

## 1 Kings Chapter 09 Commentary Verses 10-28

**1Ki 9:10 ¶ "And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD, and the king's house, 11 (Now Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar trees and fir trees, and with gold, according to all his desire,) that then king Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee. 12 And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him; and they pleased him not. 13 And he said, What cities are these which thou hast given me, my brother? And he called them the land of Cabul unto this day."**

When Solomon had completed the building of the house of the Lord and his own house, Solomon, rather than continue to send a yearly supply of food to Hiram, gave Hiram a gift of land in Galilee. Hiram was not pleased with the property and called it the land of Cabul. Cabul is defined as: *in the sense of limitation, sterile, to twine or braid together, or a fetter*. Why was Hiram displeased with the gift? Tyre was a seafaring country, and the land of Galilee had on sea front property. There are many commentators who think the reason is this was farmland.

Wherefore, we believe: rather than King David sending him food yearly, Hiram might have the produce of the lands. However, Hiram and Tyre were seafaring people, not farmers, therefore, Hiram was not pleased with this gift, because they would have had to work the land to get the produce. This is why Hiram gave this land back to King Solomon, as seen in **2Ch 8:1-2; 1 ¶ "And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the house of the LORD, and his own house, 2 That the cities which Hiram had restored to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there."** We see that King Hiram kept the land for twenty years, which was the time needed to repay any debt that King Solomon had to King Hiram. Since the land was not adjacent to Tyre, it could not be annexed into Hiram's kingdom, therefore, Hiram returned it to King David, after getting his money's worth out of it.

There is a second reason for the return of the land to King Solomon. Hiram and Tyre were not of Israel, and it would be improper for them to own a portion of the land of promise. King Solomon actually disobeyed God by giving this property to Hiram.

**14 "And Hiram sent to the king six score talents of gold. 15 ¶ And this is the reason of the levy which king Solomon raised; for to build the house of the LORD, and his own house, and Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer. 16 For Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up, and taken Gezer, and burnt it with fire, and slain the Canaanites that dwelt in the city, and given it for a present unto his daughter, Solomon's wife. 17 And Solomon built Gezer, and Bethhoron the nether, 18 And Baalath, and Tadmor in the wilderness, in the land, 19 And all the cities of store that Solomon had, and cities for his chariots, and cities for his horsemen, and that which Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion."**

We do notice that Hiram was still required to pay tribute to King Solomon. King Solomon had ongoing building projects that required a vast amount of money, and this was collected as tribute money from the surrounding nations, as well as the levy he imposed upon Israel.

A portion of the building projects that Solomon carried out was to rebuild the cities that Pharaoh king of Egypt destroyed and gave to his daughter, Solomon's wife, as a present. Another portion of the building projects was stalls and barns for his horses, his chariots, and his horsemen, which he was not supposed to collect.

This is also a sin for Solomon because they were to have no dealings with the Egyptians, after God brought them out of Egypt. Examine the following scriptures that describe the ways that King Solomon is being disobedient to God's commandment: **De 17:15 Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. 16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold."** Solomon multiplied horses, which according to this scripture, we believe were horses obtained from Egypt. Solomon had dealings with the Pharaoh of Egypt and had made a covenant with him after Pharaoh gave him his daughter as a wife. This is the

first wife we read of Solomon having. Solomon will have many wives and concubines. Solomon has already collected much gold and will continue to do so.

This is followed by God's command of what the king He chooses is to do: **De 17:18** *"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."* God chose King Solomon to take King David's place on the throne as king over Israel, wherefore, Solomon is to be writing and reading a copy of the law in a book. Had Solomon engaged in his proper duties as king, he would not have fallen into the snares of covetousness.

Why is God not punishing Solomon for these errors in his kingship? Remember, God had promised King David that he would not remove his mercy from Solomon, as he did with King Saul.

**20** *"And all the people that were left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which were not of the children of Israel, 21 Their children that were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel also were not able utterly to destroy, upon those did Solomon levy a tribute of bond service unto this day. 22 But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no bondmen: but they were men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots, and his horsemen. 23 These were the chief of the officers that were over Solomon's work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work. 24 But Pharaoh's daughter came up out of the city of David unto her house which Solomon had built for her: then did he build Millo."*

Because of Israel's disobedience to God, God did not drive out all the inhabitants of the land of promise. Also, their children that remained in these lands, Israel could still not drive them out. Why? We believe it is because of the sins of Solomon that God would not give them the power to overcome and destroy them out of the land. However, they were put under tribute of bond service.

Solomon did not make bondservants of the Israelites but did employ them in his works. Solomon moved his wife moved from her house in Jerusalem to a house built for her in the land her father gave to her, seen in **2Ch 8:11** *And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come."*

**25** *"And three times in a year did Solomon offer burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built unto the LORD, and he burnt incense upon the altar that was before the LORD. So, he finished the house."*

Three times a year, Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar of the Lord. He also burned incense upon the altar built for that purpose. These three times would have been the feasts of the passover, the feasts of Pentecost, and the feasts of tabernacles, which were as God had commanded Moses and Israel. We find reference to this in **2Ch 8:12-16; 12 ¶** *"Then Solomon offered burnt offerings unto the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch, 13 Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles. 14 And he appointed, according to the order of David his father, the courses of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their charges, to praise and minister before the priests, as the duty of every day required: the porters also by their courses at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded. 15 And they departed not from the commandment of the king unto the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasures. 16 Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. So, the house of the LORD was perfected."*

This reference gives us the key to **"So he finished the house."** in verse 25. We know the actual building has long been completed, so how could it say now it was finished? It was finished in that it was being used for the very purpose for which it was built. Think about it like this: if a child of God is born again, and does not declare

discipleship to Christ publicly, they are hiding their candle under a bushel and not fulfilling the purpose of God in their life. However, if they do make their public confession as a disciple of Christ, and walk in the way that God has directed, their house is complete, or finished, because it is serving its proper purpose before God.

**26 "And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom. 27 And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon. 28 And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to king Solomon."**

King Solomon made ships, and King Hiram sent his navy with them to the land of Ophir to get gold and brought it to Solomon. This makes us understand that any differences between Hiram and Solomon, which may have arisen over the gift of land to Hiram had long since been repaired, and there was peace between them.

As we think upon Solomon and his actions in this chapter, we understand that he did some things right and some things wrong. Now, apply that thought to yourself. Do you do everything just right and never mess up in your walk in life as a Christian? I dare say that you do not, even as I do not, and therefore, we can none throw stones at Solomon. However, we would note that God is still continuing to bless Solomon, telling us that he has not sinned so bad that God would withdraw his blessing from him, as God had promised in **1Ch 17:11-15; 11 "And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne forever. 13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee: 14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom forever: and his throne shall be established for evermore. 15 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David."**

Wherefore, we can proclaim the gospel message of the finished work of King Jesus, and that the mercy of God shall not be taken from us forever. Hallelujah! Praise ye the LORD! Amen!