

1Kings 9:1–9

“God's Grace to a Sinful King (and All Sinners) in the Perfect King”

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What does Yahweh's second appearance to Solomon have in common with the first? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. 1Kings 9:1–9 prepares us for the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these nine verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the timing of God's appearances to Solomon show forth His grace to sinners, and that the justness and holiness of God require us to hope not in a king like Solomon but in the only perfect King, Jesus.

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 ▫ Read 1Kings 9:1–9

Questions from the Scripture text: What things had Solomon finished (v1)? What did the LORD do to Solomon (v2)? What did the LORD say He had done (v3)? What had the LORD done to the house? What would be there for how long? What must Solomon do (v4)? Like whom? According to what? Keeping what? What would the LORD do with Solomon's throne (v5)? According to what promise? But what might Solomon or his sons turn from (v6)? Why might they not keep? Whom might they serve instead? And what would the LORD do in that situation (v7)? What would He do to the temple? And what would Israel become? What would those who pass by the temple do and ask (v8)? What would the answer be (v9)—Whom would they have forsaken, and whom would they have embraced? With what results?

Yahweh was still with Solomon. He appeared to him again (v2).

Affirmation

“I have heard your prayer and your supplication” (v3). Solomon had prayed that marvelous prayer (cf. 8:22–53), and then they had had that marvelous feast (cf. 8:54–66). But those things don't mean anything unless the Lord actually answers the prayer, receives the sacrifice (on the basis of the coming sacrifice of Christ) and promises His Name, His eyes, His heart. The Lord promises *Himself* to them.

Requirement

We know that integrity of heart, uprightness, and obedience (v4) only come in dependence upon God's grace. But they are required. The problem is that no one can live them out in such a way as to secure v5. No one except Jesus. Solomon is the first son of David to sit on the throne, but the next four hundred years of sons of David are going to be a long, painful lesson in the fact that only the Son of David (capital S) could satisfy the requirement and sit on the throne forever. He has (cf. Rom 1:3–4). And He will!

Warning

Israel were the people of God and were supposed to be a light to the nations, but they would end up being a lesson to the nations (v9). Solomon and his descendants were to be faithful kings through whom God blessed His people, but they ended up being faithless kings (v6), on account of whom God invoked the covenant curses upon His people. They would lose the land promised to Abraham (v7a) and the blessings just now invoked upon the temple (v7b–8).

The real problem with Israel and the kings of Israel is the guilt of Adam and the nature of Adam—which is to say that we have the same problem that they did. They are a lesson for us in the absolute necessity of Christ for us. His atonement to remove our guilt. His obedience and righteousness to be counted for us. His kingship to secure the blessedness of His people. Blessed be the Name of God—He Himself became a man to be our Temple, our Sacrifice, our King, our Righteousness, our Blessedness.

What does God require of you? What would He give if you could do it? Why can't you? How can you avoid the curse that you deserve? What blessing will you receive?

Sample prayer: Lord, how greatly You have blessed us in every way—and especially with Your presence to us and Your hearing us when we call upon Your Name. Your commandments and statutes and judgments are good, and in keeping them there is life. But still, our original nature from Adam is such that we continually do that which justly would bring Your curse upon us. Forgive us our sin, and consider us in Christ—for He has atoned for all of our sin, and in Him You give us to be Your own perfect righteousness. So, it is in His Name that we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB “What Blessedness” or TPH459 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

First Kings chapter 9, verses one through 11. These are God's words Now, it came to pass when Solomon had finished building the house of Yahweh and the king's house and all Solomon's desire which he wanted to do that. You all may appeared to Solomon. The second time as he had appeared to him at Gibeon and the office said to him, I have heard your prayer and your supplication you have made.

Before me, I have consecrated this house, which you have built to put my name there forever in my eyes, and my heart will be there perpetually. Now If you walk before me as your father, David walked an integrity of heart and an uprightness to do. According to all that.

I have commanded you and if you keep my statutes and my judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever as I promise. David. Your father saying You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel. But If you or your sons at all, turn from following me, and do not keep my commandments, and my statutes, which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them.

Then I will cut off Israel from the land, which I have given them. And this house, which I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight.

Israel will be a proverb and a by word among all peoples. And as for this house which is exalted Everyone who passes by it, will be astonished and we'll hiss and say Why has y'all had done thus to this land into this house? And then they will answer because they for suck y'all away there.

God, who brought their fathers out to the land of Egypt and embraced other gods and worship them and serve them. Therefore He always has brought all this calamity on them.

So far the reading of God's inspired and and aren't worked this passage. We are reminded that God is gracious to sinners, but that there is an obstacle that that sin is an obstacle to a his grace that must be overcome by his grace because God isn't just gracious. Disinners.

He's also perfectly just and infinitely completely. Holy, We see that God is gracious to sinners because it's not just when Solomon had finished building the house of Yahweh and the king's house It was also when Solomon had finished building all his desire which he wanted to do which included chariot cities and cities for storing horses which we were.

He was forbidden in the law to multiply chariots and horses. It included a house equal to all of the other great houses for Pharaoh's daughter when it was forbidden and God's law to make alliances with Egypt. And in chapter 10, we're going to hear about has ongoing alliance with tire and his ongoing alliance with Egypt and Pharaoh.

And then chapter 11 is going to begin with the sad statement description of how Solomon married many foreign women and they turned his heart from Yahweh. So it's interesting that verse 1, concludes with Solomon building, not just the House of Yahweh in the King's house but according to all his desire which he wanted to do and that you always appeared to Solomon the second time as he had appeared to him at Gibeon.

And you remember the significance of Gibeon that Solomon had been walking in the ways of his father David. Except that he worshiped at the high places and that Gibeon was the great high place and yet God displaying just how completely it was of grace and mercy that he brought Solomon to himself that he restrained the rest of Solomon's unbelief and wickedness in grace and mercy, It was at Gibeon that God had appeared to him.

And so in verse 2 says you all way appeared to Solomon the second time as he had appeared to him at Gibeon it's reminding us of the timing. And the place of these appearances showing that God is being merciful to a sinner and got a firms that he's heard a Solomon's prayer.

He says, verse three. I have heard your prayer and your supplication and he says, I have consecrated this house. It's one thing for men to offer sacrifices that have been provided for and God's ceremonial law and to use the blood to set things apart unto God. It's a very different thing for God to say.

Okay, I accept the sacrifices and I set these this place apart for myself. I set this house apart for myself and of course he did. So with a view especially to Christ. Who is the ultimate temple? Because the stones and the wood, and the gold, and the bronze of which this temple was made, would be dashed to the ground less than 400 years later and much of it.

The best the most expensive of it carried off to Babylon and other temples would be built Nehemiah

inheritance and so forth. But the Lord Jesus's body would be torn down on the cross. In three days later, he would raise it up again and he is that people say there is no physical temple anymore.

Well there is but he sits bodily physically on the throne of glory and so God's answering Solomon's prayer. He's not just gracious to Solomon's sin, but according to his eternal plan of grace, that there is a true temple and a hearing of every good and proper request that is guaranteed to us in Jesus Christ and can never be lost.

So, when we read, I have heard your prayer. I have consecrated this house, which you have built to put my name there, forever, my eyes and my heart will be there perpetually. And we remember all that Solomon prayed especially for forgiveness but by that forgiveness to be able to turn to God for every good thing even as a sinner who has greatly offended, God's wrath and who may even be under.

And especially, when we are under the disciplining hand of God, the chastening hand of God, that all of those things are ours in Christ. And that God was answering this prayer, not just with respect to the collection of materials that had been arranged into a place of worship on a hill in Palestine or Israel at this point.

But that that God had raised up Christ for us and in him all the promises of God have there. Yes. And there are men. And so we rejoice over the affirmation that God makes here but we tremble before the requirement that God makes here. He says now verse 4, if you walk before me as your father, David walked and integrity of heart and an uprightness.

If you do, according to all that, I have commanded you. If you keep my statutes and my judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever. That's a wonderful requirement of God that the king who's throne? Who would establish forever would be a perfectly. Righteous one.

We don't want sinful kingdoms to last forever People who want the United States to last forever or live as if they want to or feel as if they want to. Maybe they don't think those things out loud. But there is much rebellion against God and injustice towards man, and they're always has been it's much worse now than it was in other generations.

It's bad, a dishonest before God to act as if the nation was always as bad as it is now. But even from the beginning, even the Constitution, for instance, departs from the idea and the declaration of independence, which was based on the fact that God is the one who, who rules over a country, and gives to its subjects all of their rights.

And the Constitution is, you know, finds in the people themselves, the authority. And and that upon which the nation depends. And so there's a there's a shift from our biblical, providential mindset to a humanistic materialistic earthly mindset even then that shift is beginning to be made. Anyway, that's neither here.

Nor there. You wouldn't want Solomon to be king forever. You wouldn't want David to be king forever. And as we go through the books, the first and second Kings, which are being set up for us now, by God's interaction with Solomon, You wouldn't want any of those kings to live forever.

Maybe they felt like they want to do Isaiah to live forever. He had a reign of over 50 years. He was one of the godliest gangs that Israel ever had. And yet, it ought thrill us with joy to hear Isaiah say in the year that can use iodide. I saw the king.

I saw the Lord high and lift it up sitting on a throne. And so the you don't you only want someone to be king forever who's perfectly righteous? And doesn't that exactly what the Lord gives us that the Lord Jesus who has never? Once had a straight. Thought that the thoughts and affections and choices and actions, and words of the Lord Jesus have always only been perfectly righteous and that makes us for Joyce.

Not only that he is our righteousness. That that's what's counted for you when you believe in him. So, Jesus as a God counts, you just as righteous as Jesus Christ, as, if you had rendered obedience, that perfect. And and that complete, but it makes you rejoice that. He's your king and that's the kingdom that you're in forever and ever.

That's the throne that is established forever and ever. That's what God requires. It's got God requires of His king. That's what God requires of us and Jesus is the answer to both of these things. And then there's warning verse 6, but if you or your sons at all, turn from following me and do not keep my commandments and my statutes, Then I will cut off from Israel.

Verse 7, cut off Israel. Sorry from the land which I have given them. Remember that was connected to the promise, made to Abraham, to give him the land and this house which I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight and so that's the Davidic Covenant.

And right now with Solomon and they will ask, they'll be astonished. And yes. And say Why has Yahweh done this to the land to this land? Thus to this land and to this house. And they won't answer because they for suck. You always are God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt and embraced other

gods and worship them and served them.

Therefore you always has brought all this calamity on them. So the real problem with the kings of Israel and the real problem of Israel, as a whole is the guilt of Adam and the nature of Adam that they are sinful. The reason these warnings are here is because this is what Israel is going to do.

And so that we will understand when God does judge and punish them, that he is being faithful. Faithful to His Word. Faithful to himself is. Holiness is has justice. And when we ask the question, why couldn't they just obey The answer? That question is one that touches us to put in but the simplest way possible is.

One of your friends said about someone else about whom similar question was being asked, Why are they like that original sin but it's why we are like what we are for us, too. Just like with the kings of Israel, just like with the nation of Israel. The problem is the guilt of our first father, Adam and the nature of our first Father, Adam, which is why we needed Jesus, to be the last atom, the originator of a new humanity, the one in whom we could be counted before God, and be counted.

Righteous. The one who would rule us forever. The one who would remove from us the guilt, he would atone for what our sin and Adam and our own individual sins deserve and the one from whom we received by his Spirit, a new nature that will last forever. And who will stamp out all remaining?

Every remaining particle of our original nature. Our former nature. He is that he is our temple. Here's our sacrifice. He's our king. He's our righteousness. Here's our blessedness. And so first Kings 9 and 1 through 9 starts out promising and then it gets alarming. But when we are alarmed, we cling to Jesus and we find that in him all of the promises or yes and amen, Let's break.

Lord, thank you for reminding us of your goodness and love in which you have made all of the precious promises of your word to us. Pray that you would help me and my family to that you would help us to take. Seriously, your threats, your righteousness, your holiness. Your demands that you make us rejoice at Christ has met them in our behalf and also that Christ by his Spirit is making us to be more like Himself.

Help us Lord, who have our hope in him and to be like Him, when we see him help us today to be purifying ourselves, even as he is pure with confidence that he who has begun the work, as the one who is currently doing the work in us, and who will bring it to completion in his day.

We pray that you would make us whenever we see our sin to be quick to turn from it, to admit it and humble ourselves before you and before others. And especially that we would be quick to cling to the Lord Jesus and rejoice to have him rule over us.

Thank you for setting him before us, in this portion of your word and we ask all these things in his name. Amen.