

## TIGHT-FISTED SAINTS. I Kings 9:10-19. 08/21/22. #25.

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<sup>10</sup> Now it happened at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house <sup>11</sup> (Hiram the king of Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress and gold, as much as he desired), that King Solomon then gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee. <sup>12</sup> Then Hiram went from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him, but they did not please him. <sup>13</sup> So he said, "What kind of cities are these which you have given me, my brother?" And he called them the land of Cabul, as they are to this day. <sup>14</sup> Then Hiram sent the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold. <sup>15</sup> And this is the reason for the labor force which King Solomon raised: to build the house of the LORD, his own house, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer. <sup>16</sup> (Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and taken Gezer and burned it with fire, had killed the Canaanites who dwelt in the city, and had given it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife.) <sup>17</sup> And Solomon built Gezer, Lower Beth Horon, <sup>18</sup> Baalath, and Tadmor in the wilderness, in the land of Judah, <sup>19</sup> 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 in all the land of his dominion.

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### 1. Solomon and Hiram

- a. King Hiram of Tyre provided the material and man power to help build the temple, palace, & houses
  - a1. Solomon paid for the material & services
  - a2. Sol. probably did pay full value, but merely what Hiram requested
- b. Hiram had been friends with King David, so he wanted to honor David's son as well
  - a1. Hiram provided Solomon all he needed to build the temple, palace, & 2 houses
  - a2. Hiram's generosity & favor were evident
- c. The Bible makes no statement about Hiram's beliefs, but he wants to help Sol. honor his God

### 2. Solomon finishes his project

- a. Solomon finished building the temple, the palace, two houses in north (1 for him & one for pharaoh's daughter), the walls of Jerusalem, the Millo (land-fill), & several cities
- b. Sol. also received land in the south given to him by pharaoh as a dowry for his wife phar.'s daughter

### 3. A gift that keeps on reeking

- a. Solomon decides to honor Hiram with a gift of 20 villages in the north of Israel
- b. When Hiram views the villages, he is not pleased

- c. Hiram asked, "What are these, brother?"
- d. The villages were obviously impoverished
  - a1. Sol. did not want these towns anyway
  - a2. Hiram called them *Cabul* (worthless)
- e. It would have been better had Sol. not given Hiram any gift than to give him cast-off real estate
  - a1. Neither honored nor endeared Hiram
  - a2. If a gift says something about how much you value a friendship, then Hiram had to question what Sol. really thought of him
- f. Hiram in turn gave Sol. 120 talents of gold (worth app. \$232,000,000 in 2022 currency)
- g. Sol. was known as a getting man, not a generous giving man (Eccl. 2)
  - a1. He is known for building, collecting, & self-glory
  - a2. No great charitable works attributed to him
  - a3. He overtaxed his people to support his lavish lifestyle
  - a4. Apparently, the thought of giving something valuable away, even to someone who greatly benefitted him, was difficult for him
- h. Sol. bemoaned having to leave all his wealth behind to his son & that what he "earned" was used up by others (all was for him to make, enjoy, & keep)
  - a1. When he decided to give Hiram the towns, he knew he would not miss them
  - a2. Unlike David, who paid for the threshing floor to end the plague, Sol. gave up nothing of value
  - a3. Sol. wanted all the best for himself
- i. Generosity of God to us must be passed to others
  - a1. Php. 2:3, Jam. 2 give the best to others
  - a2. Lk. 14 take the lowest place
  - a3. Give what you would want others to give to you
  - a4. Believers need to have a testimony of being kind, generous, & helpful (not foolish or irresponsible)