

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 9, 1 Kings 9-10

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 9, 1 Kings 9-10, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture examines 1 Kings 9-10, focusing on Solomon's reign and his relationship with God after building the temple and palace. It highlights a contrast between God's initial pleasure with Solomon and a subsequent warning about obedience and the dangers of straying from God's path. **The lecture analyzes Solomon's actions, such as building projects with forced labor and forming alliances, suggesting a gradual shift away from prioritizing God.** It considers the Queen of Sheba's recognition of God's role in Solomon's success and wealth. **Oswalt explores the Bible's complex view on wealth, cautioning against its potential to lead to pride and idolatry, and notes how Solomon ultimately violates God's explicit commands for the kings of Israel.** The session also emphasizes the importance of a consistent, wholehearted devotion to God, contrasting it with a mere outward display of religious observance. **Oswalt underscores that God's presence is conditional, dependent on the faithfulness and obedience of His people.**

2. 19 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 9 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).



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on09.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 9, 1 Kings 9-10

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. John Oswalt's "Kings, Session 9, 1 Kings 9-10" lecture.

Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 1 Kings 9-10

Overview: This lecture focuses on 1 Kings 9-10, examining Solomon's reign after the completion of the Temple and palace. Oswalt explores themes of obedience, idolatry, the conditional nature of God's blessings, and the potential dangers of wealth and power, using Solomon's story as a cautionary tale. He juxtaposes the initial promise and blessing with the later warnings, highlighting the potential for deviation and the consequences thereof.

Main Themes and Ideas:

1. **The Significance of Solomon's "To-Do List" (1 Kings 9:1):** Oswalt emphasizes the intentionality behind the verse's phrasing, suggesting that Solomon's focus on achieving his own desires, even those sanctioned by God, might indicate a shift in priorities away from genuine devotion.
 - "When Solomon had finished building the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, he had achieved all he desired to do. What's that about? Pardon? It's about Solomon's to-do list, mm-hmm, mm-hmm."
 - "I want to build a temple for God. I want to build a palace. I want to do, I want to do, I want to do, I want to do, I want to do, I want to do."
 - *Interpretation:* Oswalt raises the question of whether Solomon's actions, though outwardly aligned with God's will, were driven by personal ambition rather than a pure heart.
1. **The Contrasting Tones of God's Appearances:** The lecture draws a comparison between God's appearance to Solomon in chapter 3 and chapter 9. The initial appearance is characterized by positive affirmation and generous promises, while the second carries a stronger tone of warning and conditionality.
 - *Chapter 3:* "It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this... So, I'm going to give you what you asked for: wisdom and understanding, and I'm also going to give you what you didn't ask for: riches and honor."

- *Chapter 9:* "More of a warning, yes, yes. It's cooler...As for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, and this is ESV, it says with integrity of heart, with a whole heart...then, then, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever."
 - *Interpretation:* This shift in tone highlights the conditional nature of God's covenant and the importance of continued obedience.
1. **The Meaning of Walking with a "Whole Heart" (Tom):** Oswalt explains the Hebrew word *tom*, meaning "whole, complete, total," as it relates to walking before God. He connects it to the idea of offering a perfect sacrifice, emphasizing the need for undivided devotion.
 - "It is the word, in this case, *tom*. It's the Hebrew word *tom*, and it means, again, whole, complete, total. This is the word that's used for the sacrificial lamb. The lamb you offer has to be *tom*, a whole lamb, just exactly what a lamb ought to be."
 - *Interpretation:* True obedience requires a heart fully committed to God, without reservation or divided loyalties.
 1. **The Nature of Turning Aside (Sur) and Idolatry:** The lecture examines the Hebrew word *sur*, meaning "to turn aside" or "to take away," as it relates to disobedience and idolatry. It's not just a minor deviation, but a conscious choice to abandon God's path. He explicitly connects turning aside from God to serving other gods and equating this to putting faith in pleasure and security instead of Yahweh.
 - "The Hebrew word is *sur*, which means to turn aside. It also means to take away. This is what you do to an idol. You turn it aside, and you take it away...It's saying, no, I don't want to walk that way anymore. I'm going to walk that way."
 - "It's not merely, not merely that your heart grows cool and your devotional life is not quite as exciting as it once was. No, it's turning aside and putting my faith in something other than Yahweh, the one God."
 - *Interpretation:* Idolatry begins with subtle shifts in allegiance, a "flirting" with worldly desires that ultimately displace God as the primary focus. He draws a parallel between idolatry and adultery, both starting with a flirtation.
 1. **The Conditional Nature of God's Presence and the Temple:** Oswalt emphasizes that the holiness of the Temple was not inherent but contingent upon God's presence, which in turn depended on the people's obedience.

- "This is not a magic place. This is not a place that, because we've done certain rituals and said certain words, is, therefore, automatically and forever a holy place. What makes it holy? His presence, His presence."
 - "God says, yes, I've chosen this place for my name, and my heart and my eyes will be on it forever. Unless you turn aside to other gods and then tear it down, burn it down, trash it."
 - *Interpretation:* Rituals and places of worship are meaningful only when they reflect a genuine commitment to God. Otherwise, they become idols themselves.
1. **The Danger of Wealth and Power:** The lecture explores Solomon's building projects, trade alliances (with Hiram), and accumulation of wealth, questioning whether these achievements were a sign of God's blessing or a step away from Him. Oswalt connects this to Deuteronomy 17 and Solomon's direct violation of God's law regarding a king's accumulation of horses, wives, and wealth.
 - "He's like any other king. He's doing what kings do...Inch by inch by inch, how does adultery begin? How does idolatry begin? Inch by inch by inch."
 - "Solomon accumulated chariots and horses. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses...He shall not acquire many wives for himself, nor shall he acquire for himself excesses of his own, Solomon. How are the mighty far?"
 - *Interpretation:* While wealth and power can be blessings from God, they can also become traps, leading to pride, self-reliance, and ultimately, disobedience. Oswalt uses the example of Jack Schuller to illustrate how God's continued blessings don't necessarily mean a person is on the right path.
 1. **The Queen of Sheba's Recognition:** The Queen of Sheba's visit and her acknowledgement that Solomon's wisdom and prosperity stemmed from God's favor is highlighted as a significant moment.
 - "Praise be to Yahweh, your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of Yahweh's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness."
 - *Interpretation:* A pagan ruler recognized God's hand in Solomon's reign, raising the question of how much more influence Israel could have had if Solomon had remained faithful. It also highlights the idea that recognizing God's hand in success requires acknowledging human fallibility.

1. **The Connection Between Symbol and Reality:** Oswalt delves into the relationship between symbols and the realities they represent, contrasting pagan, Greek, and Biblical perspectives.
 - "paganism says the symbol is the thing...Greek philosophy says the symbol has no connection to the thing...The Bible over and over again says there is a connection."
 - *Interpretation:* The Bible emphasizes that symbols (like sacrifices or the Temple) are meaningful only when they reflect a deeper, internal reality of faith and obedience. They are not merely empty rituals or disconnected representations.

Key Quotes:

- "Were his desires for the Lord at an end and had been replaced by his desires for what he wanted to accomplish?"
- "Idolatry begins when our heart begins to swerve away for our one true love."
- "To be religious is not necessarily to be godly."
- "...when you realize God, you realize there's no man ever if he hadn't got it."
- "God will keep giving and giving and giving in the desperate hope that somehow I'll come to my senses and get out of the ditch and back into his arms."
- "There are no trophies given out for good starts. Be thou faithful."

Conclusion:

Oswalt's lecture provides a nuanced interpretation of 1 Kings 9-10, cautioning against a superficial reading of Solomon's success. He uses Solomon's story to illustrate the importance of genuine obedience, the dangers of idolatry and wealth, and the conditional nature of God's blessings. The lecture encourages listeners to examine their own hearts and ensure that their actions are motivated by a genuine love for God rather than personal ambition or worldly desires. The call to be "faithful unto death" serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of perseverance and unwavering devotion.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 9, 1 Kings 9-10

Kings: Solomon's Reign - A Study Guide

Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What is Dr. Oswalt's initial impression of the statement in 1 Kings 9:1 that Solomon had "achieved all he desired to do"?
2. How does the tone of God's second appearance to Solomon (1 Kings 9) differ from the first appearance at Gibeon (1 Kings 3)?
3. According to Dr. Oswalt, what does the Hebrew word "tom" signify in the context of walking before God?
4. What is the significance of the Hebrew word "sur" in the warning given to Solomon in 1 Kings 9?
5. According to Dr. Oswalt, how is idolatry connected to adultery?
6. What does Dr. Oswalt mean when he states, "paganism says the symbol is the thing?"
7. What was Hiram's role in Solomon's building projects, and how did Solomon compensate him?
8. What is the significance of Megiddo (Armageddon) in both biblical history and prophecy?
9. What was the Queen of Sheba's impression of Solomon's kingdom, and to whom did she attribute its success?
10. According to Deuteronomy 17, what specific instructions for kings did Solomon violate, as highlighted in 1 Kings 10?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Dr. Oswalt questions Solomon's motives, suggesting it might indicate that Solomon's desire for the Lord had waned and been replaced by a desire for personal accomplishment. He points out the verse focuses on "what he wanted to do" as significant, hinting at a shift in priorities.
2. The first appearance at Gibeon is described as positive and encouraging, while the second appearance is cooler and more of a warning. The first appearance

included promises dependent on obedience, while the second is dominated by warnings of the consequences of disobedience.

3. The Hebrew word "tom" means whole, complete, and total, emphasizing the need for a heart that is fully devoted to God. It suggests that loyalty to God should be complete and without reservation.
4. The Hebrew word "sur" means to turn aside and take away, suggesting it signifies a deliberate choice to abandon God's path and embrace other allegiances.
5. Idolatry is connected to adultery because both begin with flirting with things other than what should be our primary focus. Like adultery begins with an adulterous mind or heart, idolatry starts when we begin flirting with comfort, pleasure, security, or fame.
6. Dr. Oswalt notes that in paganism, the symbol itself is believed to have power, such that actions performed on the symbol directly affect the represented entity.
7. Hiram, the Phoenician king, provided Solomon with lumber and craftsmen for building the temple. Solomon compensated him with twenty villages from the territory of the tribe of Asher, which Hiram did not like.
8. Megiddo, also known as Armageddon, is a historically significant location due to its strategic position along a major trade route. The Book of Revelation prophesies that it will be the site of the final battle.
9. The Queen of Sheba was deeply impressed by Solomon's kingdom, attributing its success not to Solomon's wisdom or industry, but to Yahweh, the God of Israel, and His eternal love for Israel. She recognized that God had placed Solomon on the throne.
10. Solomon violated the instructions in Deuteronomy 17 by accumulating many horses, importing them from Egypt, acquiring many wives, and accumulating excessive silver and gold.

Essay Questions

Consider the following questions and formulate well-organized, thesis-driven essays.

1. Discuss the concept of "conditional holiness" as it relates to the temple in 1 Kings 9. How does this concept challenge the idea of a place being inherently holy, and what factors determine God's presence in a particular location?
2. Analyze the parallels between idolatry and adultery as presented in the text. How does each begin, and what role do temptation and desire play in their development?
3. Explore the significance of the Queen of Sheba's visit in 1 Kings 10. What does her recognition of God's role in Solomon's success suggest about the potential impact of a faithful Israel on the surrounding nations?
4. Examine the Bible's attitude toward wealth, considering the positive, equivocal, and negative perspectives presented. How can wealth become a snare, and what precautions should be taken by those who possess it?
5. Evaluate Solomon's reign in light of Deuteronomy 17's instructions for kings. To what extent did Solomon's actions deviate from these guidelines, and what consequences might have resulted from his disobedience?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Tom:** A Hebrew word meaning whole, complete, or total. In the context of walking before God, it signifies a heart fully devoted to Him.
- **Sur:** A Hebrew word meaning to turn aside or take away. It signifies a deliberate choice to abandon God's path.
- **Idolatry:** The worship of idols or anything that takes the place of God in one's life, such as pleasure, security, or fame.
- **Adultery:** Infidelity to one's spouse. The text draws parallels between adultery and idolatry, suggesting both begin with flirting with forbidden things.
- **Hiram:** The Phoenician king of Tyre who provided Solomon with materials and skilled labor for building the temple.
- **Megiddo (Armageddon):** A historically significant city in Israel and the prophesied site of the final battle in the Book of Revelation.
- **Queen of Sheba:** A foreign ruler who visited Solomon to test his wisdom and observed the prosperity of his kingdom, attributing it to the God of Israel.
- **Conditional Holiness:** The idea that the holiness of a place (like the temple) is dependent on the people's obedience and faithfulness to God, not on rituals or magic.
- **Eternal Insecurity:** Dr. Oswalt denies this concept, which suggests that God is looking for missteps so that He can withdraw His presence.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 9, 1 Kings 9-10, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about 1 Kings 9-10

- **What is the significance of God appearing to Solomon a second time in 1 Kings 9?**
- The second appearance of God to Solomon acts as a bookend to the initial appearance in 1 Kings 3. The first appearance was during Solomon's early reign, full of promise and blessing with a conditional aspect to it. The second appearance, after Solomon completed the temple and palace, carries a tone of warning, emphasizing the conditions required to maintain God's favor and the stability of his kingdom. This highlights the importance of continued faithfulness and obedience, contrasting with Solomon's focus on his own achievements.
- **What are the conditions God sets for Solomon to maintain the Davidic dynasty and blessing on the temple?**
- God emphasizes walking with integrity and a whole heart, as David did, and obedience to His commandments and statutes as conditions for the continued establishment of Solomon's throne and the blessing on the temple. This encompasses a pattern of life where idolatry is avoided, and commitment to God remains the priority. It's a conditional promise tied to Solomon's continued faithfulness.
- **How does the text describe idolatry, and where does it begin?**
- Idolatry isn't just about worshipping other gods in a traditional sense; it begins in the heart, when our affections start to deviate from our true love for God. It's a gradual process, like adultery, starting with flirting with comfort, pleasure, security, fame, or anything else that takes precedence over God. Turning aside involves placing faith in something other than Yahweh.
- **What is God's attitude toward the temple in Jerusalem, according to the text?**
- God's attitude toward the temple is conditional. While He sanctified it and placed His name there, its holiness and His continued presence depend on the people's faithfulness, obedience, and wholehearted devotion to Him. The temple is not a magically holy place, but a symbol of God's presence that can be forfeited if His people turn away from Him and become like the idols they worship.

- **What is the significance of Solomon giving 20 villages to Hiram, and how does it relate to the Promised Land?**
- Solomon's offering of 20 villages from the tribe of Asher to Hiram is seen as a potential misstep, as it involves giving away part of the Promised Land. This suggests a deviation from the ideal of the king prioritizing God's promises and the integrity of Israel's inheritance.
- **What does the text suggest is the common thread that ties together the various actions of Solomon described in 1 Kings 9-10, such as his building projects and alliances?**
- The text implies that Solomon, inch by inch, is deviating from God. While he outwardly fulfills religious obligations, his heart is increasingly drawn to the ways of other kings. The building projects, alliances, and accumulation of wealth are all suggestive of a king acting more like a typical ruler of his time than one whose heart is fully devoted to God. The text suggests Solomon's actions show a drift towards prioritizing earthly security and power over faithfulness to God's covenant.
- **What is the significance of the Queen of Sheba's visit, and what does she recognize about Solomon's success?**
- The Queen of Sheba's visit highlights the potential influence of Israel on the world if Solomon remained faithful. Despite being a pagan, she recognizes that Solomon's wisdom and prosperity are not solely due to his own abilities but are a result of Yahweh's favor and love for Israel. Her acknowledgement underscores the missed opportunity for Solomon to have been a greater witness of God's power and grace to the nations.
- **How does Solomon violate the King's Code of Conduct, outlined in Deuteronomy 17?**
- Solomon violates the King's Code of Conduct in three specific ways: he accumulates many horses, which likely involved returning to Egypt for them; he acquires many wives, which could lead his heart astray; and he amasses excessive silver and gold. These actions directly contradict God's instructions for the king, signifying Solomon's disregard for God's law and setting the stage for his eventual downfall.