGS see their consequences and hopefully learn from them so we don't do the same.

What we will discover is that while the biblical stories are all unique, there is a common thread running through all of them—God had already shown them what the best choice was, but they insisted on doing it the way that appealed to them.

### **KING SOLOMON(background)**

Son of David & Bathsheba 2 Samuel 12:24 (David had multiple wives and 16 children - 15 sons)

1 Kings - David is in poor health (70 yrs) dying - God had told David that Solomon would succeed him as King

DAVID'S CHARGE TO SOLOMON 1 KINGS 2:1-4 (how many leaders take an oath of obedience then fail)

SOLOMON SEEMS TO BEGIN WELL 1 KINGS 3

***V.3 "Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the statutes of his father David"***

Turn with me to **1 Kings 3:5-14 (READ)**

God appears to Solomon in a dream and asks him "Ask for whatever you want, anything you want me to give you"

TEST: if God were to offer you anything in the world -- WHAT WOULD YOU ASK FOR???

Solomon's response is amazing: **READ V7-9 (ask for wisdom)**

Desire is to SERVE PEOPLE!!!! How Christlike - ***"For son of man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom form many" Mark 10:45***

**SOLOMON WANTED TO BE ONE OF THE BEST SERVANTS!!!!!!**

FIRST TEST v16 - -- 2 Prostitutes come to him (live in same house) - both had baby boys born same time - one dies - both claim living boy is theirs. They ask Solomon to take care of the dispute. Give me boy - cut in half - each take half - real mother says no don't do it ---- Solomon gives boy to her

WHAT A GUY----- ASK LORD FOR WISDOM – PASSES FIRST TEST ---HE SHOWS AMAZING WISDOM

LIFE WAS GOOD – man who was making sure everyone received justice – even the outcast & marginalized

**BIG IDEA OF THE MESSAGE: God wants us to pursue His Wisdom and guidance more than anything else in life**

SOLOMON APPEARED TO BE ON THE TRACK OF WISDOM STARDOM!!!!!!

He goes on to build the TEMPLE – came the central place of worship for God's people.

- People from all over the world brings him gifts as tributes
- Peace prevailed and his kingdom expanded
- Israel was at his highest point of achievement – called THE GOLDEN ERA
- SOLOMON EVEN WRITES the book of PROVERBS – BOOK OF WISDOM

SOLOMON SEEMS TO HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER - **PAUL HARVEY - "now the rest of the story....."**

Solomon who began as an amazing example of wisdom - ended up falling into a bottomless pit of 'FOOLISHNESS'

How did this happen? How does a person move from being sensitive toward God to living a life of disobedience? Truth is nobody sets out to experience a fall into sin and folly - gradual.

How does someone move from a vibrant wonderful declaration of love & commitment to God - to radical disobedience? USUALLY A GRADUAL FALL

### **5 STEPS TO "THE ROAD OF FOOLISHNESS"**

FIRST STEP IN SOLOMON'S DOWNWARD SPIRAL WAS: BACK TO THE BEGINNING 1 KINGS 3:1-3

#### **1) HE ALIGNS HIMSELF WITH THE WRONG PEOPLE. V1**

v1 "Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter. Married a pagan women.

**Dt7:1-3 "Lord brings you to land (Canaan) - destroy nations, make no treaty, don't intermarry"**

He married outside the faith to gain worldly accolade – though it was politically expedient – spiritually disastrous.

This led to later on Solomon's harem grew until it contained hundreds of foreign wives. Solomon linked himself with many foreign powers – BUT SEPERATED HIMSELF FROM THE LORD.

HOW ABOUT YOU?????

Who are you aligned with in life? Friends – dating – **1 Corinthians 15:33**

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."  
Don't let anyone fool you. "Bad companions make a good person bad."

## **2) ALLOWING A LITTLE WIGGLE ROOM IN HIS COMMITMENT (1 KINGS 3:1-3)**

V3 - "Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the statutes of his Father David, EXCEPT --- he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places" v3

EXCEPT - used before a statement that forms an exception to one just made.

Solomon tried to fit into the religious cultures of that day? This was a Canaanite practice - offering sacrifices on this high places - probably old Baal sites.

Solomon compromised his faith which led to further disobedience. He exercised PARTIAL OBEDIENCE - BUT God wants full commitment.

Partial obedience: WIGGLE ROOM

- 1) followed God's commands but.....
- 2) Good intentions... except

What areas of your life are you allowing WIGGLE ROOM? DOES GOD ONLY HAVE A PERCENTAGE??

Try having that attitude in any other relationship... "honey I love you and I prose to be faithful to you .. EXCEPT....." "I'll be there for you all the times...EXCEPT" "I'll work for you do my best everyday...EXCEPT.."

Leaving a little bit of WIGGLE ROOM... leads to a lot of WIGGLE ROOM" a little crack in the door.... sooner or later it may blow wide open.

## **3) ASSUMING YOU ARE THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.**

**The next step to a downward spiral from wisdom to folly is to assume that you are the exception to the rule. You are above God's rule.**

Duet 17:14-20 God gives instructions to the King(s) of Israel: The king is not to:

- 1) acquire great numbers of horses for himself - especially from Egypt
- 2) Take many wives - heart will be lead astray
- 3) He must not accumulate large amounts of wealth (silver/gold)
- 4) don't consider yourself better than your bothers and turn from the law to the right or left

1 KINGS 10:14-11:3 WHAT DOES SOLOMON DO?

1) Solomon started to accumulate great wealth - He was greater in riches and wisdom than all other kings on earth.

2) accumulated chariots and horses - imported from Egypt-

3) King Solomon loved many foreign women 11:1 READ 11:1-2

(don't intermarry - NEVERTHELESS - Solomon held fast to them in love V2

SOLOMON HAD MANY NEVERTHELESS MOMENTS

Thought he was above God's rule...."I can handle this.." "really does it matter...

"I'm too strong to allow this desire to bring me down"

**1 Cor 10:12-13 "if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall. No temptation has seized you except what is common to man"**

**4) FAILING TO DEAL WITH PREDISPOSED WEAKNESSES**

**SOLOMON HAD A WEAKNESS - GOLD, GLORY, GIRLS!!!!**

Clearly Solomon crossed the line:

**v4- "as Solomon grew old his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord"**

Solomon learned from his DADDY (David) (David & Bathsheba)

What we do affects our children's lives. WHAT LEGACY ARE YOU LEAVING FOR YOUR CHILDREN???

their outlooks, strengths, weaknesses and attitudes are shaped by us!!!!

**5) IGNORING CORRECTION 1 KINGS 9:1-9**

1 Kings 9:1-2 Solomon had completed one of the high points of his life and career. He finished and dedicated the temple and he achieved all that he desired to do the lord appears to him with this warning:

**v4 "if you walk with me(follow me) I will establish your throne forever (bless you). But if you turn from me (refuse to follow me), I will cut you off!!!!!"**

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.  
PR. 19:20

**DON'T TURN A DEAF EAR TO CORRECTION OR WARNING - SOLOMON DID AND WANDERED FURTHER FROM GOD.**

**CONCLUSION:**

**HOW ABOUT YOU??**

**SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE NOT TOTALLY DEVOTED TO GOD?  
PRIDE TELLING YOU THAT YOU ARE THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE?  
FAILING TO DEAL WITH THOSE PREDISPOSED WEAKNESSES IN YOU LIFE? SIN IS CREEPING IN?  
WHAT LEGACY ARE YOU PASSING ON TO YOUR CHILDREN?  
IGNORING GOD'S CORRECTION?**

**AS WE SING LAST SONG ASK HIM TO STRENGTHEN YOU:**

**PRAY AND ASK HOLY SPIRIT:**

- 1) ILLUMINATE AND REVEAL AREAS OF SIN**
- 2) ASK POWER TO HELP US CHANGE AREAS OF LIFE NOT FULLY DEVOTED**
- 3) FIX DAMAGE WE HAVE MADE TO OUR CHILDREN BY OUR MISTAKES**
- 4) GIVE US AN EAR TO LISTEN**

**SING "I SURRENDER ALL-"**

**PRAY**