



LEADER GUIDE

An Expositional Study Through

I KINGS



July 12
-
October 18

AN EXPOSITIONAL STUDY THROUGH 1 KINGS

July 12 - October 18

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LEADER GUIDE

An Expositional Study Through

The Promise That Cannot Fail

I KINGS 1



July 12

Sermon Series

July 12, 2026	1 Kings 1	The Promise That Cannot Fail
July 19, 2026	1 Kings 2	Peace through Judgment
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August 23, 2026	1 Kings 11:29-39;12:25-33; 13:1-6, 33-34- 14; 14:1-20	Jeroboam: Worship as a means to me
August 30, 2026	1 Kings 13	Dangers of False Prophets
September 6, 2026	1 Kings 15-16; 22:51-53	Generational Sin
September 13, 2026	1 Kings 15:9-24	Asa: Reforming Culture to the Glory of God
September 20, 2026	1 Kings 17-18	Elijah: Courage to Confront
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October 4, 2026	1 Kings 20	Ahab: When Empathy Becomes an Enemy
October 11, 2026	1 Kings 21-22	Ahab: God's Mercy to the Chief of Sinners
October 18, 2026	1 Kings 22	Jehoshaphat: Making Deals with the Devil

Series Overview

As we begin a fifteen-week series through the book of 1 Kings, I hope you take time to read through the entire book to get a basic understanding of what's taking place within it. As you do, below are a few details to help you.

In 586 BC, the Babylonian army breached the outer walls of Jerusalem, pillaged the city, destroyed the Temple, murdered its citizens, and carried the survivors away to Babylon, where they would spend the next seventy years. The book of Kings was written during that exile, likely sometime in the mid-6th century BC. Many think Jeremiah—or a prophetic circle influenced by him—under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, collected the roughly 400-year history of the kings from David to Zedekiah as a means of explaining why the exile happened.

The events contained in 1 King take place nearly 500 years after the exodus from Egypt. Israel has conquered and settled in the land of promise; judges have repeatedly led a wayward nation back to God; and prophets and priests have mediated God to the people through the tabernacle, holy days, Sabbaths, and the Word of God. It was a God-given system meant to keep the people faithful to their covenant Lord. And yet, near the end of the Prophet Samuel's life, the people grow tired of this system and, in their desire to be like the other nations, they ask for a king. God warns Israel that a king would do more harm than good (1 Samuel 8), yet they reject God's counsel and demand their king anyway.

The first king was Saul—a tall, handsome man whom the people quickly embraced. After Saul foolishly offered a sacrifice in place of Samuel, disobeyed God's command to utterly destroy the Amalekites, and consulted a medium at Endor, God rejected him as king. In his place, God chose a lowly shepherd boy named David, the youngest son of Jesse—a man after God's own heart. David ruled over Israel for 40 years—7½ years over Judah in Hebron, and 33 years over all Israel from Jerusalem. During that time, he unified the nation, subdued their enemies, brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, and longed to build a house for the Lord.

1 Kings begins at the end of David's life, right as he passes the kingdom to his son, Solomon. And follows the succession of kings (northern and southern) up until the destruction of Jerusalem. What we will find in this book is the split and ultimate downfall of a nation. The kings were meant to rule according to God's laws, but they too often

Series Overview

failed to rule in righteousness. The hearts of the people turned away from God. As they forsook covenant, God brought upon them the covenant curses warned of in Deuteronomy.

While the book is arranged around the kings, in many ways it is a story about the prophets as well. In fact, in the Jewish Bible, it is listed among the Former Prophets. Kings is prophetic in that it centers attention on the words and works of God's prophets as they interact with the kings. For example, Nathan is faithful to remind David of Solomon's rightful role as future king. Ahijah informs Jeroboam that he is chosen to lead ten tribes. Micaiah prophesies Ahab's death. Isaiah is prophet during Hezekiah's reign. Huldah consults Josiah. There is the school of the prophets. And large swaths of the book cover Elijah and Elisha's interactions with various kings. Throughout Kings, we will find true and false prophets. How a king responds to a true prophet's words determines the rise or fall of his rule.

2 Kings ends in exile—the Temple destroyed, the kingship seemingly snuffed out. This is meant to be read in light of the everlasting covenant God made with David, promising that his throne would endure forever. As Kings comes to a close, the readers are left wondering how God will keep His promise when, by earthly standards, it seems as if David's line is dead. In many ways, it is a book anticipating a resurrection of sorts. The promise will ultimately be fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of David—crucified, dead, buried, and risen from the dead. As we read this book, it is meant to create a longing in our hearts for another King...the true Son of David, of whose Kingdom there will be no end.

Ps TJ Johnson



 **1 & 2 KINGS: OVERVIEW**

 One Book 400+ years of history	 Purpose: To explain how Israel ended up in exile, calling God's people back to covenant faithfulness. 	 THREE LEVELS OF INTERPRETATION:	 BIG IDEA:
 c. 970–560 BC Events Covered		 Israel's Story → The Church's Story	God keeps His promises, even when it seems impossible!
 Written c. 560–540 BC (Exile)		 An Individual's Story → Your Story	
 Author Likely Jeremiah		 God's Story → Jesus' Story	
 Genre Nevi'im (Former Prophets)			



Blessed Be The LORD

Sermon Outline

Title: The Promise That Cannot Fail

Text: 1 Kings 1

Proposition: God keeps His promises, even when it seems impossible! So trust His promises and faithfully walk in them.

- 1. The Promise (1 Kings 1:13, 17, 30).**
- 2. The Problem (1 Kings 1:1-4; 6-10).**
- 3. The People (1 Kings 1:7, 9).**
- 4. The Promise Fulfilled (1 Kings 1:44-48).**

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications



Discussion Questions

1. Davidic Covenant & Jesus: As a group, trace the storyline of Jesus being the ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant and share what it means to you personally that “Jesus is King”.

The Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7) promised David an everlasting kingdom through his descendants, ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Jesus reigns as the eternal King, giving believers hope, salvation, and security. Personally, to know Jesus is King means we trust His sovereign rule and faithfully follow Him.

2. Old Age & Human Hope: As David, in his old age, experienced the limitations of the human body, in what ways have you experienced aging (yourself or others), and how does the gospel help you with these experiences?

Aging is inevitable, and no one can stop it. We have seen how age brings physical weakness and limitations. The gospel gives hope because Jesus promises eternal life and resurrection. At His return, believers will receive glorified bodies that will never suffer from aging, sickness, or death.

3. Parenting: Why do you think David never disciplined Adonijah? What are some unhealthy parenting practices you have observed today? How are you being intentional in training up the next generation?

Scripture does not explain why David failed to discipline Adonijah, though he may have been overly indulgent. Today, some parents avoid correction or set few boundaries. Believers should intentionally teach and model God's truth, whether as parents, mentors, or church members, helping the next generation follow the Lord.

4. Succession Planning: David had no plan for who would lead after him, and it nearly cost the kingdom. How can you intentionally prepare others to carry on your work—in your family, ministry, or workplace—when you are gone?

One way to prepare others is to work myself out of a job by intentionally mentoring future leaders. Through coaching, delegating responsibility, and encouraging those we train, we can help ensure that our family, ministry, or workplace continues to thrive after we are gone.



Discussion Questions

5. Outward Appearances: Adonijah was handsome and the obvious choice, but God chose Solomon. Where are you tempted to judge by outward appearance—in choosing leaders, friends, or even a spouse—rather than seeking God's heart?

People naturally judge by outward appearance, whether choosing leaders, friends, or a spouse. Yet God looks at the heart rather than external qualities (1 Samuel 16:7). We should seek God's wisdom and value godly character above appearance, recognizing that true leadership begins with a faithful heart.

6. Pride vs. Submission: Adonijah exalted himself and said, "I will be king." In what area of your life are you tempted to promote yourself rather than humbly accept God's will—even when His plan is not what you expected?

Note for leaders: invite participants to prayerfully examine areas where they may seek control, recognition, or success apart from God's timing and direction. Encourage honesty, but remind the group that this is not a time for judgment. Ask them to consider: "Where do I need to surrender my desires and trust God's plan more fully?"

7. Wise Counsel: Adonijah surrounded himself with people who told him what he wanted to hear. In what ways do we surround ourselves with one-sided council today? Who speaks honest, biblical truth into your life—even when it is difficult to hear?

It is easy to surround ourselves with people who think like us and agree with our opinions. However, this can create blind spots and make us reject correction. Godly people who speak biblical truth, even when difficult to hear, are more valuable than those who only tell us what we want.

8. Faith That Motivates Action: God chose to work through Nathan and Bathsheba in order to fulfill His promise regarding Solomon. What are some areas of your life where God is calling you to actively participate in fulfilling His promises?

Note to leaders. Remind your members that God fulfills His promises while graciously allowing His people to participate in His work. Encourage them to identify where God invites them to respond in faith through obedience, prayer, service, and action.



Blessed Be The LORD

9. God's Mercy: Solomon showed mercy to Adonijah when he fled to the altar. How has God shown you mercy when you were on the wrong side of His will, and how should that past mercy shape your present life?

Sometimes we do not recognize when we are going against God's will. Yet God patiently shows mercy and gives us opportunities to repent. His grace should lead us to humility, gratitude, and a desire to obey Him more faithfully, extending the same mercy to others that we have received.

10. Trusting When It Seems Impossible: In what ways did it seem like God's promises wouldn't come to pass in 1 Kings 1? Share a time in your life when you doubted God's promises and what helped you remain faithful in your doubt.

In 1 Kings 1, God's promise about Solomon becoming king seemed threatened when Adonijah tried to take the throne. In life, circumstances may make God's promises seem impossible, but God remains faithful. Remembering His past faithfulness helps us trust Him and remain obedient even during seasons of doubt.



Blessed Be The LORD

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



LEADER GUIDE

July 19



An Expositional Study Through

A Kingdom Firmly Established

1 KINGS 2



Sermon Overview

Church Family,

We know and proclaim that Jesus is King. Our perfect savior is on the throne and ruling and reigning as he sees fit for his sheep. Yet, like Israel in the time of the Kings, we still live under the rule of imperfect and flawed rulers and governments. In the language of St. Augustine, we still dwell in a world of 2 Cities: The City of Man and The City of God.

In the biblical era of the Israelite Kings, what was the magistrate required to do in order to prosper? This coming Lord's Day we will continue our series in 1 Kings and explore King David's last recorded charge to his son, Solomon. We will also examine the steps David's son took to ensure the kingdom was firmly established and how his earthy kingdom pointed to that of the Greater Son, King Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, we are called as a visible covenant community to publicly worship the one, true and living God. On behalf of the Elders of City Church, I hope you will join us this coming Lord's Day.

Sincerely,
Elder Grant Jones



Keep The Charge Of The Lord

Sermon Outline

Title: A Kingdom Firmly Established

Text: 1 Kings 2

Proposition: God is always faithful to the promises in his Word. His Kingdom is firmly established under the Lordship of Jesus and it will not be moved.

1. David's Instructions to His Son (v. 1 - 12)

2. Solomon's Response (v. 13 - 46)

a. Punishment for Wickedness (v. 13 - 25)

b. Mercy for Humility (v. 26 - 27)

c. Blood for Peace (v. 28 - 35)

d. Curses for Blessing (v. 36 - 46)

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications



Keep The Charge Of The Lord

Discussion Questions

1. What it means to be a man can mean different things in different countries, cultures, and times (if you have time, feel free to discuss those stereotypes). David exercised a duty as a father to call his son (and future king) to prove himself a man. What was David's principal charge? Read 1 Kings 2:3. Note that David still presents this call to Solomon even though David himself was imperfect. **Do David's words to Solomon have any implications for parents' chief desire for their children? And further, how have you neglected and/or sought to practice this as parents? Children and Youth: Are there times when you wanted to go your own way, even though your parents were trying to call you to be faithful to God's commands?**

David's greatest charge was for Solomon to walk faithfully in God's ways (1 Kings 2:3). As a small group leader, encourage parents to consider whether their strongest desire is their children's faithfulness to Christ. Invite children and youth to reflect on trusting God's commands, even when they conflict with their own desires.

2. Antinomian is a word not commonly used in our day-to-day speech. Nevertheless, it's a term that describes a belief that once a person is a professing Christian, they are no longer under any obligation to obey the moral law of God. I hope most of us would disagree. However, in our lives, we can go through seasons reducing our obligation to God's law or, even worse, justifying active disobedience by thoughts of "Well, ultimately Jesus will forgive me, so my current disobedience is just fine". This mindset has the spirit of the antinomian position. **Do David's words to Solomon in 1 Kings 2:3 have any implications for the antinomian position? Discuss a season in your life where you justified a sin and ran away from calls of repentance (or were tempted to do so)?**

David's charge shows that God's people are called to ongoing obedience, not lawlessness (1 Kings 2:3). Encourage honest reflection without condemnation. Help the group distinguish between struggling with sin and justifying it. Emphasize that God's grace leads to repentance and faithful obedience, not an excuse for continued sin.



Keep The Charge Of The Lord

Discussion Questions

3. In 1 Kings 2:13-46, Solomon, as the magistrate, was executing his authority of the sword to punish crimes with a penalty of death. Many countries today have abolished the death penalty, and still many more individuals believe it should be abolished. **Do you ever wonder how to navigate the anti-death penalty opinion with God's righteous Law requiring the death penalty for more than a few crimes? Discuss (humbly) your views on the death penalty. OT civil law was specifically for the ethnically national Israel and was not binding on other nations. However, does the general principle (Example: Gen. 9:6) support civil magistrates today in outlining crimes requiring the death penalty?**

**Scan the QR code to read the article with 1 simple example and summary of a pro-death penalty view*



Encourage a humble, Scripture-centered discussion, recognizing that faithful Christians hold different views on capital punishment. Distinguish Israel's civil laws from principles that may apply today. Focus on God's justice, the value of human life, and the government's God-given responsibility to uphold justice (Gen. 9:6; Rom. 13:1–4).

4. From our perspective, we often can feel urgency to see crimes punished, and in many ways this is right and proper. However, as sinners, we may also be tempted to think delayed punishment justifies our current rebellion. Think of Joab; he is punished for former sins by Solomon, but his characterizing sin was unrighteous bloodshed that occurred under David's reign. Our God is not bound by time and yet is always perfectly just. From our vantage point, justice may seem delayed, but true justice always occurs consistently with the will of God. **Discuss any struggles you have had with a perceived delay in God's justice. From a human perspective, what are the dangers of delaying punishment (to varying degrees) and, conversely, of being too hasty to hand down punishment? (Examples: Parenting, Workplace, Civil Crimes, and Church).**

Encourage participants to reflect honestly on times they questioned God's timing. Discuss the wisdom of balancing patience with timely justice in parenting, church, and society. Remind the group that God's justice is never forgotten or delayed beyond His perfect wisdom, even when it seems slow from our perspective.



Keep The Charge Of The Lord

Discussion Questions

5. Elders are not the civil magistrates. However, the rule of ethnic/national Israel in the Book of Kings has general implications for leadership in many spheres of life that have authority structures. As we have recently studied at City Church, local congregations should be ruled by Elders. To be clear, the passage in 1 Kings 2 is NOT commanding Elders in the local Church to bear the sword. Elders are shepherds. One of the duties shepherds are charged with is church discipline. **Do Solomon's actions towards the sins of Adonijah, Abiathar, Joab, and Shimei have any implications on how Elders handle sin within the visible church they have been charged to oversee? Think about Solomon's specific words towards each of those 4 men. Can you see mercy, wisdom, patience, justice, and/or punishment in Solomon's dealings with any or all of the 4 cases mentioned?**

Encourage the group to compare Solomon's responses to each individual, noting both justice and mercy. Discuss how elders should exercise wisdom, patience, restoration, and, when necessary, church discipline. Emphasize that the goal of biblical discipline is God's glory, the church's purity, and the sinner's repentance.

6. Discuss ways you were convicted or challenged by the text, sermon, or small group questions. What are some things you should change, or that you should be encouraged to continue doing, moving forward in the coming weeks?

Encourage everyone to identify one specific conviction and one practical step of obedience. Keep the discussion application-focused rather than theoretical. Give participants time to share how they can pray for and encourage one another to faithfully apply God's Word in the coming week.



Keep The Charge Of The Lord

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



LEADER GUIDE

July 26



An Expositional Study Through

Wisdom to Serve

I KINGS 3-4, 10



Sermon Overview

Wisdom is a key theme in the Bible. Wisdom was the object of Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve. Wisdom was the thing that placed Joseph second in command of all Egypt. Wisdom was the criteria for appointing leaders to assist Moses with caring for Israel. Wisdom is sought after in Proverbs. Wisdom is sung about in the Psalms. Wisdom (wise men) sought out the Messiah. I could go on, but I hope you get the point...wisdom is quite important for the Christian. This week we will study Solomon's encounter with wisdom and hopefully learn how to live wisely so that God is honored and others are blessed.

Seeking Wisdom with You,

Elder TJ Johnson



Wise And Discerning Mind

Sermon Outline

Title: Wisdom to Serve

Text: 1 Kings 3-4; 10

Proposition: Ask for God's grace to grant you wisdom in your life for the good of man and the glory of God.

- 1. Wisdom is Wrought by Grace (1 Kings 3:1-5).**
- 2. Wisdom is Infinite in Worth (1 Kings 3:5-14).**
- 3. Wisdom is Substantiated through Action (1 Kings 3:16-28).**
- 4. Wisdom is Edifying to Many (1 Kings 3:28; 10:1, 24).**

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications



Wise And Discerning Mind

Discussion Questions

1. Define Biblical wisdom and share examples of wisdom in action.

Biblical wisdom is the ability to make moral and ethical decisions according to God's righteous will. True wisdom comes from God, not human understanding. Examples include Joseph storing grain for the famine in Egypt, Joshua leading Israel by God's guidance, and Solomon governing with justice. Wisdom is applied truth in action.

2. Read Proverbs 3:14–15. What makes wisdom so valuable and desirable? Are there things you pursue more eagerly than wisdom—things that may be lesser in importance? Explain.

According to Proverbs 3:14–15, wisdom is more valuable than silver, gold, or precious jewels because it guides every area of life. While we often pursue wealth, success, or comfort, biblical wisdom should come first. It provides the foundation for making godly decisions and using every other blessing faithfully.

3. How does one gain wisdom?

True wisdom comes from God alone. We gain it by fearing the Lord, studying His Word, and asking Him to give it generously. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God... and it will be given him." Wisdom is God's gift to those who seek Him humbly.

4. Where do you need wisdom most right now, and what would applying it actually look like in that situation?

Note to the leader: encourage members to identify one specific area of life where they need God's wisdom (e.g., family, work, relationships, ministry, or a difficult decision). Help them move beyond general answers by discussing one practical step of obedience they can take this week to apply biblical wisdom in that situation.

5. How have you benefited from the wisdom of others? Is there someone in your life right now who could benefit from the wisdom God has given you?

Proverbs 12:15 teaches that wise people listen to counsel rather than trusting only their own understanding. We benefit from the wisdom of others through godly advice, experience, and correction. In the same way, God can use the wisdom He has given us to encourage, guide, and support others who need help.



Wise And Discerning Mind

Discussion Questions

6. Read 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30. How does knowing that Jesus Himself is the wisdom of God change the way you understand, pursue, and apply wisdom?

Since Jesus is the wisdom of God, true wisdom is found in knowing, trusting, and following Him. As we study His Word and grow in His character, we learn to think, speak, and live like Christ. Pursuing wisdom is ultimately pursuing a deeper relationship with Jesus and becoming more like Him.



Wise And Discerning Mind

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



LEADER GUIDE

An Expositional Study Through

God's House

I KINGS 5-8



August 2

Sermon Overview

One of the most fascinating studies in biblical theology is the Temple. It begins in Eden—the first Temple, with Adam serving as its priest—and culminates in the new heaven and earth, where Jesus Himself is the Temple. In other words, the Old Testament Temple was a shadow pointing to something greater. That substance is Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus says in Matthew 12:6, “Something greater than the temple is here.”

This Sunday, as we explore Solomon’s Temple, I hope to unearth a few hidden treasures from Scripture as they relate to Jesus—and then leave you with the challenge to keep digging and discover even more. Please take time to read 1 Kings 5–8. Begin by asking what this text meant to its original hearers—those in exile after the Temple’s destruction, many of whom had never even seen it. Only then should you read it in light of the New Testament’s revelation of the Temple’s true meaning: that Christ and His Church are now the Temple.

In Him,

Elder TJ Johnson



Sermon Outline

Title: God's House

Text: 1 Kings 5-8

Proposition: Solomon's Temple was a shadow pointing to the true temple—Christ and His Church. Therefore, let us enter boldly into the Father's presence, through the perfect work of the Son, and by the enabling power of the Spirit, worshiping in holy reverence the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Rest (1 Kings 5:3-4) | 6. Furniture (1 Kings 7:48-50) |
| 2. Effort (1 Kings 5:13-18; 6:38) | 7. Obedience (1 Kings 6:11-13) |
| 3. Dwelling (1 Kings 6:11-13; 8:13) | 8. Sacrifice (1 Kings 8:46) |
| 4. Beauty (1 Kings 6:15-32) | 9. Prayer (1 Kings 8:28-30) |
| 5. Guards God's Divine Presence (1 Kings 6:23-28) | 10. Glory (1 Kings 8:10) |

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications



Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does 1 Kings 5-8 foreshadow Jesus as the true Temple?

Look for the sermon's outline to see as an example.

2. Which of these is the most meaningful to you and why?

One example to consider is 1 Kings 8:10–11: God's glory filled the temple so powerfully that the priests could not remain inside. Jesus is the true Temple, the Word made flesh who dwelt among us (John 1:14). In Christ, God's presence is no longer confined to a building but has come to dwell among His people.

3. In what ways does 1 Kings 5-8 foreshadow the church as the true Temple?

Look for the sermon's outline to see as an example.

4. Which of these is the most meaningful to you and why?

The temple foreshadows the church because God now dwells among His people through the Holy Spirit rather than in a building. Like the temple, the church is set apart for worship, holiness, and God's glory. Most meaningful is that God's presence now lives within His people, forming one spiritual family.

5. Read Revelation 21:22-27. What is this future vision meant to do in our lives today?

Revelation 21:22–27 reminds us that our future is to dwell forever in God's presence. This hope encourages us to pursue holiness, persevere through trials, and live with an eternal perspective. Knowing Christ will fully restore all things motivates us to worship Him faithfully and invest in what will last forever.

6. How has reading and studying 1 Kings 5-8 made your love for Jesus grow?

Jesus by showing that He is the true and greater Temple where God's presence dwells. Solomon's temple pointed forward to Christ, who fulfilled God's plan perfectly. Through Jesus, we have direct access to God and the hope of His eternal kingdom.

7. What questions do you have from 1 Kings 5-8 or the sermon?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



LEADER GUIDE



An Expositional Study Through

Forbidden Love

I KINGS 9, 11



August 9

Sermon Overview

Dear City Church Family,

Many of us know the story of Solomon - his wisdom, his wealth, and the glory of the Lord coming at his dedication of the temple. But do we know the end of his story? 1 Kings tells us clearly that Solomon did not end well - he turned away from the Lord and began to worship other gods.

How could this happen to someone so wise and who had such powerful experiences with the Lord? This week we will look at Solomon's drift away from the Lord, his downfall, and the discipline that the Lord gave as a result. This story is a tragic reminder of the necessity to cling to the Lord above all else.

Clinging to Christ with you,

Elder Ben Whitmore



Keeping My Statutes And My Rules

Sermon Outline

Title: Forbidden Love

Text: 1 Kings 9, 11

Proposition: Solomon's downfall gives us a sobering warning of the potential we all have to drift away from the Lord, and challenges us to cling to Him more than wealth, power, and relationships.

1. Solomon's Drift

- a. Misaligned Desire (9:1, 9:11, 9:19)
- b. Mismanaged Stewardship (9:10 - 14)
- c. Mistaking Ritual For Obedience (9:25; 10:28; 9:14; 9:28; 11:3)

2. Solomon's Downfall

- a. The importance of being equally yoked
- b. The importance of stewarding our sexual desires

3. Solomon's Discipline

- a. The Lord raised up adversaries
 - i. Hadad from the South (11:14 - 22)
 - ii. Rezon from the North (11:23 - 25)
 - iii. Jeroboam from within (11:26 - 39)
- b. Solomon's resistance to the Lord's discipline (11:40)

Sermon Applications



Keeping My Statutes And My Rules

Discussion Questions

1. In the sermon, we saw three signs of drift in Solomon:

- **Misaligned desire:** his ambitions and plans were more self-oriented than God-oriented.
- **Mismanaged stewardship:** he treated what belonged to God as if it belonged to him.
- **Mistaking ritual for obedience:** he continued worshipping the Lord while not living in full obedience to His word.

Which of these three do you think is the greatest danger for you?

Note to leaders: Encourage members to answer honestly and personally rather than choosing the “right” answer. Invite them to reflect on areas where their desires, resources, or spiritual practices may have drifted from wholehearted obedience to God. Remind the group that the goal is not guilt, but repentance, growth, and dependence on God’s grace

2. Why does the Bible forbid a believer from marrying a non-believer (2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18), and how might Solomon's story help us understand the danger?

The Bible warns believers not to marry unbelievers because marriage is a covenant relationship that deeply shapes our worship, values, and direction in life. 2 Corinthians 6:14 calls believers not to be unequally yoked. Solomon’s story shows the danger clearly: his foreign wives turned his heart away from the Lord and led him toward idolatry. The Old Testament command against intermarriage was not about ethnicity but about protecting God’s people from turning away from Him. In the same way, Christians are called to marry “only in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 7:39) so they can pursue Christ together and raise their families in faith.

3. Many people struggle to find a suitable spouse in the church, and they feel pressure to compromise and date non-believers. How can we as a church love and encourage our members who feel that pressure? As a church, we should respond with compassion rather than pressure or judgment. We should remind singles that their identity and fulfillment are found in Christ, not marriage. We should support them in trusting God's timing while helping them pursue relationships that honor God and strengthen their faith.



Keeping My Statutes And My Rules

Discussion Questions

4. We know that David also sinned grievously against the Lord (2 Samuel 11), and yet 1 Kings 11:4 says that Solomon's "heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father." What did David do differently from Solomon that showed his heart was true to the Lord?

David repented, but Solomon continued in sin. We see evidence of David's repentance in the way he accepted the consequences of his sin - the death of his child, Absalom's rebellion, etc. Solomon, on the other hand, resisted the Lord's discipline and tried to murder Jeroboam when the Lord said that he would reign over 10 tribes (1 Kings 11:40).

5. Many people only know about Solomon's wisdom and the fact that he built the temple to the Lord, but they don't know about his fall into idolatry. Why do you think this is?

It is uncomfortable to know that the wisest man in the world fell into sin. We feel much better just focusing on the blessings and riches, but Scripture wants to warn us of the danger we all face of drifting from the Lord.

6. Does reading about Solomon's fall make it difficult to trust other writings in Scripture attributed to Solomon (Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes)?

Ultimately, the authority of Scripture rests in God, and not in the person that God used to write. God used Solomon to record many true and beautiful things, even though he himself did not ultimately live by them.

Ultimately, the authority of Scripture rests in God, and not in the person that God used to write. God used Solomon to record many true and beautiful things, even though he himself did not ultimately live by them.

7. What does the Lord's discipline look like in your life?

See Hebrews 12:3 - 11 if you need a fuller picture of the Lord's discipline.



Keeping My Statutes And My Rules

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

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LEADER GUIDE

An Expositional Study Through

***Rehoboam's Sin and God's
Sovereignty***

1 Kings 12; 14:21-31



August 16

Sermon Overview

This week we find that Rehoboam's sin causes civil war among God's covenant people, and Jeroboam's sin causes the worship of pagan gods. Behind these evil acts is a good God who not only allowed these events to take place but, in some mysterious way, was using them to bring about His good purposes. These are real people who experienced real suffering as a result of their sin, and yet our text says, "it was a turn of affairs brought about by the Lord."

God's providence—or, more commonly referred to today as God's sovereignty—means that nothing takes Him by surprise, nothing happens without His allowance, and nothing is permitted except by His ordering of the events of history. As Psalm 115:3 reminds us: "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases."

As we live in a world filled with sin and suffering, sometimes it might feel as if evil is going unchecked, that God is unable to overcome the works of the Evil One. But a proper understanding of His providence is meant to strengthen our weak knees so that when suffering comes to us, our faith will not falter. Rather, we can look back and say, "What you meant for evil, God meant for good." I pray each of us is granted a God-sized vision of God this Sunday as we study 1 Kings 12 and 14:21–31, and that this vision moves us into deeper love for Him.

Trusting with you,

Elder TJ Johnson



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Sermon Outline

Title: Rehoboam's Sin and God's Sovereignty

Text: 1 Kings 12; 14:21-31

Proposition: While evil exists, it does not exist outside the sovereign reign and overarching plan of God; therefore, when suffering and evil come to us, we must trust God in the midst of our suffering, as we cling to the cross and await Christ's return, when He will fully and finally do away with all evil and sin and suffering.

- 1. The Lord Allows Evil (1 Kings 12:8).**
- 2. The Lord Limits Evil (1 Kings 12:21-24).**
- 3. The Lord Ordains Evil (1 Kings 12:15, 1 Kings 12:24)**

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications



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Discussion Questions

1. What evil has God allowed in your life, and how have you reconciled that with God's goodness?

Note to leaders: Help members reflect on how they have wrestled with suffering while holding onto God's goodness, sovereignty, and faithfulness.

2. What are some unbiblical ways Christians have tried to reconcile evil and God's goodness?

Some unbiblical responses include saying that God is not truly in control, that evil does not really matter, or that suffering is always punishment for personal sin. Others may believe we can understand every reason God allows evil. Scripture teaches us to trust God's goodness and sovereignty, even when we do not understand His purposes.

3. What are the dangers of not coming to a proper understanding that God allows suffering into our lives (over-realized eschatology)?

When we believe Christians should be free from suffering, we may become disappointed with God when difficulties come. We may think suffering means we lack faith or that God has abandoned us. This can lead to discouragement, false teaching, and shallow faith. Understanding God's purposes helps us trust Him faithfully through suffering.

4. Share a time when you have seen God limit evil—in the Bible, in your own life, or in the world around you. How does this grow your love for God?

One example is how God protected Joseph despite the evil intentions of his brothers. What they meant for evil, God used for good (Genesis 50:20). Seeing how God can limit evil and bring good from difficult circumstances reminds us that He is sovereign, faithful, and worthy of my trust, even when I do not understand His ways.

5. Can you share with the group ways God's grace has limited evil in our own heart?



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Discussion Questions

6. Choose two or more texts where God's sovereignty over evil and human responsibility for evil are mentioned together, and explain them to the group.

We can see it in Genesis 50:20, Acts 2:23, or Acts 4:27–28. The Bible does not fully explain how God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together, but it clearly teaches both. We can trust God's goodness and justice even when we cannot understand everything.

7. What and who has helped you most during times of great suffering?

8. What questions do you have regarding God's sovereignty and evil?

9. Share your thoughts on Heidelberg Catechism 27 or Westminster Confession of Faith 5.4. *"The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God do so far manifest themselves in his providence, that it extends even to the first fall, and all other sins of angels and people. Such do not happen by a bare permission, but are joined with a most wise and powerful bounding, ordering and governing of them, in various dispensations, for his own holy purposes, yet so that the sinfulness of them comes only from the creature, and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, is not nor can be the author or approver of sin."*

10. Share how Jesus allowed, limited, and ordained His own suffering, and how this can help you in your own suffering and your ever-increasing love for Him?

Jesus willingly accepted suffering and death according to the Father's plan. As He went through the cross, at every moment He could have stopped it, but He chose not to. He allowed Himself to suffer for our salvation. This reminds me of His deep love and strengthens my trust in Him during my own suffering.



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