

I Kings 9/2 Chronicles 7,8

Promises, Warning, Hot Stoves, Neighborhood Interactions, and Building Projects.

Linguistic and Cultural Reminders:

1. The Lord – Yahweh – the covenant God – interpersonal intimate relationship – corporate intimate relationship between the Divine and we humans.
2. Divine-Human contracting.
3. The Sinai mandate for Israel to be a nation that lives by different mandates:
 - a. One deity
 - b. Example of worship, generosity, and care for others.
 - c. Israel was to be an example of Edenic principles and their attendant blessings.
 - d. If Israel chose to live differently from the above, then the normal patterns of national interactions would apply without Divine intervention – Solomon's warning.
4. Hermeneutics – God meets us where we are and works to get us elsewhere more beneficial.
5. It may be helpful to keep in mind the spiritual stages of development of the people involved.
6. It might be helpful to read each text with the understanding of the reason for writing it....2 Chronicles a comfort/I Kings...a warning?
7. One's name in Hebrew generally referred to a quality of, or totality of their character.

Discussion:

Section I

1. Can you think of any other stories in the Bible where God appeared to a specific person at the beginning and at the end of a project or series of projects?
2. Why do you think he appeared to Solomon at the end of the projects in the same way as he did the first?
3. Why do you think the Deity is coming as Yahweh for this conversation.
4. Solomon “consecrated” the temple with the sacrificial death of thousands of animals. In the conversation Yahweh says He has consecrated the temple in perpetuity by “placing my name there” – Or “my eyes and my heart will be there all of the days”. What do you make of the difference in methods of consecration?
5. What do you think are the levels of meaning when Yahweh says to Solomon “you must serve me with integrity and sincerity, just as your father David did”?
6. “But if you or your sons, turn away from me, and fail to obey the rules and regulations I have given you and decide to serve and worship other gods, I will remove Israel, abandon the temple, and you will be ridiculed among the nations”. Either choice, they are a lesson. What do you make of that?
7. NOT IN THIS TEXT there is a very unusual way some did obey, and Yahweh kept Yahweh’s end of the bargain...As promised. What story do you think it is...? Pam knows this, so she won’t give you clues.

Section II

1. What do you make of the story of Solomon and Hiram of Tyre?
2. What do you think it says about each man?
3. Vs. 15 and 16 talks about the workers that built the Yahweh's temple and the palace. How does that description compare with the story of the sanctuary builders in Exodus.
4. What do you think Yahweh thought about this process?
5. Why do you think the author of Kings talked about the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. Do you think there are comparisons here with Saul's choices?

Section III

1. For you, what was the most important part of this chapter?
2. Why?

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

I wish you gentle blessings,

Catherine