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Practical Application from First Kings 9:10 to 11:43



As Paul House examines in his commentary on **First and Second Kings**, individuals and congregations often come to pivotal moments in their lives. Actions and decisions at these strategic times need to be sound, or their consequences would be profound. This section in **First Kings** illuminates what readers or hearers of its words may expect when faced with life's turning points. Therefore, the first point of emphasis is that persons and congregations must learn to discern when a pivotal moment has arrived. For some the moment comes after a time of great success, while for others, it comes after a failure, and for still others after one of life's normal passages, such as a marriage, graduation, or retirement. Proper assessment should help faithful persons stay the course.

Second, when people disappoint us, it is important to remember that **ADONAI** remains trustworthy regardless of how unstable people may be. **YHVH** made eternal promises to **David** and made sure those promises were kept. **God's** people can be confident, then, that **the Lord** never judges incorrectly, never breaks faith and never holds a grudge. **His Word** is certain and thus a foundation of hope.

Third, **Ha'Shem's** use of **prophets** indicates that **the Lord** always finds ways to reveal warnings, encouragement, and counsel. Chief among those means, of course, is **Scripture**, as the author's repeated allusions to the Torah indicate. Yet, **God** also uses persons to confront or to counsel other persons. The prophets are

good examples of the difficulty, yet importance, of sharing **God's** truth with other people.

Fourth, the ramifications of **Solomon's** actions should give us further food for thought when we are tempted to sin. Individual sin affects the whole community, especially when that sin is committed by the leader of a group, whether of a nation, a congregation, or a family. Each person must therefore examine the wider consequences of his or her actions. This principle is particularly true in spiritual matters, since our relationship to **ADONAI** is more important than any other issue in life.

Fifth, Solomon's spiritual apostasy in his time emphasizes the need for faithfulness in today's postmodern, pluralistic society. Multiculturalism, competing worldviews, and fear of appearing narrow minded are not new. Biblical characters from **Abraham** to **Moses**, to **Dani'el** to **Esther**, to **Paul** and **John** faced the same problems. Unlike those people, **Solomon** tragically chose to please **his wives**, give in to competing religions, and **worship other gods**. The Bible insists that anyone may trust **Messiah**, but also that there is no other way of salvation **(Exodus 20:3-11; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Acts 4:12)**. People of faith may suffer for this conviction, yet the effort must be made for the world to come to **God**.[206.]