

**1Ki 9:1 ¶** And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do, **2** That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon. **3** And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. **4** And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: **5** Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel forever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel."

The LORD appears to Solomon a second time, after the ark of the covenant is in place, and after King Solomon has made his prayers of dedication of the temple.

**"That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon."** Which was in a dream, seen in **1Ki 3:5 ¶** "In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee." God tells Solomon: I have heard thy prayer and supplications, which thou hast made before me. Wherefore, I have hallowed this temple you have built, to put my name upon it forever, and mine eyes and heart shall be there perpetually.

Do not miss that this is an "**if**" covenant, dependent upon the obedience of Solomon to the Lord. God tells Solomon: if you are obedient to me as David your father was, I will fulfill the promise I made to your father David, and there shall always be one of the lineage of David to set on the throne of Israel.

**6** "But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: **7** Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people: **8** And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house? **9** And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore, hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil."

We point out here that this covenant is made with the seed of David and not Israel. We also point out that God holds Solomon, and whoever shall occupy the throne after him of his family, to the high standard of being totally obedient to God. God tells Solomon: if you, or your children, turn from following and obeying me to idolatry, this covenant will be null and void and I will remove Israel from the land of promise, and I will destroy this house that you have built, removing my name from it. Do you see the necessity of each child of God to be wholly faithful to God in all things? The disobedience, of one child of God, (just as there was only one king at a time in the line of David) can bring destruction upon many and cause the loss of fellowship with the saints of God.

God tells Solomon: when other nations pass by this house that has been destroyed, they will ask what happened to this house of God: and others will answer them: they turned to idolatry and forsook the LORD their God, and the LORD has brought upon them this evil.

Consider, when an organized church body turns from following God and begins to worship in their way, instead of God's; that church body will become a byword to the world around them.

Now, let's make some self-application of this scene and covenant. Seeing that God has made us kings and priest unto him, seen in **Re 1:6; 5** "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, **6** And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." We see that this "**if**" covenant that the LORD made with Kings David, Solomon, and their seed, is just as applicable to our own lives as Christians as it was to them. We also find that King Jesus is the only one of the line of David that actually kept fully the "**if**" covenant, and fulfilled the will of God the Father, thus

securing eternal blessings for all of his children. Where it applies to us is being made kings unto God by Christ, we are of the lineage of Christ by adoption.

However, we have an advantage over the Old Testament saints in this regard. What do you mean? We have a King, Jesus the Christ, who came to earth in a prepared body, as King over all of God's chosen people. The advantage we have is that our King never failed to fully follow the will of God the Father. When He gave his life for the remission of our sins eternally: in the new birth we inherit the perfect life that Jesus lived in our spiritual beings. Thus, in Christ, we have fulfilled the covenant promise of God, and we shall not lose eternal favor with God, nor have the house of God destroyed for others to hiss at. Do not misunderstand, we may fail from time to time to do as we ought, but God will not take away his mercy from us, nor reject the eternal life we have been given by King Jesus, because of the Christ in us, the Holy Ghost. Thank you, King Jesus, for your perfect word of eternal redemption.

We would add to this: as a congregation of the New Testament Church, do you see the necessity to pray for your pastors and ministers that they fall not out by the wayside. Just as with Israel, if there king failed to serve God, the king and Israel suffered the consequences; thus, it is with the New Testament Church, when a pastor or minister fails to wholly serve God, or turns away from God to idolatry, both the pastor, minister, and the congregation shall suffer.

What a great responsibility each individual child of God has, to walk and talk with "***integrity of heart and uprightness.***" in serving the Lord, and in discipleship to Christ Jesus. This responsibility begins with the pastors and ministers, then the church congregations, and then it rests finally upon each individual child of God. Actually, the individual responsibility would come first today's age of salvation by the grace of God.

This responsibility can easily be seen if we put our will, or anything else, ahead of the will, or in the place of God. Because when we do, we have made ourselves into a god and begun worshipping other gods. May God have mercy upon us, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!