



HOMEWORK FOR SEPTEMBER 12

Kings: The Divided Kingdom

1 Kings 10:23-29; Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1 Kings 11:1-13; 1 Kings 12-13; 2 Kings 17;
Matthew 6:24; 22:34-40; 1 Corinthians 10:1-14; John 4:1-26

QUESTIONS

- 1) Read 1 Kings 10:23-27 and reflect on the kind of kingdom Solomon enjoyed. Why was his kingdom like this? What kind of example was this kingdom to the rest of the world?

- 2) Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and compare this passage describing what God tells His kings *not* to do to the reign of Solomon. Though Solomon's reign was one of peace and prosperity, the Golden Age of the monarchy, why might looking at his reign in light of Deuteronomy 17 raise some red flags?

- 3) Read 1 Kings 11:1-13. How and why did Solomon turn astray from the Lord? _____

What does this tell us about what God considers a good king of Israel versus an evil king? _____

What does it tell us about what it *primarily* means to keep the covenant? _____

Why is idolatry the foundational law that affects the rest of how we live? _____

- 4) Read 1 Kings 12:1-17. What was the human reason Rehoboam lost the allegiance of the ten tribes of Israel (North)? What does this tell us about Rehoboam as a king? _____

What was the real reason (the spiritual reason)? What does this tell us about how God is working in the spiritual realm? _____

5) Read 1 Kings 12:26-33. What was the first thing Jeroboam did when he became king? Why? _____

6) Read 1 Kings 13:1-6. How did God defend His honor with Jeroboam? What does this passage tell us about God's sovereignty? _____

7) Read Matthew 6:24. What does Jesus say about trying to worship God and anything else? Why might money be a good example? What other things do we try to worship in our day?

8) Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14. Why does Paul say we need to study the history of Israel? What can we as modern Christians learn from their lives? _____

What do their failures teach us about humanity? About God? About the Gospel? _____

Why do you think that passage ends with the plea to "flee from idolatry"? _____

APPLICATION

This is just the beginning of the story of the downward spiral of the KINGS of Israel and Judah. Which looks an awful lot like the downward spiral of the period of the Judges. Which looks an awful lot like the downward spiral of the time from Adam to the Flood. We'll spend two more lessons looking at the story of the Kings of Judah and the message of the Prophets leading up to the Exile, trying to warn them to repent so they won't be sent into Exile.

We will see that the "slippery slope" begins with idolatry. It starts with idolatry because loving and serving God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength is the foundation of everything else in God's law. If we don't love and serve God alone, we won't follow His law because we won't trust that it's the right thing for us.

Following Jesus does not exempt us from "serving two masters," another way of saying that our devotion is split between God and the things of this world. There are many modern day idols.

- Take some time to search your heart and ask God to reveal to you any idols you may have in your life. Any ways you are dividing your allegiance between God and something else. Any ways that you are following in the footsteps of something else other than Jesus.
- Pray for the eyes to see these idols and the courage to smash them. Not just try to do better, but to completely get rid of them. Destroy them the way that Josiah destroyed Jeroboam's altars.

We are so fortunate that we have a God who never gives up on us. Despite the numerous times we are "double-minded" in our lives, God keeps pursuing us and desiring to bring us back to Him. Pray through Psalm 136 as you think about the history of Israel and all it teaches us about ourselves and about God. Read it aloud slowly, meditating on the repetition of the phrase, "His lovingkindness endures forever." How does this reflect the God of the Bible as you have seen Him in this series so far?