

Exegetical Notes – 1 Kings 9:1-9

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1 Kings 9:1-9

Verses 1-3

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.

- Some time after the dedication of the Temple, YHWH appeared to Solomon again. This was the second time that YHWH had appeared to Solomon. In 1 Kings 3:4-15, the first time God appeared to Solomon, Solomon had asked God for wisdom. God answered Solomon’s prayer. The first encounter had happened in a dream. Since the text says that the second event happened in the same way as the first, this one, too, must have been in a dream.
- God told Solomon that He had heard the prayer Solomon offered in the temple on the day of its dedication (see 1 Kings 8:22-66), and that He would grant everything Solomon requested of Him in that prayer.

Verses 4-5

⁴ “As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with 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 successor on the throne of Israel.’

- God promised Solomon that if he was faithful to God, as David had been, He would establish Solomon’s throne over Israel forever. David had not followed God perfectly. No human ever has, except one. Neither did Solomon. Therefore, Solomon failed to do as God requested. And there is no king of Solomonic descent on Israel’s throne today.

- Christians believe that Jesus is the eternal descendant of Solomon and David who sits of the throne of David eternally.

Verses 6-9

⁶ “But if you or your descendants 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 This temple will become a heap of rubble. 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 ancestors out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them.’”

- God makes it clear that if Israel turns away from Him and does not keep His commands, He will turn from them and the Temple. Israel will become a byword and the Temple a heap of ruin if Israel turns from Him. People will ask why this has happened to Israel and will understand that it is because she has rejected God. People will realize that Israel’s fall is because she turned away from YHWH.

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