

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 10, 1 Kings 11

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 10, 1 Kings 11, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This text is a transcript of a session by Dr. John Oswalt analyzing 1 Kings 11, focusing on Solomon's downfall. It examines Solomon's disobedience to God's commands, specifically regarding accumulating wealth, horses, and foreign wives. **The session highlights how Solomon's actions, driven by worldly desires, led him astray from a wholehearted devotion to God, contrasting his path with that of David.** Oswalt discusses the consequences of intermarriage with unbelievers, drawing parallels to Ezra and Nehemiah's time. **Furthermore, the talk explores God's promise to David, the division of the kingdom, and the rise of adversaries against Solomon, framing these events within the context of divine sovereignty and human responsibility.** The discussion emphasizes the importance of consistent obedience, vigilance against temptation, and reliance on God's grace for enduring faith.

2. 11 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 10 – 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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on10.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 10, 1 Kings 11

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. John Oswalt's Session 10 lecture on 1 Kings 11.

Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 1 Kings 11

Subject: Analysis of Solomon's downfall as described in 1 Kings 11, with connections to Deuteronomy and broader theological principles.

Main Themes:

- **Solomon's Disobedience and Apostasy:** The core theme is Solomon's tragic failure to adhere to God's commands, particularly regarding acquiring wealth, horses, and foreign wives. This disobedience leads to his heart being turned away from God and the introduction of foreign gods into Israel.
- "Solomon's heart is described; back in chapter 11, now for sure, Solomon's heart is described as being no longer whole."
- "So, Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He did not follow the Lord completely."
- **The Consequences of Disobedience:** Solomon's apostasy has dire consequences for the kingdom. God raises up adversaries against him and announces the division of the kingdom after Solomon's death.
- "The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice."
- "Yahweh is going to leave one tribe for the house of David. He says, I'm going to tear the kingdom out of your hands. For the sake of David, I'm not going to do it to you. I'll do it to your son."
- **The Importance of God's Word and a Whole Heart:** The lecture stresses the necessity of continuous engagement with God's Word to guide one's conscience and maintain a heart wholly devoted to God.
- "The very simple truth for you and me is we've got to be in the Word. We've got to have the Word continually, as we saw, continuously energizing and training our consciences."

- "What does it mean to have a heart that is wholly God's? ... Every aspect of life is under God's demand."
- "Nothing, nothing is a rival to him in our lives. Things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace. And as we all know, that has to be constantly nourished."
- **The Danger of Worldly Influences:** Oswalt emphasizes the threat of worldly attitudes and mindsets, such as the pursuit of power, pleasure, and material possessions, which can lead one astray.
- "What are the attitudes of the worldly system? Power gives you significance... Satisfy yourself at all costs... Possession of things is everything."
- "As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods... But pleasure...she's still the goddess of pleasure. And millions of Americans bow down at her altar. She is also the god of wealth."
- **The Problem of Intermarriage with Unbelievers:** The lecture explores the biblical prohibition of intermarriage with unbelievers and argues that it is not merely religious bigotry but a necessary measure for the preservation of faith and national identity.
- "Intermarriage with unbelievers is a prescription for tension at the least... And, at the worst, tragedy. You're becoming one flesh with those who disdain the God you worship."
- "That stress on keeping the unity of the faith in order to preserve the faith...this is not a matter of religious bigotry. This is a matter of the endurance and the preservation of the faith."
- **God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility:** The lecture grapples with the tension between divine sovereignty and human free will, concluding that both are true and essential.
- "On the one hand, you have divine sovereignty. He is the King. And anything that happens in the world happens by His will. On the other side, there is free will. We have real choices to make."
- "Nothing happens that does not come through God's hands. That means He may have allowed it, but He didn't cause it. And having allowed it He therefore has grace to give me in whatever it is I'm called to bear."

- **God's Hesed (Steadfast Love) and Emunah (Truth/Faithfulness):** Oswalt emphasizes that the Old Testament God is not just a God of wrath, but also a God of steadfast love (hesed) and truth/faithfulness (emunah).
- "Anybody who tells you that the Old Testament God is a God of wrath, please tell them about hesed. 250 times in the Old Testament. The steadfast love, the loving kindness, the unfailing love, the grace, the mercy, all caught up in this word."
- "Do you want to know who God is in the Old Testament? He is steadfast love and revelational truth. That's who He is."

Important Ideas and Facts:

- **Deuteronomy 17:15-19:** This passage outlines the restrictions placed on the king of Israel, specifically regarding horses, wives, and wealth. Solomon violates all three.
- **Solomon's wealth and military power:** Chapter 10 describes his immense wealth and military might, fulfilling the very things God warned against.
- **Solomon's marriage to Pharaoh's daughter:** This is presented as the "evil seed" sown early in Solomon's reign, despite the initial appearance of success.
- **Ezra and Nehemiah's response to intermarriage:** Their reaction is used to illustrate the seriousness of the issue and the importance of maintaining religious purity.
- **Psalms 2 and Psalm 89:** These Psalms are used to illustrate God's sovereignty, his promise to David, and the coming of the Messiah through David's line.
- **Jeroboam's opportunity and failure:** Jeroboam was offered an enduring dynasty if he obeyed God, but he ultimately failed to do so, mirroring Solomon's downfall.

Quotes for Emphasis:

- "Such a deal. The devil works that way. Such a deal. Such a deal." (Regarding Solomon's alliance with Egypt).
- "You're becoming one flesh with those who disdain the God you worship." (On the danger of intermarriage).
- "Things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace." (Describing a heart wholly devoted to God).

- "The level of our temptation is not nearly what his was. But it's still very real. Watch over us and keep us. Help us to keep our hand in yours right to the end of the road." (A call to vigilance and dependence on God).

Concluding Remarks:

Dr. Oswalt's lecture provides a detailed analysis of Solomon's fall, emphasizing the importance of obedience to God's Word, the dangers of worldly influences, and the need for a heart wholly devoted to God. He connects Solomon's story to broader theological themes of divine sovereignty, human responsibility, and the steadfast love of God. The lecture also serves as a warning to believers to guard their hearts and remain vigilant against temptation.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 10, 1 Kings 11

A Study Guide to 1 Kings 11

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. According to Deuteronomy 17:15-19, what three things was a king of Israel not supposed to acquire in excess?
2. How did Solomon violate the instructions given in Deuteronomy 17:15-19? Give specific examples from the text.
3. Why does the author of Kings not explicitly condemn Solomon's marriage to Pharaoh's daughter in chapter 3, when it is first mentioned?
4. According to Dr. Oswalt, what are the potential problems with intermarriage between believers and unbelievers?
5. What does it mean to have a heart that is "wholly God's"?
6. What analogy does Dr. Oswalt use to explain how to remove evil desires from one's life?
7. What does it mean to "fill after" the Lord?
8. What warnings did God give Solomon when He appeared to him the first and second times?
9. What four reasons are given for God's decision to leave one tribe for David?
10. According to Dr. Oswalt, what is the balance between divine sovereignty and human free will?

Quiz Answer Key

1. A king was not to acquire many horses, many wives, or excessive silver and gold. The accumulation of these things was seen as a potential distraction from the king's devotion to God and his responsibility to lead the people according to God's law.
2. Solomon acquired many horses and chariots, importing them from Egypt. He also acquired 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines, many of whom were foreign women from nations that God had forbidden the Israelites to intermarry with. Finally, he amassed so much silver that it became as common as stones.

3. The author delays the condemnation to engage the reader, encouraging them to recognize the problem themselves and to understand the long-term consequences of Solomon's actions. By chapter 11, the full impact of Solomon's choices is evident, providing a more impactful lesson.
4. Intermarriage can lead to tension due to differing belief systems and worldviews. The children are likely to be raised according to the unbelieving spouse's values, potentially leading to the loss of faith within the family, and it can introduce paganism into the "sanctuary of the body."
5. To have a heart that is wholly God's means that every aspect of one's life is under God's command and that one is detached from the worldly system. It means that one's commitment to God excludes other influences and desires that would draw one away from Him.
6. Dr. Oswalt uses the analogy of filling a glass with water to displace air, explaining that one should fill their life with Christ to remove evil desires, leaving no room for them to take root.
7. To "fill after" the Lord means to follow Him completely and wholeheartedly, giving Him one's full attention and devotion. It signifies a lack of wandering attention and a total commitment to God's ways.
8. In the first appearance, God commended Solomon for asking for wisdom and promised him both wisdom and wealth. In the second appearance, God warned Solomon that He would bless the house of God, but only if Solomon and the people did not turn away from Him. If they turned away, God would reject the house.
9. God left one tribe for David as a reward for David, to keep His promise to David, as an indication that God works in time and space with individual human beings, and as the foundation for the Messiah's coming (from David's line).
10. Dr. Oswalt posits that nothing happens that does not come through God's hands, meaning He may allow it but not cause it, and provides grace to bear the consequences. We must not negate divine sovereignty by overemphasizing free will, nor negate human freedom by overemphasizing divine sovereignty, but must hold them together.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the warnings in Deuteronomy 17:15-19 concerning kings of Israel. How does Solomon's reign illustrate the consequences of ignoring these warnings, and what lessons can be drawn from his example?
2. Explore the significance of the author of Kings delaying explicit condemnation of Solomon's marriage to Pharaoh's daughter in chapter 3. What does this literary choice reveal about the author's purpose and the intended impact on the reader?
3. Analyze the issue of intermarriage in 1 Kings 11 and the broader context of the Old Testament. Is the prohibition against intermarriage simply religious bigotry, or does it serve a deeper purpose? Justify your answer.
4. Examine Dr. Oswalt's discussion of having a heart "wholly God's." What are the characteristics of such a heart, and how does it contrast with the "worldly system"? Discuss practical ways to cultivate a heart that is wholly God's in contemporary society.
5. Discuss the apparent conflict between divine sovereignty and human free will, drawing from Dr. Oswalt's insights and examples. How can these seemingly contradictory concepts be reconciled, and what are the implications for understanding God's role in the world and our responsibility as individuals?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apostasy:** The abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief or principle.
- **Ashtoreth (Ishtar, Aphrodite):** A goddess worshipped by the Sidonians, associated with fertility, sexuality, and war; often associated with pleasure.
- **Divine Sovereignty:** The concept that God is in ultimate control and authority over all things.
- **Emunah:** A Hebrew word meaning faithfulness or truth, emphasizing God's trustworthiness and adherence to His promises.
- **Hesed:** A Hebrew word signifying steadfast love, loving-kindness, grace, and mercy; used to describe God's enduring and unconditional love.
- **Moloch:** A detestable god of the Ammonites, often associated with child sacrifice.
- **Stoikia:** A Greek word referring to the elemental principles or rudimentary forces of the world, often used to describe the attitudes and mindsets of the worldly system.
- **The World:** In the context of the passage, the system of values, attitudes, and mindsets that are not aligned with God's will.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 10, 1 Kings 11, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on 1 Kings 11 and Solomon's Downfall

1. What specific commandments from Deuteronomy 17 did Solomon violate, leading to his downfall?

Deuteronomy 17 outlines guidelines for kings, including not acquiring many horses (especially from Egypt), not multiplying wives, and not accumulating excessive silver and gold. Solomon violated all three: he amassed a vast number of horses and chariots, imported horses from Egypt, collected more wives (700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines), and made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem. This disobedience set the stage for his heart turning away from God.

2. Why does the author of Kings not highlight Solomon's marriage to Pharaoh's daughter in Chapter 3 as a violation of God's law, but waits until Chapter 11?

The author wants the readers to be engaged and think for themselves. Highlighting it immediately might remove the opportunity for the reader to observe and question the narrative. By delaying the explicit connection to the prohibition against foreign wives, the author encourages readers to reflect on Solomon's choices and the subtle introduction of sin early in his reign, making the consequences in chapter 11 all the more impactful. It also allows the reader to appreciate the contrast between Solomon's initial love for the Lord and his later apostasy.

3. Why is intermarriage with unbelievers so strongly discouraged in the Old Testament? Is it simply religious bigotry?

No, it is not simply religious bigotry. Intermarriage with unbelievers is discouraged because it poses a significant threat to the preservation of faith and the identity of God's people. Unbelieving spouses often have different worldviews and faith systems that can influence the believing spouse and, more critically, the religious upbringing of their children. This can lead to a dilution or abandonment of the faith within the family and the community. It also introduces tension and conflict into the marriage itself, as the couple may have differing values and priorities.

4. What does it mean to have a heart that is "wholly God's"?

Having a heart that is wholly God's means that every aspect of life is under God's demand and command. It involves detaching oneself from the worldly system, which is defined by attitudes and mindsets such as pursuing power for significance, prioritizing political correctness, seeking self-satisfaction at all costs, conforming to fleeting trends, and placing excessive value on material possessions. A wholly God's heart is characterized by an exclusionary commitment to God, filling one's life with Christ to the exclusion of rival desires and affections. This requires constant nourishment through the Word of God, prayer, and a surrender to Him at every turn.

5. How did Solomon's heart turn away from God? What "gods" did he end up worshipping?

Solomon's heart turned away from God gradually, inch by inch, as he allowed his wives to lead him astray. He began worshipping Ashtoreth (goddess of the Sidonians) and Moloch (detestable god of the Ammonites), among others. These gods represented pleasure, wealth, and comfort, which became rivals to God in Solomon's life. He did not "fill after the Lord," meaning his attention and devotion were divided.

6. What warnings did God give Solomon, and what promises did God make, and what did those warnings and promises entail?

God appeared to Solomon twice. The first time, at Gibeon, God challenged Solomon to walk with integrity and followed His ways. God expressed pleasure with Solomon not asking for wealth or power, but for wisdom. The second time, after the temple was dedicated, God warned Solomon that He would bless the house as a place of His name, unless Solomon and his people turned away. This is an indication that the house itself is not sacred, unless God is there.

7. Why did God leave one tribe (Judah) for David after tearing the kingdom from Solomon?

God left one tribe for David for multiple reasons: as a reward for David's heart being after God (despite his sins), to keep His promise to David of an eternal kingdom, as a witness of God working in time and space with individual human beings, and, most importantly, to preserve a lineage through which the Messiah (Jesus) would come.

8. What choice was Jeroboam offered, and how does it compare to Solomon's choices and outcome?

Jeroboam was offered a similar opportunity to David: an enduring dynasty and the kingdom of Israel if he would follow God's commands, walk in obedience, do what is right in God's eyes, and obey His decrees. This was in direct contrast to Solomon, who forsook God, prostrated himself to foreign gods, and did not walk in obedience. Like Saul's reaction to David's anointing, Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam, highlighting the contrast between obedience and rebellion against God's plan. The ultimate lesson is that blessings and curses depend on obedience and faithfulness to God's commands, and there are no prizes for good beginnings; trophies are given when you end the race.