

10/1/23

Sunday service

The Grace of Sufferings

1 Kings 12:12-20

Even today you give worship. May this be the time where you give sincere worship with all of your heart and will before God. May it be a time of worship and will continue to grant amazing answers. May you receive the Word that is the complete answer to your life.

1. The grace of sufferings

- 1) Today's bible passage records when Israel split into 10 and 2 tribes during the time of Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. From 1 Kings 10, it records Solomon eventually fell into idol worship and therefore, God's wrath was placed upon him.
- 2) Solomon received the greatest blessing. It states in 1 Kings 10:27, "And the king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone, and he made cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephelah." However, as stated in 1 Kings 11:3, "He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart."
- 3) 1 Kings 11:7 states, "Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem." And it states that he did this for all of the Gentile women.
- 4) 1 Kings 11:9 states, "And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice." Even after this, his heart turned away and he did not keep the laws and ways of God. Instead, he served other idols. Therefore, God states, "I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant."
- 5) God replies to this, "Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen."
- 6) It is a pitiful story. It truly is such a pity when you think back to the beginning when Solomon made such an earnest prayer and gave 1,000 burnt offerings to God. God must have been so happy and blessed him greatly.
- 7) Solomon, who was living such a great life, had a downfall towards his last few years. What would you have done if you faced such a hardship like this in your life? There must have been times when you faced problems, hardships, or failure and simply despised God for it.
- 8) However, when you think about Solomon, you realize how precious it is to face such hardships or problems. You can see in the expression, "for the sake of David my servant," in many of the verses. David was a person that faced many hardships. Therefore, he had no choice but to rely on God and had no choice but to follow His laws and Word.
- 9) When a person is so focused on success, they have no choice but to become arrogant. You must be grateful to God for placing small problems in your life. Because Solomon received so many blessings, he eventually fell. He must have wondered whether it was worth passing down such consequences to his son, who did nothing wrong to deserve such hardships.
- 10) You must be grateful to God who gives you hardships and problems and conquers those problems in the name of Christ. May you have victory and live the same life as David.

2. God's promise

- 1) God fulfills his promises. This is God's duty. Regardless of what happens, God will do His all to protect and keep the promise. Even if a crisis arises, God will never neglect His promise.
- 2) Verse 20: "There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only." The house of David belonged to the tribe of Judah. Isaiah 7:13 states, "And he said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?'" These words were testified through prophet Isaiah who belonged to the tribe of Judah in the house of David.
- 3) The tribe of Judah was given to the house of David. 1 Kings 11:13 "However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen."

- 4) The one tribe, Judah, was a tribe of Jesus. The tribe of Judah was protected by God for the sake of sending Jesus Christ to earth. It was not a time for them to nitpick the numbers of tribes because there were only two tribes left, Judah and Benjamin.
- 5) They have received tremendous blessings, but they fell into demonic worship, so not even the numbers of tribes was important to God. God was fixated on the one tribe that held to the covenant. In the midst of two nations being separated due to demonic worship, God was at work to protect the tribe that held to the covenant.
- 6) 1 Kings 11:36 states, "Yet to his son I will give one tribe, that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put my name."
- 7) God desired his people to always have a lamp before him just as His servant David has done as he kept the covenant, the Law of God, and the Word. God desires for the lamp to be lit as it will be shined to the world.
- 8) The ideology of the covenant is stated multiple times in the Bible. It is the same in the New Testament as well. You have received the everlasting love of God and the grace of His will is upon you to keep the lamp lit until the second coming of Jesus Christ. Also, God does not rebuke the sins and mistakes that you commit, but intercedes in you groaning too deep for words.
- 9) God always left the remainder of the tribe that was centered on the covenant. God watches and maintains the tribe. God protects the age, nations, and raises His servants to never let the lamp of light go out. In that age, the servant was David. In this age, you are the servant of the Lord. You have been called in this age like David.
- 10) The ideology of the covenant will never change. No matter what happens, God will watch and keep the tribe that holds to the covenant. God will have the lamp lit and raise His servants like David. No creation on earth can separate you from the love of God because of the ideology of the covenant.
- 11) You must live as you hold to this truth. The lamp signifies Jesus Christ, the precious blood of the cross. The covenant has set you free from all varieties of curse and it has been conquered. For that to be upon you, you must hold to the covenant and pray. May you stake your life as you make the sincere confession as you conquer upon every problem that you face.