The Danger Lurking in the Good Times August 8, 2021

*1 Kings 9:10-28 Series: Cracks in the Foundation*

We commonly most forget God and ourselves when he remembers us most.   
– William Jenkyn

Intro: The rise and fall of empires

1. During the good times, watch out for greed
2. God blessed Solomon with unfathomable amounts of wealth

v. 11 *… Hiram king of Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress timber and gold, as much as he desired …*

v. 28 *And they went to Ophir and brought from there gold, 420 talents, and they brought it to King Solomon.*

1 Kings 3:13 *I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.*

1. Solomon did not bless others with his wealth

v. 12 *But when Hiram came from Tyre to see the cities that Solomon had given him, they did not please him.*

Genesis 12:2 *And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

1. Solomon did not honour God with his wealth

* v. 11 … *King Solomon gave to Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.*
* Genesis 17:8 *And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.*
* What was wrong with Solomon giving away some cities in the Promised Land? How do you think he rationalized that decision?
* How are you tempted to selfishness in the way that you use your gifts (e.g. time, resources, talents)?

1. During the good times, watch out for pride
2. God blessed Solomon with a safe and prosperous Kingdom

1 Kings 5:4 *But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side. There is neither adversary nor misfortune.*

v. 19 *and all the store cities that Solomon had, and the cities for his chariots, and the cities for his horsemen, and whatever Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.*

1. Solomon allowed Pharoah to do what he should have done

v. 16 *Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and captured Gezer and burned it with fire, and had killed the Canaanites who lived in the city …*

Deuteronomy 20:17 (NIV) *Completely destroy them—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—as the LORD your God has commanded you.*

1. Solomon began to act like a Pharoah of Egypt

* v. 15 *And this is the account of the forced labor that King Solomon drafted to build the house of the Lord and his own house …*
* Deuteronomy 17:16 *Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt …*
* After Israel had suffered so much under a Pharoah in Egypt, how could Israel’s King begin to act like one?
* Why is it so easy for God’s people to neglect God or forget their God-given responsibilities in the good times?

1. During the good times, watch out for complacency
2. God blessed Solomon with His presence

v. 25 *Three times a year Solomon used to offer up burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar that he built to the Lord, making offerings with it before the Lord. So he finished the house.*

1. Solomon showed no visible signs of repentance

* Deuteronomy 17:17 *And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.*
* Deuteronomy 17:19 *And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them*
* Solomon is active at the temple, but the text never mentions anything about repentance. What do you think this silence communicates about Solomon’s faith?
* Unlike Solomon, Christians today will often emphasize personal faith at the expense of the church. Why is this dangerous?

Conclusion: What makes the “Good Times” good?

1. The gospel of eternal life vs. the gospel of good times

Matthew 16:25 *For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

* How can we ensure that we never confuse seeking God’s blessings and seeking God himself?
* The gospel of Jesus does not promise wealth, health, or comfort. So, what makes the gospel good news?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Kings 10:1-13

Notes