

The Book of FIRST KINGS
Chapters 9 – 11
“SOLOMON’S STORY”

CHAPTER 9 – THE TEST OF TIME

(v1-5) How to receive God’s blessings:

- #1 – Have a house of PRAYER (seek the LORD)
- #2 – Have a heart of INTEGRITY (virtue and honesty)
- #3 – Live in UPRIGHTNESS (do right and do it well)
- #4 – Be a DOER of God’s Word
- #5 - Keep His STATUTES and JUDGMENTS

(v6-9) How to reap disaster and destruction:

- #1 – Turn from FOLLOWING the LORD
- #2 – Forsake His COMMANDMENTS AND STATUTES
- #3 – SERVE other gods and WORSHIP them

((v9) Idol-ness is the devil’s workshop! To *embrace other gods* is to believe in; to *worship other gods* is to pay homage or adoration; to *serve other gods* is to trust and live for; GOD FORBID!)

(v10-14) The happenings of Hiram and Solomon

(v15-28) Solomon’s reign and fame

CHAPTER 10 – THE LIFE OF HAPPINESS & SPLENDOR

(v1-13) The Queen of Sheba visits King Solomon, she is amazed at his wisdom and blesses him gifts and he blesses her. (Matthew 12:42)

(v14-29) King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom (Read *Proverbs* for great wisdom and understanding.).

CHAPTER 11 - THE HEART OF HOPELESSNESS

(v1-8) Solomon forsakes the LORD!

> Who are these gods?

- **Ashtoroth** (*wives*) - the plural form of Ashtoreth, a pagan goddess. 1 Samuel 31:10 connects her with the Philistines, and 1 Kings 11:5 connects her with the Sidonians. She was often considered the companion or partner of the male god BAAL (Judges 2:13). Apparently the worship of these goddesses was practiced by the Israelites from time to time. Solomon compromised his faith by worshipping at the altar of Ashtoroth (1 Kings 11:5,33). Along with the Baalim (the plural of Baal), the Ashtoroth were thought by the Philistines to be responsible for fertility and the growth of crops and herds. The Ashtoroth were worshiped by other peoples under such names as Astarte (Phoenicians and Canaanites), Inanna (Sumerians), Ishtar (Babylonians), Aphrodite (Greeks), and Venus (Romans). All these were goddesses of sensual love and fertility.

- **Che'mosh** (ke-mosh). The national deity of the Moabites, honored with horribly cruel rites like those of Molech, to whom children were sacrificed in the fire. It is interesting archaeologically to note that the anger of Chemosh is said in the famous Moabite Stone to be the reason for Israel's subjugation of Moab (cf. Judges 11:24). Solomon made a fatal mistake, whatever his reason might have been, of rearing an altar to Chemosh in Jerusalem (1 Kings 11:7). This abomination was not destroyed until Josiah's purge almost three centuries later (2 Kings 23:13). So infatuated were the Moabites with Chemosh that they were known as the "people of Chemosh" (Numbers 21:29).

- **Mil'com** (mil'cum; "their king"). Another form of *Malcham* (which see), the national god of the Ammonites, called (1 Kings 11:5; 2 Kings 23:13) "the abomination of the sons of Ammon." He was worshiped by Solomon and extirpated by Josiah.

- **Mo'lech** (mo'lek; Heb. *melek*, "king"). A Semitic deity honored by the sacrifice of children, in which they were caused to pass through or into the fire. Palestinian excavations have uncovered evidences of infant skeletons in burial places around heathen shrines. Ammonites revered Molech as a protecting father. Worship of Molech was stringently prohibited by Hebrew law (Leviticus 18:21; 20:1-5). Solomon built an altar to Molech at Topheth in the valley of Hinnom. Manasseh (c. 696 B.C. - 642 B.C.), in his idolatrous orgy, also honored this deity. Josiah desecrated the Hinnom valley altar, but Jehoiakim revived the cult. The prophets sternly denounced this form of heathen worship (Jeremiah 7:29-34; Ezekiel 16:20-22; 23:37-39; Amos 5:26, marg.). No form of ancient Semitic idolatry was more abhorrent than Molech worship. (from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright © 1988.)

(v9-13) God rebukes Solomon and will judge.

(v14-43) Solomon is chastened, Solomon dies.

(New Testament example of Israel: Romans 11:13-36; same pattern for the last days church Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22).)

> Let's finish in VICTORY as the church of PHILADELPHIA! (Rev. 3:7-13).