

1 Kings 18:21 Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

1 Kings 18:27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened."

²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

1 Kings 18:36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

1 Kings 18:38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD--he is God! The LORD--he is God!"

⁴⁰ Then Elijah commanded them, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!" They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

Deut. 13:12 If you hear ...¹³ that wicked men have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" ...¹⁴ then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done among you, ¹⁵ you must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town. Destroy it completely, both its people and its livestock.

Page 1: sin. Pleasure.

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The Importance of Being Faithful and Holy

What Should I Learn from 1 Kings?

August 28, 2011

When the desire to be effective is stronger than your desire to be holy you'll be especially vulnerable to serious _____.

1 Kings 3:1 Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh King of Egypt and married his daughter.

King Solomon: (1 Kings 1—11)

Solomon's Accomplishments:

- Display of Solomon's wisdom (two mothers—ch. 3)
- National recognition of Solomon's wisdom (3:28)
- Wise administration of the nation (ch 4)
- Solomon builds the temple (ch's 5 – 7)
- He dedicates the temple (ch. 8) Ark of the Covenant returns to the temple; Shekinah glory returns; Solomon's sermon, Solomon's prayer; Israel rejoices!
- Pinnacle of Solomon's empire: expansion, peace, safety.

When you make success or power central in your heart you make yourself vulnerable to the demand for _____.

Solomon's Disobedience and Demise

- Sale of cities in Israel (9:10-14)
- Enslavement of the Canaanites (9:15-28)
- Multiplication of wealth (10:1-25)
- Multiplication of horses (10:26-29)
- Intermarriage with foreign women (11:1-3)
- Worship of idols (11:4-8)

1 Kings 11:1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter--Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites.

² *They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love.*

³ *He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.*

⁴ *As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.*

⁵ *He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.*

⁶ *So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done.*

Ecclesiastes 7:26 I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner she will ensnare.

²⁷ *"Look," says the Teacher, "this is what I have discovered:*

"Adding one thing to another to discover the scheme of things--

²⁸ *while I was still searching but not finding-- I found one upright man among a thousand, but not one upright woman among them all.*

²⁹ *This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes."*

God Chastens Solomon

- Rebuke (11:9-13)
- Chastisement (11:14-40) God raised up adversaries: Hadad (11:14), Rezon (11:23), and Jeroboam (11:26)
- Death (11:41-43)

The Kingdom Splits

Rehoboam (Southern Kingdom—Judah) and Jeroboam (Northern Kingdom—Israel)

1 Kings 12:13 The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders,

¹⁴ *he followed the advice of the young men and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions."*

Elijah, Ahab & Jezebel (1 Kings 16:29-22:40)

³⁰ *Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him.*

³¹ *He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him.*

³³ *Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than did all the kings of Israel before him.*

1 Kings 18:17 When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸ *"I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals."*
