

November 15th Sunday 2015

Text: 1 Kings 9:1 – 9

Topic: Perpetual Encounter with God

God had already established a good rapport with Solomon in the previous encounters. Though God is always present with his people, however when he resolves to appear to someone, he has a special message for that person or for someone else. In the first encounter, God said that Solomon should ask anything from him and that was done. In this second encounter, God said to Solomon that he had heard his prayer and plea.

God revealed to Solomon the answer of his prayer; that henceforth, he has established his name in the temple that Solomon and the people of Israel had built. As a result his presence will always be there to listen to the prayer his people will offer.

God went further to states the conditions that will sustain this rapport. First of all if Solomon will be faithful as his father David, the throne will continue to exist: "*You shall not lack a man on the throne*" (1 Kings 9:5 cf 2 Samuel 7:16). Furthermore, God asserts what will become of Solomon and his descendants when they refuse to obey the commandments of the Lord. In summary, the scripture puts clearly that: "*if a man is righteous and does what is just and right – he is righteous; he shall surely live, declares the Lord.*" (Ezekiel 18:5, 9), and vice versa. What is expected of a child of God therefore is to be found worthy all the time; to be faithful in his devotion to God steadily.

Lesson: Do you maintain a good relationship with your creator? Remember that He is ever faithful.

Prayer: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Amen.

November 16th Monday 2015

Text: 1 Kings 10:1 – 10

Topic: Beyond imagination

When God commanded man to be fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue and have dominion; it implies that man should be creative, productive, and prosperous and rule over everything that God created. The opportunities are so vast that an average man ignorantly wastes a lot of his potentials.

Solomon that considered himself as inexperience, ineffective and incompetent was able to overcome his ignorance, discover his talent and began to develop it into what we are hearing today. The fact is that information about him and his wisdom has reached even remote communities. Many people of high caliber from far and near were trooping into Jerusalem at that time to listen to his wisdom. The temple, the palace and the organization of people working under him was incredible and testified of his wisdom. The queen of Sheba wasn't satisfied with the rumors she heard while she was in her country. She came with great entourage and a lot of souvenir may be to surprise Solomon, but instead she was shocked by Solomon's wealth and wisdom. Listen to her

confession: *“The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom ... And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard.”* (1 Kings 10:6, 7). Do you know that you are an embodiment of excellence? Do you know that you are fearfully made and wonderfully loaded with great potentials for great achievements? Don't hesitate to discover yourself and move on.

Lesson: It is only when you discover who you are, that you can achieve the purpose of your existence.

Prayer: Oh Lord, thank you for creating me with great potentials. Help me to discover and utilize them effectively. Amen.

November 17th Tuesday 2015

Text: 1 Kings 10:14 – 29

Topic: The Evidence of God's Favour

When the Lord said through Moses that he will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty and shower blessing on his people Israel if only they will obey his commandments, he meant it. King Solomon and the entire Israel enjoyed this incredible abundance to the extent that they have no equal in the entire world of their time.

King Solomon excelled all other king of his time and likewise the entire people of Israel. During the reign of King Solomon, silver was considered of a little value; consequently, silver was made as common as stones in Jerusalem, likewise other valuable stuffs. (1 Kings 10:21, 27). Moreover, King Solomon was blessed with fame and wisdom to the extent that other kings of the surrounding nations were considered as his subjects.

Do you want to be as prosperous as King Solomon? You don't necessary have to be a king as Solomon or be in Israel. Wherever you are and whoever you may be and whatever you are doing, God brought you into this world for a purpose. His plan for you is to make you great. The Bible says: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus, (Philippians 4:19). Silver and gold belong to him and he will generously give you.

Lesson: Our God is a loving and generous God. If we ask Him anything, He will surely give it to us.

Prayer: Oh Lord show your favour and make as strong as a rock in Jesus name, Amen.

November 18th Wednesday 2015

Text: 1 Kings 11:1 – 13

Topic: Evil Desire

Indeed there is none like God and he declares it thus: *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty.*” (Revelation 1:8). Omniscience is one of his attributes and as a result of that, he is able to know the end from the beginning. He is not limited by space or time.

God cautioned the people of Israel through Moses when they were to enter the Promised Land; *“Be careful not to make treaty with those who live in the land... And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.”* (Exodus

34:15a, 16). Evidently, Solomon did not heed this warning. May be King Solomon thought that he had adequate wisdom and for this reason he can stand the test of the time.

Unfortunately, when Solomon was dining with the devil, he did not use long spoon, he was using his hand and the devil easily trapped him. Instead for Solomon to be connected to the source of his life, his wisdom and his wealth, he focused on the things of the world and he was drowned. This can happen to anybody including you. A life that is dislocated from Christ is liable to fall. Therefore, hold unto Christ Jesus; the author and the finisher of your faith.

Lesson: Be careful, how you live your life, else you may be easily carried away by the waves of this world.

Prayer: In you O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Amen.

November 19th Thursday 2015

Text: 1 Kings 11:28 – 40

Topic: Unmerited Favour

Apparently, Solomon's disobedience has brought disaster to the house of David. Despite the fact that God was pleased with Solomon from the beginning and he favored him, it couldn't continue because Solomon failed and did not meet up with the standard of God.

In trying to assess the achievements of King Solomon; undoubtedly you will agree with me that this gentleman made an indelible mark on the history of Israel. He was indeed an outstanding leader in Israel that was well respected in his time. But unlike his father David, he didn't end well. He did not follow the legacy laid by his father and thus brought a curse on the esteemed house of David.

The prophecy of Ahijah did not end of in dividing the tribes between the north and the south or in other words between Israel and Judah. We have seen the subsequent manifestation of this prophecy to the time of Jesus. This Temple that King Solomon labored for was torn into pieces because the people turned away from God to worship other idols. If there is anything in your life that takes the position of God, get rid of it without delay, else you will bring curse upon yourself and your descendant.

Lesson: The way you live your life can affect your family and generation positively or negatively.

Prayer: Lord help me to be faithful in handling what you have entrusted to my care in Jesus name, Amen.

November 20th Friday 2015

Text: 1 Kings 12:1 – 24

Topic: Lost Glory

When the glory of the Lord departs from the life of an individual or a family, things will begin to dwindle and vice versa. Think of how the kingdom was removed from Saul and given to David. Imagine how the kingdom flourished and reached its climax during the reign of King Solomon. Nobody could think that the son of the wisest man of his

generation would have acted the way Rehoboam did. The question some people may ask is this; where was Rehoboam when his father Solomon was impressing great men and women of his time with astounding wisdom?

The glory of the Lord has departed from this family and they began to act foolishly. Unfortunately, no member of the family was able to read the hand writing of the Lord on the wall right from the time Jeroboam was banished into exile. The family would have humbly turned to God in repentance and certainly, God would have pardoned them. For the Bible says: ***If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*** (2 Chronicles 7:14). The spirit of division is from the devil. Begin to reject every contrary spirit that may come and bring division in your family and in the church.

Lesson: Had I known' always leaves someone with pains and regret, so avoid anything that will make you lose your glory.

Prayer: Dear Lord, I reject every spirit of division in my life, family and the church in Jesus name, Amen.

November 21st Saturday 2015

Text: 1 Kings 12:25 – 33

Topic: The carnal mind

The Bible relates a doubtful person with waves of the sea that is driven away by the wind. Such person won't live a meaningful life. No amount of prophetic utterance could change the destiny of such a person because he or she denies the power of God.

Jeroboam started well and was firing well to a suitable position in the divine plan of the Almighty. He was favoured by God right at the time he was serving King Solomon. Prophet Ahijah earlier told Jeroboam that he was favoured by God and for that reason he takes the lion share when the kingdom is torn into pieces, (1 Kings 11:29). Why then should he doubt God and suppose in his heart that the people may turn back to Davidic family?

The Lord declares in His word that if you obey him he will make you the head and not the tail. He will prosper you and make you great, (Deuteronomy 28:13). Why then do you doubt him? Do you think there is anything too difficult for God? Indeed the omnipotent God is above all situations and problems.

Lesson: The carnal mind and its thoughts are futile. Be in the spirit and live in accordance with the will of God and it shall be well with you.

Prayer: Oh Lord, my God, help me to fix my eyes on you in Jesus name, Amen.