

## Small Group Study Notes

### 1 Kings 9:1-28

1. God wants Solomon to “walk before” him (v4); that means to live as if he were in the very presence of God. What does it mean for you to live “in the presence” of God?
2. At the time of this second appearance to Solomon, Solomon is in ‘midlife’. The heart of this second appearance is a warning. Solomon’s father was about this age when he fell. Does the chance of falling get less with age or greater?
3. Verses 6 to 9 are the consequences that Solomon and Israel will face if they fail to “observe God’s decrees and laws” (v4). What are the consequences we face if we fail to “observe God’s decrees and laws”?
4. Verse 11 is a sad statement. First it is an under payment to Hiram. If Solomon represents God to Hiram what must he think of God? And in what ways do our business dealings bring credit or dishonour to God? (Eg is a Christian under extra obligation to have all bills paid on time?)
5. Secondly Verse 11 shows us that Solomon was so keen to increase his gold stocks that he was willing to give away some of his people. Money had become more important than people. In what ways do we demonstrate that for us people are more important than money?
6. Verse 15 introduces us to Solomon’s use of forced labour. Here he acts like Pharaoh of old using powerless foreigners as cheap labour. The wealth in his kingdom is at the terrible expense of others. How realistic is it for us to worry about our computers and TVs having been built by people overseas earning \$1 per hour?
7. Verse 25 informs us that Solomon was active in worship. This in spite of the fact that we have just been told his heart is bent toward gaining wealth unjustly. How can a person be at worship one day and ripping people off the next?