

# Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

## **Monday (August 7) – 1 Kings 9**

The Lord gives Solomon a warning: the temple isn't a guarantee that will grant military and political success. If he and the people of Israel reject God, they will not be saved because of this house. God warns that the temple will be destroyed if they turn away from Him. Let this be a call to repentance for us. Our Lord wants to forgive our sins, consecrate us by his Word, make us His holy people, and dwell with us forever. To do this, He gives us His church and the means of grace where the fruits of Christ's death on the cross for our sins are distributed to us. These gifts are greater than the temple. They are the fulfillment of the temple. But these gifts are received in the same way: in faith, not as magic words. Faith saves. Faith is trust in God's promises. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continually call us to repentance and to faith in His promises by His Word.

## **Tuesday (August 8) – 1 Kings 10**

See the connection with the visit of the Magi to the Christ child in Matthew 2. Also see Matthew 12, where Jesus references the queen of Sheba's visit to see the glory of Solomon. Jesus says, "Behold, something greater than Solomon is here." The queen of Sheba, the magi, and Jesus' words about Himself all foreshadow God's plan that the gospel go out to all nations. Many from foreign nations will see the wisdom and wealth of the Kingdom of God. Not just gold and spices, but forgiveness, life, and salvation! Even today, God displays the riches of the peace that surpasses all understanding to those who live, work, and interact with His people. We pray that God's work for us and in us would cause others to bless the Lord and to receive the same gifts we've received.

## **Wednesday (August 9) – 1 Kings 11**

Here we see God's wisdom in commanding that His people not take foreign wives. We also see God's wisdom in creating marriage to be between one man and one woman. Solomon, despite all he had received from God, fell to the snare of his passions. The snare caught him so tightly that he even began sacrificing to his wives' pagan gods. See how all the good that came through Solomon is attributed to God. See also how all the evil Solomon did is a result of his own fault. David, Solomon's father, was also a sinner, but David repented of his sin and received grace and mercy from God. Solomon is told that because of his sin, his kingdom will be torn from him. His kingdom will be split. Judah will remain with Solomon's son, Rehoboam. The other tribes will be ruled by one of Solomon's adversaries, Jeroboam. Unlike David, who repented when he was confronted with his sin, Solomon makes no plea for forgiveness. We pray that God would convict us through the word of His law and call us back to Himself, that with David we may be restored by the blood of Christ and called wholly true to the Lord God our Savior.

## **Thursday (August 10) – 1 Kings 12**

King Rehoboam dismisses the advice of his elders and instead listens to the advice of his peers. Rehoboam's words to the people are reminiscent of God's warning about kings which he gave through the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 8:10-18). Rehoboam's foolish decision to dismiss the advice of the old men leads to the splitting of the kingdom. Here God fulfills his promise to Jeroboam from chapter 11. He is made king over Israel, the ten tribes that broke away from Rehoboam. But Jeroboam is an evil king. In order to promote his own purposes, and with no regard for the Lord or his people, he

makes calves of gold. He does this to discourage his people from going to Rehoboam's territory of Judah to offer sacrifices at the Lord's house. This is a grave sin and has drastic consequences for Jeroboam's family line and for the people of Israel under his rule.

### **Friday (August 11) – 1 Kings 13**

Chapter 13 tells of events happening in Israel. The man who came to Jeroboam and spoke against the false altar was truly speaking God's word. His prophecy about Josiah would come to pass three hundred years later (2 Kings 23:16). The old prophet who enters the scene in v. 11 is not a man of God. He is a false prophet. He might be one of the false prophets of Baal established by Jeroboam. He lies to the man of God and convinces him to eat and drink with him despite God's explicit command against this. While the man of God is eating and drinking, God speaks through the false prophet. God can use whoever he chooses as an instrument of His will. Even after hearing God's word, the man of God is not convicted of his sin. Instead of immediately stopping what he's doing and calling upon God for mercy, he finishes eating and drinking. Soon after, he is killed by a lion. Idol worship and false teaching run rampant in our time. Today there are many false teachers who lie the same way. They say, "This is the word of the Lord!" concerning things that God has forbidden. We pray that the Holy Spirit would convict us when we have been tricked and cause us to immediately seek forgiveness. Sin is serious, as serious as death. But our Lord is quick and eager to forgive.

### **Saturday (August 12) – 1 Kings 14**

This chapter begins by recounting things which happened in Israel. Jeroboam's wife receives unbearable news from Ahijah, who is a prophet of the Lord. Even in this harsh judgment, God is carrying out his plan of salvation for his people. The second half of the chapter turns back to Rehoboam who rules in Judah. Rehoboam doesn't actively encourage idol worship like Jeroboam did in Israel. But he doesn't fulfill his responsibility as king of protecting his people from idolatry. Only one generation after Solomon, the kingdom is split and the riches of the house of the Lord are plundered. The glory, honor, and wealth of Solomon quickly dissipates when God withdraws his blessing. Even though temporal sin has grave consequences, take comfort in seeing how God does not abandon his people. God is still causing his plan for our salvation to come to fruition.

### **Sunday (August 13) – 1 Kings 15**

First we turn to Judah. Abijam may not have actively promoted idol worship but he did nothing to stop it. He failed as king. Asa, on the other hand, walked in the righteousness of David. Asa actively works against idol worship within his own house. Even though he falls short in driving out idol worship among his people, Asa is praised as being "wholly true to the Lord all his days." (15:14) The second half of the chapter turns to Israel. Nadab was evil and made Israel sin. Baasha commits regicide and makes himself king. He goes on to wipe out the house of Jeroboam, as the Lord had sworn to do through Baasha's father, Ahijah. Ahijah is the one who spoke the words of judgment to Jeroboam's wife. Here we see God's words from Exodus 20:5-6 carried out. God punishes the children for the sins of the fathers. Yet through all of this he preserves a faithful remnant from whom the promised messiah would be born. Through Judah, God keeps his promise to show love to a thousand generations. The one who loved him and kept his commandments perfectly isn't David, or Solomon, or Asa. It is David's son and Lord, our King, Christ Jesus.