

# The Christian Arsenal

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## 1 KINGS 9:9-10:29

Last week we studied the dedication of the temple that Solomon built. We saw Solomon's beautiful prayer. And we saw how Solomon asked repeatedly for God to forgive His people when they sinned and came to Him in repentance for that sin.

Today, we're going to see several things. The first thing we're going to see is how God answered this prayer of Solomon. God hears our prayers...and He also answers them. So, let's see how God responded to Solomon's prayer.

### 1 Kings 9:1-9...

**Verse 1** tells us that God appeared to Solomon a second time. Remember that when God appeared to Solomon the first time He told Solomon to ask what he desired and it would be given to him.

And remember that on that occasion Solomon asked for an understanding heart and God said that he would give him an understanding heart...  
and because he had not asked for riches and honor, he would receive those as well.

That time, God was coming to Solomon on a **personal level**.

But, this time God appeared to Solomon in direct answer to the prayer he prayed at the dedication of the temple. And if you'll remember from our lesson last week, the emphasis of Solomon's prayer was on the **people**...on the **nation**...**not on himself**.

So I believe in these verses we see God responding to the prayer of intercession that Solomon prayed for the nation of Israel.

The first thing I want us to consider this morning about this passage is that **God hears the prayer of a sincere heart**.

God doesn't hear every prayer people pray. David said, ***"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."***

Jesus told about two men who went to the same place at the same time for the same purpose. They went to the temple to pray. God heard the prayer of one, but He didn't hear the prayer of the other.

**The Pharisee's prayer was for the ears of man...it was from an insincere heart. The publican's prayer was for the ears of God...it was from a sincere heart.**

The Lord heard Solomon's prayer because it was prayed from a sincere heart. **EXAMPLE:** Daniel's prayer...

Not only does God **hear** the prayer from a sincere heart, He **answers** the prayer from a sincere heart. **Verse 3** tells us **"I have heard your prayer..."** and He goes on to say that He will do what Solomon asked.

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What had Solomon asked God to do? He said, **“Lord, I want you to make this place special with Your presence.”**

And God said, **“Solomon, My eyes and My heart will be here...”**

Does God answer all prayers? No...because God doesn't hear all prayers. But those prayers that God hears, He answers. And God heard Solomon's prayer and God said, **“I will answer your prayer. I'll do what you have asked Me to do.”**

There are two ways God answers prayer. I don't mean a **“yes”** or a **“no.”** I don't mean an **immediate** or **delayed** answer. I mean that sometimes God answers prayers and puts absolutely no conditions on the answer. And then, sometimes God answers prayers and **does** put conditions on the answer.

And what we see today is the Lord God of Israel answering Solomon's prayer...**but also attaching a condition to the answer.**

In **verse 3**, God said, **“I've heard your prayer and I have consecrated this house.”**

That's exactly what Solomon **asked** God to do, isn't it? And God said, **“Solomon, what you asked for, you shall receive.”** But, it doesn't end there, does it?

In **verse 4**, God said, **“If you will...”**

**Verse 5**, **“Then I will...”**

**Verse 6**, **“But if you or your sons shall...”**

**Verse 7**, **“Then I will...”**

God said, **“Solomon, I will answer your prayer, but it is conditional...If you do this and this, I will do this and this...”**

**But if you do something else,”** God said, **“Then I will do something else.”**

Then, another thing I want us to see in these verses. God takes definite action when a sincere heart becomes an insincere heart.

God hears the prayer from a sincere heart.

God answers the prayer from a sincere heart.

But God doesn't just look the other way when the **sincere** heart of His child becomes an **insincere** heart.

So, the question comes to mind...**what turns a sincere heart into an insincere heart?** I believe we can see from these verses that one thing that turns a sincere heart into an insincere heart is...

**1) A walk that is unworthy.**

**Verse 4...**

God says, **“If you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and ordinances...”**

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Look down **verse 6...**

**“But if you or your sons shall indeed turn away from following Me...”**

God wants you and me to walk together with Him. We're to walk the same direction God is walking. **We're not to run ahead of Him. We're not to lag behind Him.** Our steps are to be guided by Him. Our ways are to be His ways. We're to walk with Him.

So...we're walking with the Lord and then something happens and we slowly get out of step with Him. Very few people are walking with God one minute and start walking away from Him the next minute. It's a gradual process...

They stop reading their Bible.

They stop praying.

They just stop coming to Sunday School.

Then they stop coming to church.

**EXAMPLE: “If you don't feel close to God, guess who moved?”**

God doesn't change **His** direction. But, **we do...**and we begin walking a walk that is unworthy...and because of our unworthy walk we find ourselves with a heart that is insincere before God.

But, not only a walk that is unworthy, but another thing that causes us to have an insincere heart is

**2) A word that is unheeded...**

**Verse 4...** *“If you will walk before Me as David your father walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My judgments...”*

**Verse 6...** *“But if you or your sons shall indeed turn away from following Me, and shall not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you..”*

God gave His children His word. He gave them commandments to follow. Jesus said, **“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”**

The Bible is the word of God. It doesn't just **contain** the word of God...it **is** the word of God from cover to cover. God has given us this precious word **to teach us how to live.**

We need to feed on the word for our nourishment and our strength. And may I say at some point we need to get off milk and get on meat. We don't need to live our lives being spoon fed, we need to learn to feed ourselves.

And if we don't **read** God's word...and if we don't **heed** God's word, our hearts are going to be insincere in our relationship with God.

One more thing I want us to see that will cause us to have an insincere heart...and that is

**3) A worship that is unacceptable...**

**Verse 6...**(the last part)... *“...and shall go and serve other gods and worship them...”*

**Verse 9...** *“and they will say, ‘Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and adopted other gods and worshiped them and served them...”*

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God is so pleased when His children worship Him. But, I want to tell you...God is **displeased** when His people worship other gods.

Now, I don't believe any of us have idols of wood or stone that we worship in secret in our homes. But, a lot of Christians have gods in their lives. They have the god of **work** or of **success** or of **sports** or of **hobbies** or of **education**, even of **family**.

**Anyone or anything that comes between a Christian and God is an idol.**

Well, how is your heart?

**Are you walking before the Lord, or are you turning?**

**Are you living in obedience to His word, or are there areas where you are disobedient?**

**Are you worshiping only at the altar of the Lord, or do you find other altars that demand more of your time and your energy and your money than you give to God?**

Why is all this so important? I mean, what happens to people who walk unworthily and worship unacceptably and pay no attention to the word of God?

Well, I believe we see from this passage three things that could happen...

## 1) The presence of God is no longer real in your life...

**Verse 7... "Then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight..."**

A saved person can never be lost again...but a saved person can forfeit the blessings of the sweet fellowship he once enjoyed with God.

Another thing...

## 2) The purpose of God is marred in your life...

**Verse 8... "And this house will become a heap of ruins; every-one who passes by will be astonished and hiss..."**

They will hiss at what? **"The house of God."** What was the purpose of that house? Look back at

**1 Kings 8:59...**

What was the purpose of the temple? It was to be a place where God could set His name and manifest His presence so that all the world could know that Jehovah is God and there is no other!

See, one of the purposes God has called you and me to is to show those around us that we belong to Jesus. But, if they see in us someone who isn't sincerely walking with the Lord, the people we should be winning to Jesus are going to be **turned away** from Him.

One last thing...not only will the **presence of God no longer be real to you** and the **purpose of God be marred**...but

## 3) The deliverance by God is forgotten in your life...

**Verse 9... "And they will say, 'Because they forsook the Lord their**

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God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt adopted other gods and worshipped them, and served them...”

Just like the children of Israel forgot who brought them out of the land of Egypt...the believer today who has allowed his heart to become insincere will forget all the things the Lord has done for him.

He will cease to remember that he was once in the grip of sin's bondage and Christ delivered him.

And he will stop telling folks around him what Jesus means to him. All of a sudden, it's a little bit embarrassing to mention His name. And all of a sudden, it's hard to tell that **believer** from the **unbelievers** around him.

How many of us can look at Lot's life and tell that he was a righteous man? But, **Hebrews 11** tells us he was. This goes to show us we can't always tell...we don't always know all the things, either good or bad, about a person. Only God knows our heart!

I believe God would have far more pleased with Lot and with Solomon if their walk had been so pure that folks would not see sin invading their lives...

I believe this was a strong warning to Solomon and it's a strong warning to you and me today!

**Let's go on and see what happens to Solomon next...**

In the rest of **chapter 9** and in **chapter 10** as well, we see Solomon straying from the walk God has called him to...

Look with me over to **chapter 11**...we'll be there next week, but I just want us to look at it this morning for a moment.

**11:1-3...**

I don't believe it takes a rocket scientist to know that a man who has 700 wives and 300 concubines isn't walking on the path God has called him to walk on.

So...what in the world happened? I don't believe things like this happen overnight. I mean, we aren't walking a purely devoted walk before God one day and begin walking a walk that is diametrically opposed to Him the next.

Well, let's see if we can find some clues in the rest of our lesson this morning.

The first thing we see in Solomon's life is

## **1) Solomon's obsession with wealth.**

Look at **9:14...**

Now, this payment was for 20 cities that Solomon sold the king of Tyre. There is a difference of opinion among theologians whether the king of Tyre was justified in his criticism of these cities. He called them Cabul which meant "good for nothing."

I don't know whether Hiram was expecting something much better from Solomon or whether he was just being cantankerous, but he paid Solomon a lot of money for these cities, didn't he? By today's gold standard this would be over \$81 million.

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Not only do we have this verse, but we have others...  
**Verse 26-28**...420 talents of gold would be over \$283 million today.

**10:10**...120 talents of gold would be over \$85 million today.

**10:14**...666 talents of gold would be over \$450 million today.

Back in **chapters 4 and 5** we saw that God had promised Solomon that he would be a wealthy man. So, the question seems to me to be *“is this simply the fulfillment to God’s promise...or has Solomon become obsessed with wealth?”*

I believe to answer that question we need to remember this...Many times God allows us to have something or access to something and then tests us to see if we put more emphasis on that than we should.

He did it with the children of Israel when they came into the promised Land. He allowed them to see the idols of the nations around them. God could have destroyed those idols... but he tested His children to see if they cared more about them or about Him. And sadly...we know what they did...

In our lifetime, America has strayed so far from God. The wealthier we’ve become, the farther away from God we’ve strayed. It happens to countries...and it happens to individuals.

So, I believe this was a test for Solomon as well. Would Solomon **use** the wealth God allowed him to have or will he abuse the wealth God gave him?

And to see this, we must look at the **whole counsel of God** in the passages we have before this week and next week...

Wealth wasn’t the only area in which Solomon was slipping...Let’s look at

## **2) Solomon’s abuse of power...**

### **9:15...**

Solomon began to operate his kingdom off of forced labor. Why? When Solomon had all this wealth, why didn’t he simply **pay** the folks who would do the building of the temple of God and his own house and the Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem and so forth?

Authority is a good thing. We need men in places of authority. But, when authority becomes abusive it is a very dangerous thing. Abused authority and power in a person’s life will cause him to treat people as things to be manipulated and used. We see that happening with Iraq’s Saddam Hussein.

Not only do we see Solomon’s obsession with wealth and his abuse of power, but we also see

## **3) Solomon’s desire for fame...**

### **9:19...**

Solomon had such a desire for fame that he built a city to store his chariots in. He built a city just for the horses and horsemen. Now, we have to understand in that day it would have been a very impressive thing to say, “Oh, I have a few cities just to store my chariots and horses and horsemen.”

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I mean, he wasn't putting these cities out for contract...for bids...he was using forced labor to build them, wasn't he? And in having all these horses, he was also going against one of the things God had already said kings of Israel must not do...**and we'll see more of that next week.**

Solomon built himself a house and it took almost twice as long to complete it as it had to complete God's house.

**10:1...**

People came from far away because the fame of this man had become so well known.

Fame isn't necessarily a bad thing. Billy Graham is famous. Other good and godly men are famous.

But, fame can and often does become a terrible thing if it grips your heart. I believe that's what's wrong with Hollywood. These folks become famous and suddenly they're an authority on everything! And the sad thing is that some folks believe what they say simply because they are famous!

Another thing that was going on in Solomon's life to keep him from the straight and narrow path which God had called him to was

#### **4) Solomon's uncontrollable lust...**

Even before we get to his 1,000 women next week that we mentioned earlier, Solomon was allowing his lust to turn him from the commandments of God.

He had taken the Pharaoh's daughter as his wife. God had made it very plain in the book of **Deuteronomy** that Jews were supposed to marry Jews. God didn't want His people to marry pagans.

And we're going to see that one pagan woman wasn't enough for Solomon. His uncontrollable lust caused him to marry many pagans!

We've looked at Solomon's obsession with wealth, and his abuse of power, and his desire for fame, and his uncontrollable lust, but the most significant thing that took Solomon's heart and turned it from a sincere heart to an insincere heart was

#### **5) Solomon's meaningless religion...**

**9:25...**

These were minimal obligations for the Jews. Solomon's relationship to God was still in existence, but his fellowship with God was suffering. What he did spiritually was nothing more than going through appearances.

Solomon didn't go to the house of the Lord like his father, David.

Solomon didn't compose hymns of praise to the Lord like his father, David.

Solomon was not a man after God's own heart like his father, David.

Solomon went through the motions...he made his appearances in God's house **three times** a year. This was the requirement for **all** Jewish men. **And Solomon met this minimal requirement.**

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I believe if Solomon had gone to God's house more often, he might have kept his heart sincere before God like his father, David, did.

What about us? Do we come to church when we feel we have to come? Or do we come because we know that it honors God and edifies our spirit?

Well, folks, that's how a man goes from praying a beautiful prayer in **chapter 8** to having 700 wives and 300 concubines in **chapter 11**. It doesn't happen overnight. That's how a man who prays from a sincere heart begins to have an insincere heart.

Solomon, himself, wrote in the **Song of Solomon** of the little foxes that will spoil the vine.

This was a picture of a man who would go out to his vineyard one day and all the grapes were just hanging there in clusters, almost ready to be picked. Well, he waits a couple of days and goes back to harvest his grapes and they're not there!

He asks his servants who was responsible for getting his grapes and they begin looking around for the thief and find that **little foxes** had been stealing the grapes off the vine.

See, it's rarely one big earth shattering thing in our lives that causes you and me to sin. It's usually a lot of things we allow to accumulate...sin that is **unconfessed** and **unrepented** of... **undealt** with!

I believe it would be a good idea to examine our lives from time to time and find out if we have any little foxes running around in our lives?

**Are there any little foxes keeping us from walking before God the way He has commanded us to walk?**

**Do we have any little foxes keeping us from reading and heeding His precious Word?**

**And do we have any little foxes ruining our worship?**

**I don't believe there's a better time to examine our lives than right now, two weeks for our church begins revival services. So, I challenge you today to get alone with God this week and ask Him to reveal to you any little foxes that are in your life.**