

1Kings 9:10–28

“The King's Throne Established in Political Power, Religious Purity, and Economic Prosperity”

click [bit.ly/3tyx07x](http://bit.ly/3tyx07x) to hear this lesson as taught (or scan QR code→)



***How does God keep His promise to establish Solomon's throne? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. 1Kings 9:10–28 prepares us for the second serial reading in public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these nineteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that God's establishing of Solomon's throne meant granting Israel political power, religious purity (or at least outward orthodoxy), and economic prosperity.***

---

**Wednesday, March 23, 2022 • Read 1Kings 9:10–28**

*Questions from the Scripture text: In what year of Solomon's reign does this happen (v10; cf. 6:1, 7:1)? What had Solomon built? Who had supplied whom (v11)? With what? How much? Now what did Solomon give Hiram? What does Hiram do in v12? With what result? How does he communicate this to Solomon (v13)? What does he call the cities? But what had Hiram sent Solomon (v14)? How had Solomon built the two houses and Israel's defenses (v15)? What two defense structures? What three defense cities? Who had taken these border towns from whom and given them to whom (v16)? What other types of cities did Solomon build (v17–19)? What else did he build (end of v19)? From which peoples did Solomon raise forced laborers (v20–21)? From whom did he raise no forced labor (v22)? How did they serve instead (v22–23)? Who came up from where to what in v24? What else did Solomon do (v25; cf. Ex 23:14–17)? What did this orthodox procedure “finish”? What else did Solomon build where (v26)? Who provided maritime expertise (v27)? In what did their trade expeditions result (v28)?*

Yahweh had listened to Solomon's request not only about the temple (v3) but also in an ongoing way about his throne (v4–5). That answered prayer came with a warning (v6–9) that will start coming into play already in 11:1–8, but in the passage before us (and in chapter 10), we see the Lord faithfully keeping His promise (even though Solomon's imperfections show through in a couple spots).

The Lord has given Solomon an upper hand with respect to Tyre, with respect to the Philistines, with respect to Egypt, and certainly with respect to the remnant of the Canaanites. Furthermore, the Lord established orthodox religious practice (outwardly at least) under Solomon, as well as lucrative trade. In short, Yahweh had established Solomon's throne, just as promised.

The Lord gave Solomon an upper hand with respect to Tyre. The 120 talents (9,000 lbs) of gold that Solomon had received (v14, probably not sequential as NKJV's interpolated “then” suggests) was more than the crop exchange in 5:9–11 could pay for, so Solomon paid it off with twenty border towns (v11). They weren't particularly good towns (v12), but the comparative strength of Solomon can be seen in Hiram's inability to respond with anything more forceful than a complaint (v13) in which he calls Solomon “brother.” Our passage mentions Solomon's defense installations (v15–19), and that together with the joint trade operations for which Hiram needed Solomon (v26–28) put Tyre at Jerusalem's mercy.

The Lord gave Solomon an upper hand with respect to Pharaoh. Lest we think that Solomon was the junior partner in his political marriage, Pharaoh pays a huge dowry (v16) to get Solomon to take her as wife. True, Solomon is well-pleased with her and lavishly generous with her (v24, cf. 3:1, 11:1). But for our purposes in this passage, the point is that even Pharaoh was deferential toward the Son of David.

The Lord gave Solomon an upper hand with respect to the Philistines. vv15–19 describe not only military installations like the wall of Jerusalem and the defensive berm called the Millo, but also fortified outpost cities like Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer, Lower Beth Horon, Baalath, and Tadmor. His chariots and cavalry were so huge (by God's mercy to him, despite his unlawfulness of stockpiling them, Deut 17:16) that they needed multiple cities of their own (v19).

And a significant contingent of the Israelite population were needed as officers to staff them (v22). With such defenses and standing army, the Philistines who had been a constant pain throughout the period of the judges, Saul, and David have now become a military afterthought.

The Lord gave Solomon an upper hand with respect to the remnant of the Canaanites. (v20). These were left over as a failure from the conquest of the land (v21a), but under Solomon they were brought into a permanent servitude (v21b). Israel were now firmly established as the ruling class (v22–23).

In addition to military prosperity, the Lord established Solomon by establishing orthodox religious practice under him (v25). There were three feasts a year that all were required to attend (cf. Ex 23:14–17, 34:18–24; Lev 23; Deut 16:16–17. From the rest of the Old Testament, it appears that this almost never occurred. Solomon's heart will depart from the Lord, and the people's hearts are just as fickle, but in God's mercy, the nation enjoys a brief season of observing these ordinances of the Lord.

Finally, the Lord established Solomon economically. With Tyre underneath him as the experts of the sea, Solomon establishes Israel as the great naval power (v26–27) to go with their already-prime location at the crossroads of all land trade. The result is a joint trade operation that yields 31,500 pounds of gold (or maybe even 63,000 if the 420 talents is Hiram's “half,” or even more if what Hiram takes home is a “junior” share!). Whatever the exact figures were, the point is pretty clear: the Lord had marvelously established Solomon economically, just as much as He had established him politically, militarily, organizationally, and religiously.

The Lord keeps His promises. The passage seems at first like a loosely assembled encyclopedia entry about various aspects of the reign of an ancient near-eastern king. But upon closer examination, it is testimony that just as the Lord had promised in v4–5, He surely and abundantly fulfills. The story of the passage is not just of one ancient near-eastern king, but of the story of the King of kings's sure and abundant faithfulness to all His promises!

To what promises of the Lord do you especially cling? What in His character makes you sure of them? What in His past work makes you sure of them? How fully/richly will He keep them?

*Sample prayer: Lord, You are not only perfectly wise and loving and powerful, but also perfectly faithful. We praise You that Your promises are all “yes” and “amen” because of the perfection of Your faithfulness. We praise You that You have secured all of Your good promises to us sinners by Your righteous Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. But we are all the more ashamed of our worry and unbelief, because we see now that they are sins against Your character, Your word, and even Your Son who has secured the promises for us. So, even according to Your promise, forgive our sins and by Your Spirit grow our faith—for we ask it in Jesus's Name, AMEN!!*

**Suggested songs: ARP89A “The Lovingkindness of the LORD” or TPH245 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

**For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit [bit.ly/harpCHAH](http://bit.ly/harpCHAH)**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

First Kings chapter 9, verses 10 through 28. These are God's words. Now, it happened at the end of 20 years. When Solomon had built. The two houses. The house of Yahweh in the King's house Here. I'm the king of Tire head. Supplied Solomon was Cedar and Cyprus and Gold.

As much as he desired that can Solomon. Give here on 20 cities in the land of Galilee. And here I went from tire to see the cities which Solomon had given him, but they did not please him. So he said, what kind of cities are these which you have given me my brother, then he called the name of the land Kabul as art to this day.

Then here I'm sent the king 100 twenty talents of gold and this is the reason for the labor force, which King Solomon raised to build the house of Yahweh, his own house, the Milo, the wall of Jerusalem, hats or Megiddo and gazer ferro, King of Egypt had gone up and taken gazer and burned it with fire had killed the Canaanites who dwelt in the city and given it as a dowry to his daughter.

Solomon's wife and Solomon built gazer lower bait Horan that a lot and Ted more in the wilderness. In the land of Judah, all the storage cities that Solomon had Cities for his chariots and cities for his cavalry and whatever Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem in Lebanon and then all the land of his dominion.

All the people who are laughed of the Amorites hitites parentsites hivites and Jebusites who are not of the children of Israel that is their descendants who were left in the land. After them, whom the children of Israel had not been able to destroy completely, from these Solomon. Raised forced labor, as it is to this day.

But if the children of Israel Solomon made no forced laborers because they were men of war and his servants as officers as captains, commanders of his chariots and his cavalry Others, were chiefs of the officials who were over Solomon's work. 550, who ruled over the people who did the work.

But Pharaoh's daughter came up from the city of David to her house, which Solomon had built for her and then he built the Miller Now. Three times a year, Solomon, offered, burnt, offerings, and peace. Offerings on the altar, which he had built for Yahweh and he burned incense with them on the altar.

That was before. Yahweh. So he finished the temple. King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at the ungamer which is near elaps shore of the red sea in the land of Edom. And here I'm sent to servants with the fleet. See men who knew the seed to work with the servants Solomon.

And then they went to a fear and acquired 420 talents of gold from there and brought it to keep the Solomon.

So far the reading. Oh, God's inspired it. Eric word. Excuse me. Well, in the first part of the chapter, we had Solomon's prayer upon the completion of the temple. And actually, in the previous chapter, we had Solomon's prayer upon the completion of the Temple. And he had prayed that the Lord would honor the house that have been built.

He would accept to put his name there and hear prayers with reference to the sacrifices that took place there, and with respect to, with reference, to his presence, among these people there. But the other thing that Solomon had prayed for was that the Lord would establish his throne. And so, in the first part of this chapter, the Lord affirms that he has answered Solomon's prayer that he concentrated the house to put his name there forever.

And then he says that he is also established just throne provisionally Covenantally upon the righteousness of the king. So the throne of the king would be established. This of course is going to be a problem. It's already a problem Solomon's. Already married to Pharaoh's daughter. As we even hear about in this passage.

Solomon has already multiplied for himself Chariots and horses as forbidden in the law. And so we know already that we need the better righteousness of a better king for the forever. King promise of Second Samuel, 7 ultimately to be kept And yet the Lord saying that he has established Solomon's throne in the passage that we had last week is immediately borne out by what we have just heard in the portion of Scripture that we have just read together and heard read together, in the worship of God because we see that God has established Solomon's throne and giving him the upper hand with reference to the other kingdoms in the area.

He's established Solomon's throne in establishing unsustaining. Orthodox religious worship under Solomon, feels perhaps like no big deal. It shouldn't feel like no big deal because so far, we've had the period of the judges and the period or the period of the wilderness and the period of the judges. And right up until Solomon builds.

The temple worship is still taking place at the high places and we're reminded of that, at the beginning of our passage because or sorry at the beginning of our of the chapter beginning, last week's passage because it was a, the second appearance of Yahweh to Solomon had taken place, and he mentions Gibeon again, which had been the great high place.

So the establishing of him politically giving him the upper hand with reference to the nation's around him, the establishing of him, religiously establishing orthodox, worship under him. And we'll see that he was also established economically. And so, even for such an imperfect King as Solomon, the Lord has significantly established just thrown and gives us much hope.

Then as we look forward to the new heavens and the new earth in which righteousness, dwells, and that day, when we will say, as they say in Revelation that the kingdoms of the world have become the kingdom of God and Christ, the fulfillment of the shattering of the enemies when his wrath is quickly kindled and Psalm 2 and what power and prosperity there will be, then power purity and prosperity power politically purity in religion and worship and prosperity in all things in the new heavens and then you earth under King Jesus.

So first, the political power of Solomon as we see the Lord being faithful to establish this throne here, You have here in King of Tere. They had this agreement of food for wood and gold but the wooden gold ended up being far more than the food could compensate for.

And so Solomon gives him 20 cities and he goes and their border cities, you know, up on the border between Neftali and Tere and he he doesn't investigate them and he doesn't like them but he can't go to war with Solomon Solomon's, too strong. Solomon is the senior partner and this alliance.

And so, he complains about them, and they get a nickname Kabul and the good for nothing, and that was their name to this day, but the fact that he couldn't really do anything about it, shows that Solomon has the upper hand and porking here. Here him had sent him.

120 talents of gold, verse 14 is probably better read in the past tense, then the future as the New King James, gives it to us. It given him 120 talents of gold and he ended up with 20 good for nothing cities, from the northwest region of NAFTALI. But things will get better for him.

When we get to the Lord, prospering Solomon economically, Still politically, however, you have King Solomon, having the upper hand over the Philistines. You have all of these defense cities and defense installations, including the mellow, and the wall of Jerusalem, and his palace are all. Well, the mellow and the wall, especially for defense, you have entire storage cities for the Army, for the chariots, and cities for his cavalry, multiple cities for each.

So he was not supposed to according to the law multiplier. It's an horses but the Lord had so prospered him. So established him that he was building, even these cities and you see his power over the Philistines of Listens are now and afterthought. They had been such a thorn inside of Israel and dominated Israel throughout most of the period of the judges and even up through the kingdom of his father, David.

But now the entire land of Philistia or Palestine, you can hear Philistine and Palestine. And same thing was covered with the strength of Israel. He has the upper hand not just with tire and with celestia, but even with Pharaoh When Solomon married for his daughter made political alliance Israel was strong enough.

That rather than Solomon receiving a small dowry or accepting a small dowry because of the greatness of Egypt, Pharaoh actually had to go to war and capture cities to give to Solomon as the dowry for marrying. His daughter. So Israel under Solomon here by the Lord's, keeping the the promise, and hearing the prayer to establish Solomon's.

Throne has the upper hand with tire upper hand with Philistia, even the upper hand with respect to Egypt. So God has given him great. Political power. The second place God. And you see the rest of the Canaanites? Not just the Philistines, sorry in the forced labor section. No Israelites had to be forced laborers during the reign of Solomon because there were so many forced laborers from the dominated Canaanites.

Again Remember these people exist because of the sin of Israel, They were supposed to have wiped all these people out and yet, God and His mercy is establishing His people here. And this is a display of the power and the establishment of the throne, no Israelites were forced laborers because all the Israelites were needed just to govern.

The forced laborers from the from the left over Canaanites and to be officers in the government and in the army and so forth. Okay. So, that's political power. God also establishes his throne by establishing religious purity under him, or at least Orthodox, religious practices, verse 25. Now, three times a year, Solomon, offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar, which he had built free, all the established.

The three feasts a year is a reference to probably the entire ceremonial law of Israel being kept, but the three feasts in particular, were the main thing as representing the whole. So x is 23 versus 14. Through 17 Exodus. 34 verses 18 through 24, the bulk of Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 16 verses 16 and 17 many times.

The Lord had summarized these three feasts as the required religious worship of Israel. But they have one passover at the end of the wilderness wanderings. Then the next time they they keep the Passover. It's like nothing that has come before and several administrations, from now they'll have another Passover, and it'll say there had never met there.

Hadn't been a Passover like this for several generations. So these three feasts and the keeping of the ceremonial law that was meant to look forward to Christ. In the ceremonial calendar, was actually never very well done. And so, this almost passing verse in verse 25 is actually an indicator of a great Mercy from God.

That was a season of great, religious orthodoxy in the history of Israel, that they would not really see again except for tiny little pockets under great. Revivals for instance, under Josiah and so forth. So, you know, we've had something similar in our own nation. You look back to the founding of the nation.

And yes, the majority were not puritan and Presbyterian but the mindset was significant enough that a biblical worldview ruled even the deists who spoke in terms of Providence. And and so on conducting themselves, much more theistically than many who call themselves reform. Now, let alone the broadly evangelical, and God have mercy on the rest of it calls itself.

The church in our country was the religious observance under Solomon wholehearted sincere, where all the people suddenly converted and godly. No, but it was a great mercy of God, that he at least gave Orthodox religious practice and thinking as the general description something by which the the culture of Israel, could be generally described during the time of Solomon.

So, he established just thrown political power who established just thrown in religious orthodoxy or purity to some extent. He also established just thrown in great economic prosperity. This is where Harum gets his money back. He may not have liked his good for nothing cities in Northwest, Napoli, but tire were the best sailors.

And Israel was at the crossroads of all land trade and this alliance between Hiram and Solomon, allowed them to totally manipulate monopolize, the economy of the ancient world for a time. And the result was that Solomon was able to build a fleet that hero was able to navigate and use the trade routes that they had established.

And in connection with what you know the trade the past through the land of Israel at the time they were able by the time they got to offer with all the buying and selling and trading that they did produce 420 talents of gold. So what tire had given, what Hiram had given the 120?

And in verse 14, was 9,000 pounds of gold and that sounds like a lot, and the loss of it is, what makes harem so sad? When he visits the 20 cities? And he got an exchanged, but his alliance was Solomon because the Lord had established, the throne of Solomon, not just politically, not just with some outward religious orthodoxy but economically, it ends up being 31,500 pounds.

That's 420 talents of gold and that might just be Solomon's. Share when it says they went to Ophir acquired 4120 towns of gold there and brought it to King Solomon. The implication may be that there's another 420 talents of gold that was here on the share in which case that would be 63,000 pounds of gold that the two of them collaborated together and this is Jerusalem's take that is mentioned in verse 28.

Well, even if it's only 31,500 total pounds of gold, you can see the greatness of how the Lord had established Solomon's kingdom economically. And remember all of this, the way that this passage functions within Scripture as a whole is Solomon was actually an imperfect king inhuman for whom God's faithfulness to hear his prayer and establish.

His throne was this tiny little imperfect picture of the greatness of Christ's kingdom, that will be forever in the New Heavens and the new earth. And you see the greatness of the power and the purity and the prosperity that comes with having Jesus as your king. And so if in this time of his patience before, his wrath is quickly kindled, we see others seeming to have the upper hand in power or we are grieved over the impurity of the worship and the morality.

Or we see that God's people are often if not wanting at least oppressed even economically. Lower than others. Let us not be discouraged. God who is faithful to Solomon in establishing his throne? It will be perfectly faithful to his son. Our Lord Jesus in establishing his throne and the power and the purity, and the prosperity that comes with His kingdom will be unimaginable and perfect and infinite and forever and ever.

So great is the faithfulness of our God. So great is the righteousness of Jesus. And therefore, so great

shall be the establishing of his everlasting throne. This is our king and we should be much encouraged both as a subjects and in his service. So let us remember that as we serve them today and depend upon him today.

Let's pray Our Father in heaven. We thank you that you have given your son. Our Lord Jesus to be our forever. King we thank you and praise you for your faithfulness to hear Solomon's prayers. Not only with respect to the temple, but with respect to his throne, praise you.

For the way, even though he was a sinner yet for the sake of your grace, for the sake, of Christ, for the sake of your promises, you established your throne. According to his throne, according to mercy with such power. And even religious orthodox, practice and economic prosperity. Have mercy upon us.

O God, grant us to see how easily and completely you would give us all power and Reformation and revival in the church and economic prosperity. So that we may be content with what you do. So we may be encouraged when we ask for more particularly O. God, give us revival.

We pray that the kingship of Jesus, especially in his church, in our homes, in our hearts would be shown by conforming us to your Word and how we worship you and how we live before you Pray, that you would give this first to each of us individually that you would rein over our thoughts and our feelings and our choices.

Our desires. Our pleasures. Help us Lord to trust you for our daily bread for food and clothing with which we would be content and help us to use any addition that you give us for your service to be generous with it and not anxious or worried about the lack that are flesh would be anxious.

May come to us in future days. Make us instead to trust you and serve you well, intact wisely and generously. We thank you, Lord, for being our King and for this wonderful reminder, from your word that even for such sinners. As we are, it is a glorious thing to have you as our faithful.

God and King in Jesus Christ. And his name, we pray. Amen.