

## Israel: Drive through History Pt 2

### 2Chronicles 8:1-18

- At this point Solomon is known for being wise and building the Temple of God in Jerusalem, but these chapters show us that Solomon did a whole lot more than that, some for the good and others for the bad. In fact the activities we're about to read begin to reveal the cracks that started to form in Solomon's heart after the Temple and the appearance of the Lord and exposes some of the areas of weakness that later produced such a bitter harvest, as Solomon became more interested in the splendor of the Kingdom instead of the glory of the Lord.

#### V1-18

- **V1-2** King Hiram of Tyre had been David's good friend, and David had told him about his plans to build a Temple for the Lord, plans the Lord didn't permit David to carry out, so David set everything up for his son to carry out the plans and it included Solomon getting Cedar trees from Hiram to use as materials for the building. **Prov 27:10** speak of Hiram becoming Solomon's friend after his father's death, and it encourages us to keep those who have been a blessing to our parents as allies because just as they benefitted them they may be of use for us as well.
- **V3-5** like his father Solomon began to expand the borders of Israel and he travels some 300 miles North of Jerusalem to Hamath Zobah which today is modern day Syria. He built it up adding an upper and lower village of Beth Horon, fortifying it so that it became an oasis and a trading center on the main highway from Mesopotamia. So what Solomon did then is going to benefit many later on, so this was a good thing he does in not only expanding the Kingdom of Israel but also helping with commerce for all who desire to trade and work an honest living.
- **V6-8** these storage cities were in the territory of Dan and were used for housing Solomon's chariots and his horses, two things that God told him not to horde lest he begin to rely on his military and its might rather than the Lord and His promises > **Deut 17:16, Ps 20:7**. So right here we see a small crack begin to show, as Solomon's doing something that seems prudent at the time in building up his military, needed to remember to do it the way that God said not man. The enemies of Israel who once ruled lorded over them are now their tributes working for them.
- **V9-11** we see another crack that's showing and this one is blaring like the noon day sun, as Solomon has taken a wife but not from the tribe of Israel, instead he has taken an Egyptian wife and not just any wife either but a daughter of the Pharaoh. This shows that this was an arranged marriage that Solomon agreed to in order to solidify Israel's allies and its borders, and the first of his many unwise marriages that would help launch his spiritual downfall. This again is him leaning on his own understanding and ignoring what God's Word had said, for it didn't matter if relations were good or bad with Egypt as long as relations were good with the Lord.

- This also shows a big difference between Solomon and his father, David was also known as a conqueror, who defeated many an enemy and took their territory and added it to the Kingdom. But he never attempted to build an international network that would make Israel powerful among the nations, that's because David was a mighty general and God's warrior who feared no enemy, but Solomon was a shrewd diplomat and politician who missed no opportunity to increase his wealth and his power even if it meant disobeying God's Word in order to do it.
- **V11** notice Solomon recognizes that she is an unbeliever and unholy, so he doesn't want her to live in the same place that either his parents had lived or where the Ark of the Covenant had been, and yet despite all that he still married her. Now before you shake your head many in the church has done the same thing, they know the spiritual state of the other individual, how their not on one accord, and definitely see things differently spiritually, and yet they look to try and give life to something that is clearly dead, as they dress it up, talk it up, and ultimately mess it up
- **V12-16** despite all the compromise Solomon still kept both the morning and evening sacrifices, he offered up burnt offerings, he kept the Sabbaths and the feasts, but what God was after was not these outward things, it was his heart that was drifting away despite him keeping his traditions. People can come to church, serve on ministries, take communion, read the bible, and still drift away from the Lord, How? By not spending intimate time with Him, being in love with Him, desiring to please and honor Him as our motivation instead of satisfying something in us.
- **V17-18** we see Solomon is a great entrepreneur, as he's making trade agreements with many nations; he's built a navy to travel across the seas. The Jews being an inland people were not given to much maritime pursuits so Solomon hired Hiram's expert seamen to manage for him and depended upon the Phoenicians a coastal people to handle this aspect of his enterprise. By doing this it allowed Solomon to import products from the east and help make the Kingdom more international in its endeavors, also it greatly enriched Solomon's fame and fortunes as well