



Life Group Study 1 Kings 9-11

Ice Breaker: An idol is anything other than God that becomes our heart's true focus. Idols always over-promise and under-deliver. They may take the form of wisdom/knowledge, pleasures, addictions, accomplishments, wealth, sex, work, religion, etc. What are some idols you know of that people chase? What consequences have you seen or experienced from chasing such idols?

Introduction

Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes during the latter part of his life. He was looking back on his life, much of which was lived apart from God, with regret. He seems to have written Ecclesiastes to spare future generations from learning through their own experience that life is meaningless apart from God. When Solomon became king, he asked God for wisdom and became the wisest man in the world (1 Kings 4:29-34). However, like Adam and Eve, Solomon sought happiness apart from God. He bought into the lie and sought after the pleasures of the world. In the end, he concluded that life without God is vanity and like chasing after the wind.

Read 1 Kings 9:1-9, 25

After Solomon finished building the temple, the Lord appeared to him a second time (the first appearance was in 1 Kings 3: 4-15). In 1 Kings 9:25, Solomon was burning sacrifices and incense to fulfill the temple obligations.

- Do you think Solomon was doing this because he loved the Lord or out of religious duty?

Read 1 Kings 3:1, 3:3, 10:26

Solomon didn't turn away from God all at once. His spiritual coldness began with minor departures from God's laws.

- How did Solomon violate God's commands in these three verses?

Read 1 Kings 11: 1-8

Although Solomon was the wisest man on earth, he had some weak spots. He could not say no to his lustful desires or the sinful practices of his wives. Solomon first resisted, then tolerated, and then finally became totally involved in a life of sin.

- What has happened to Solomon in the above verses?
- Where have you seen this before in a person or nation?
- How could this be prevented in Solomon's (or anybody's) life?

Read 1 Kings 11: 9-13

Solomon had God's promises, guidance, and answers to prayer, yet he allowed sin to fill his life and his kingdom.

- How does God respond in these verses?

Read 1 Kings 11: 26-36

- What happened to the 12 tribes of Israel?
- What happened between Jeroboam (one of Solomon's officials) and Rehoboam (Solomon's son)?

Conclusion

Psalms 127, written by Solomon, says "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." Solomon began his reign by laying a strong foundation with God, but he did not follow through in his later years. Solomon received a charge from his father, David, in 1 Kings 2:1-4 to follow the Lord. Solomon did not give the same charge to his son, Rehoboam. Solomon's sin caused his family and the nation of Israel to ignore the teachings of God. We must continually follow God's direction for our lives, or we too could end up like Solomon.

Pray for each other that we might seek God's direction for our lives daily and eliminate the slow decay that can result from compromising with sin.