

Third Presbyterian Church
Midweek Bible Study
1st Kings 9:1-9
Let God Put His Name on it

1 Kings 9:1-9 (NIV)

¹ When Solomon had finished building the temple of the **LORD and the royal palace**, and had achieved all he had desired to do, ² the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he **had appeared to him at Gibeon**.

³ The LORD said to him: "I have heard **the prayer and plea** you have made before me; **I have consecrated** this temple, which **you have built**, by putting **my Name there forever**. My **eyes and my heart** will always be there. ⁴ "As for you, if you **walk before me in integrity** of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws,

⁵ **I will establish your royal throne** over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

⁶ "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, ⁷ **then I will** cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

⁸ And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a **thing to this land and** to this temple?' ⁹ People will answer, 'Because they have **forsaken the LORD their God**, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them--that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.'"

Questions

1. When you hear the scripture from Ecclesiastes 1:9 that says there is nothing new under the sun, how do we understand and apply that truth to our journey through storms of life?
2. God tells us his rules don't change, his expectations don't change and even if the situation or circumstance in our life change or he elevates us.
 - A. Why do we feel or we just ignore the rules God has for our living when we are in a storm?
 - B. Why do people also when God elevates them in some way feel they can also change or ignore God's rules?
 - C. What can we do to make sure we don't let changes in our life cause us to ignore the rules of God?
3. In the Old Testament, idol worship was measured by sacrifices and building altars to idol gods. In the New Testament idol worship looks different. **Matthew 6:21 (NIV)**
²¹ **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** This verse says follow the treasure to the location of the heart. **Malichi 3:10 tells us to bring the tithe into the storehouse (church).** Therefore, my conclusion is that idol worship in the New Testament church is indicated by your tithe/sacrificial offering or the lack thereof. If we are not sacrificing financially, then the tithe that belongs to God is going to our idol and that is New Testament Idol worship. Please have discussion regarding the theology behind this statement and do you agree with it?
4. David was an adulterer, murderer and did other wrongs before the Lord, yet the Lord encourages Solomon to walk as David did before Him. How do you use the gospel and what you know about the grace of God to reconcile this with you own life as well as explain it to an unbeliever?
 5. God said he put His name on the Temple built by Solomon forever. In the New Testament our bodies are called the Temple of the Living God. Since our bodies are a temple with Gods name on it, how does speak to your responsibility to maintain a healthy body/temple as a part of your worship unto God?
 6. God was very specific about Solomon and his offspring following God and what would happen if they didn't. How does this inform you of the importance of teaching your children and grandchildren the ways of the Lord and how-to walk-in relationship with God?
7. Share your main takeaway from the sermon and the lesson?

The Second Appearance of God to Solomon and Solomon's Achievements: A Need to Be Obedient and Diligent in Life and Work, [9:1-28](#)

(9:1-28) Introduction: we all have some duty, some obligation to every person we know and to society in general. We do not live on an island, isolated from every other person. Even if we were isolated, we would still be obligated, have the duty to provide for our own survival. Duties or obligations permeate every aspect of our lives. For example:

- ⇒ We have a duty to be friendly and kind to everyone we know.
- ⇒ We have the obligation to cultivate friendliness and kindness within society—within our communities, workplaces, schools, and the halls of justice and government.

When considering the workplace, look at our obligation to be good employees, working hard and diligently. We must always give a fair day's work for a full day's wages. When it comes to our schools, think about the duties of the teachers and those of the students. Within our families, think about the duties, the obligations of every family member to be faithful, loyal, kind, supportive, and loving, and to contribute toward building a strong family.

In considering any area of life, we have personal obligations toward all the people and relationships involved. If a relationship revolves around us, we have a duty to strengthen and build this relationship. By faithfully fulfilling our duties and obligations, we strengthen society.

The concern of the present passage of Scripture is the duties and obligations that faced King Solomon. Solomon was obligated to obey God and to be a faithful, diligent, hardworking king on behalf of the Israelites. Before God, Solomon was obligated to fulfill his task, and to fulfill it faithfully and diligently. This is the subject of the present passage of Scripture: *The Second Appearance of God to Solomon and Solomon's Achievements: A Need to Be Obedient and Diligent in Life and Work, 9:1-28.*

- [1. God's encounter with Solomon: the blessings for obedience and the judgment for disobedience \(vv.1-9\).](#)
- [2. Solomon's economic pursuits: a picture of extravagance, worldliness \(vv.10-28\).](#)

1. (9:1-9) Obedience, Results of— Disobedience, Results of, Judgment— Vision, of Solomon— Prayer, Answered, Example of— Judgment, Warning of— Temple, Consecrated by God— Judgment, of Israel, Warning: God encountered Solomon a second time after Solomon had spent twenty years completing his building projects. He had been reigning over Israel for a total of twenty-four years ([1 Kings 9:10](#); [6:1](#); [7:1](#)). It seems as though God needed to give Solomon a warning, for Solomon was beginning to disobey the LORD. He was engaging in false worship and allowing his heart to turn away from the LORD ([1 Kings 11:4, 9](#)). In an attempt to stop Solomon from turning away and slipping into apostasy, God issued a strong warning. Scripture gives the details of God's appearance, and His warning.

1. God encountered Solomon after all his building projects were completed, including the temple and the palace complexes ([1 Kings 9:1](#)). Having completed these projects was a significant achievement for Solomon and, no doubt, was a significant relief for him. The pressure of such mammoth building projects was now lifted from his shoulders. It was a pivotal time in Solomon's life. For this reason, it was an ideal time for God to confront Solomon and to issue a warning to him. God could now renew the covenant relationship with Solomon, assure him of God's presence if obedient but of God's judgment if disobedient.

2. God had already honored Solomon with His presence by appearing to him at Gibeon in a dream ([1 Kings 3:4-15](#)). Now He was honoring him with His presence a second time, just as He had done before ([1 Kings 9:2](#)). God appeared to Solomon for the purpose of assuring him that his prayer had been answered ([1 Kings 9:3](#)). Note that God Himself had *consecrated* the temple by putting His name there forever. It was not consecrated as a place of worship because of the ceremonies, rituals, and services held by the people. It was set apart and made holy for one reason and one reason only: because God accepted the temple as a place where His Name could be

honored. As long as the Israelites honored God's Name in the temple, He would always keep His eyes and heart on the temple. He would watch over its care and welfare, holding it ever so dear to His heart.

3. God's second purpose for appearing to Solomon was that of promising to bless him personally. But to be blessed, he had to remain obedient to the LORD ([1 Kings 9:4](#)). God's blessing was conditional. Solomon must walk with integrity, living a life of righteousness and obedience just as his father David had. If he obeyed the commandments of the LORD, he could expect the most wonderful promise: a permanent dynasty. His sons would rule upon the throne of Israel after him ([1 Kings 3:12-14](#); [6:11-13](#)).

4. God also had a third purpose for appearing to Solomon, that of warning him of judgment if he disobeyed the LORD ([1 Kings 9:6-9](#)). In particular, God revealed the shocking judgments that would fall upon Solomon and his people if they committed apostasy. If they turned away from God or engaged in false worship or idolatry, they would suffer the hand of God's judgment ([1 Kings 9:6](#)). Note that the judgments are applicable to any generation of people who disobey and turn to false worship:

- ⇒ They would be cut off from the promised land.
- ⇒ They would see their temple (church) and worship rejected by God.
- ⇒ They would be mocked and ridiculed by people ([1 Kings 9:7](#)).
- ⇒ They would suffer terrible destruction, so much destruction that some people would hiss and mock, whereas others would question and be appalled at the devastation of their land ([1 Kings 9:8](#)).
- ⇒ They would bear the shameful testimony of apostasy and idolatry. They would be accused of hypocrisy because they had turned away from the LORD and had embraced false gods and false worship ([1 Kings 9:9](#)).

These are the frightening consequences that result from false worship, from turning away from the LORD and committing apostasy against Him. The judgments spelled out are serious, very serious. Some commentators say that the word "cut off" (*karat*, [1 Kings 9:7](#)) often means that a person is cut off or excluded from the fellowship of God's people ([Leviticus 17:4, 9](#); [Numbers 19:20](#)). The word "reject" (*sillah*, [1 Kings 9:7](#)) is the very same word used for a man who divorces his wife. Thus the idea seems to be that the person will be divorced, cut off, separated from the LORD—a very serious warning. And the word "byword" (*masal*, [1 Kings 9:7](#)) indicates a terrible calamity coming upon a person ([Deut. 28:37](#); [Psalm 64:3](#); [Jeremiah 24:9](#)).

Thought 1. Just as Solomon was warned by God, so we are warned. God demands obedience, demands that we keep His commandments. If we keep them, we will be blessed. But if we disobey God, ignore and fail to keep His commandments, we will face the hand of His judgment. Listen to what God's Holy Word says about obedience and disobedience:

1) If we obey God, we will receive the blessings of God.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" ([Matthew 7:24-25](#)).

"For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" ([Matthew 12:50](#)).

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" ([John 14:23](#)).

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love" ([John 15:10](#)).

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" ([Joshua 1:8](#)).

2) If we disobey God, the hand of God's chastisement and judgment will fall upon us.

"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" ([Matthew 7:26-27](#)).

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience" ([Ephes. 5:3-6](#)).