Where Were the Signs? August 1, 2021

*1 Kings 8:54-9:9 Series: Cracks in the Foundation*

Intro: The good little church kid

1. People who fall can get all the right answers

1. Solomon declared God’s faithfulness in his life

v. 56 *Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant.*

v. 57 …*as he was with our fathers*

1. Solomon depended on God for his continued provision

v. 57 *The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us.*

v. 59 *Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires.*

1. Solomon desired for all the people to know and love God

v. 58 *that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his [commandments, statutes, rules].*

vv. 60, 61 *that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.**Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.*

* What does Solomon’s prayer teach us about his faith?
* What risks are there with saying all the right things?
* How should we view our children who want to get all the right answers, considering what we see in the life of Solomon?

2. People who fall can inspire a nation in their faith

1. Solomon led the people in making sacrifices to God

vv. 62,63 *Then the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD. Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep*.

v. 64 *… the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings.*

1. Solomon led the people to dedicate themselves to God

v. 63 *So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.*

1. Solomon led the people in fellowship before God

v. 65 *So Solomon held the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly, from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days*

v. 66 …*they blessed the king and went to their homes joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness the LORD had shown*

* Does seeing Solomon’s influence on people change your perception of the sincerity of his faith? Do his actions speak louder than his words?
* What does this teach us about our spiritual authorities?
* Do you know someone who has inspired you spiritually but has since left the faith?

3. People who fall can have a vibrant personal testimony

1. Solomon experienced answered prayer from God

v.3 *And the LORD said to him, “I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before me. I have consecrated this house that you have built, by putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.”*

1. Solomon knew the godly example which came before him

v. 4 *if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness*

* What are some personally significant spiritual experiences which people often cling to as proof of their salvation?
* How do you think having the example of David helped or hindered Solomon in his relationship with God?

4. People who fall don’t get a free pass

1. God clearly laid out the risks

vv. 6,7 *But if you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them,**then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them*

1. God clearly showed the repercussions

vv. 7,8 *I will cast out of my sight, and Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And this house will become a heap of ruins.*

1. God clearly predicted what would bring the downfall

v. 9 *Then they will say, ‘Because they abandoned the LORD their God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them*

* How do God’s warnings foreshadow what will be Solomon’s demise? How should Solomon have taken these warnings?
* Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us it’s not by works we are saved, but yet we know that our actions are what can back up our words. What importance should we place on works in our salvation?
* How can you take this passage to be both a reassurance and a warning in how you view your relationship with God?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Kings 9:10-28

Notes