Singapore Bible College Daniel Lim

07-04-2021 Message 1 of 2

NIV 15 Minutes

**Guard Your Heart**

***1 Kings 9***

**Topic:** Obedience

**Subject:** What should we guard our heart against?

**Complement:** We need to guard against the desires of our sinful heart, follow God’s warnings and remember His goodness.

**Purpose:** The listeners will guard against the desires of their sinful heart.

**Meditation:** 1 Kings 9:3-5

The Lord said to him:

“I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

“As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’

**Reading:** 1 Samuel 15:22

But Samuel replied:

“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices  
 as much as in obeying the Lord?  
To obey is better than sacrifice,  
 and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

**Song:** Don Moen – Trust and Obey ( <https://youtu.be/4dh02OnJpIE> )

**Benediction:** 1 Kings 9:4-5

# Introduction

### Interest: [Don’t ignore warning signs on road trips.]

#### My wife and I love road trips. Over a long weekend, we would drive as far as 800km up north into Malaysia nearing Thailand borders. You will see nice sceneries and also encounter many road signs that look foreign to me. [Flash pic-AWAS!] what does this sign mean? Danger but what does it need you to do? Slow down and drive with caution. But my biker friends don’t interpret this sign this way, they would all speed up as it means to them - a series of exciting bends ahead.

#### Have you ever been so confident about what you think that you ignore the advice of others?

### Need: When I was in primary school, the teachers would give us hints every lesson on what to study for an exam. To me, the final exam is so far away in late October. It is ok. I can ignore it. Why bother? When it is about two months nearing the exam period, she would remind us once again to start our revision… yada yada yada… but during that time it’s the best time to go to the playground cos normally it is packed with children. I think you when it is 1 week before the exam it is even better, no children are playing at the playground at all. I could have it all to myself hahaha… when it’s the day before the exam. Have you ever experienced the kind of panic that you don’t know what to do and you try to justify everything studies a little bit. I would regret how come I didn’t start studying early? I didn’t know the seriousness of my teacher’s warning. Do we know the urgency of the warning? In today’s passage 1 Kings 9, Prophet Jeremiah is giving us a very serious warning.

### Subject: What should we guard our heart against?

### Background: The main theme of the Book first Kings talks about division. The rise and fall of kings. King Solomon started real in chapters 3-8 where King Solomon in his first encounter with God at Gibeon (1 Kings 3:5). He asked God for wisdom and it was given to him. He was the wisest man at that time. He obeyed God and gains popularity and wealth. Today, 1 Kings 9 started with Solomon’s second encounter with God at Gibeon after he completes building the temple of God and all that his heart desires.

### Preview: Today’s passage will show us three ways to guard our hearts. First is the first God’s warnings. Secondly, is to remember God’s grace. Thirdly, is to guard against the desires of our heart.

### Text: The author Jeremiah reminds us about God’s faithfulness (shown in God’s Covenantal warnings) despite Solomon’s disobedience (Solomon chasing his desires and disobey God.)

### Let us turn to 1 Kings 9 before I read it for us. 1 King 9.

(How should we guard our heart?)

# I. Follow God’s warnings (9:1-8).

[We need to follow God and heed His warnings.]

## God reaffirms the Davidic covenant to Solomon (9:1-5).

## God reaffirms the Mosaic covenant to Solomon (9:6-8).

(How should we guard our heart?)

# II. Remember God’s grace (9:9).

[We need to learn from the mistake of others.]

## God freed the Israelites from slavery (9:9a).

## The Israelites turned to other gods (9:9b).

## God punished them by bringing disaster upon them (9:9c; newspaper thief)

### When I was distributing newspapers as a part-time job, there was daily report of missing newspapers. I am pretty sure I did not miss those households or distribute wrongly. I suspect it is a probably a case of someone stealing my papers. So, after I finish distributing the papers, I stayed back to observe from the opposite block. Only on the third day I saw someone walking along the corridors and stopping to take papers from the gate. I called my co-workers and they waited for him to take the lift. We manage to catch him red handed with copies of papers in his plastic bag. He pleaded for us to give him a chance. Out of good will, I decided to take down his particulars and let him go free. Everything was fine, but the very next week newspapers started to go missing again. This incident makes me wonder. When we receive grace from someone, why do we so quickly forget? Is the thief not thankful for the grace shown?

### This is a true reflection of our heart.

(What should we guard against?)

# III. Guard against the desires of our heart (9:10-28).

[We need to guard our heart against the influences of pagan gods.]

## Guard against influences of foreign kings (9:10-14, 26-28; smoking)

### Can you believe it? I used to smoke 40 sticks per day. I used to hate smokers because of the stinky smell of smoke on your clothing, your breath and polluting the environment. But my secondary school friends that hang out around me are all smokers. After some time, I kind of get used to the smell, one fine day my friend offered me a cigarette. I took it and there was no turning back. Bad influences are gradual, and we cannot think that we are immune to bad influences.

### When God set the laws in Deuteronomy 17, giving the Kings guidelines in their practices. Solomon did not follow them. He had an alliance with foreign kings (in the name of developing the temple and all that he desires.) He also married Pharaoh’s daughter. V21 tell us that Solomon didn’t manage to exterminate all the Canaanites and kept them as forced slaves. Solomon followed the desires of his heart and did not do what God commanded or observe His decree and laws (v4b)

## Guard against influences of foreign wives (9:16-17).

## Guard against the influences of forced slaves (9:15, 20-23).

(So what is the key point? This narrative is warning us…)

# Conclusion

### We must guard against the desires of our heart (Main idea).

### Main Points

###### We need to follow God’s warnings. God is faithful to his covenants.

###### We need to guard against the desires of our own heart.

###### We need to remember God’s grace. God has rescued us from sin through the death of Christ, yet we turn away from Him and worship our other gods.

### Exhortation/Application

###### The fear of God is the beginning of our wisdom (Proverbs 9:10) In Solomon’s case, wisdom has caused him to be prideful and disobeyed God’s covenants. A man who fears God will follow God’s instructions and heed his warnings.

###### We need to guard against the desires of our heart. Our desires will blind us from seeing what God has done for us. Causing us to be easily influenced by pagan practices. (ill. Desires will blind us – drugs) I have been ministering to an ex-drug offender for many years. On good days, when I visit him in helping hand. He will share with me how thankful he was. On days where his addiction is triggered. He would disappear over the week only to appear once again many months later when arrested by the police for drug offences. His desire for drugs has blinded him from seeing the care and love of his family and church. Are we blinded to our pursuits as well? Do we justify our desires and make it seems like it’s God’s direction?

###### Do we find our security in God or our possessions? Solomon stored up his wealth in store cities and build a palace and terrace to please his Egyptian wife. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, where your treasure is there will your heart be. (Treasure) We need to learn to trust in God alone. (ill. Priorities – Lifestyle upgrading) The most expensive upgrade is the upgrade of lifestyle. From a simple $3 bowl of noodles to $30 a bowl. From a $15 shampoo upgrade to a $150 bottle of shampoo. Is it good? Of course. Is it necessary? My wife and I have decided to maintain a simple lifestyle and not exposed the children to luxuries. We hope to teach the children to be generous in giving our access away to people who needs it more than us. We must never find security in our wealth because if it is gone then our security is gone. We must find our security in God who is eternal.

###### Solomon made temple sacrifices to fulfil obligations. (v25) Do we just do things for the sake of doing? God looks at our hearts and our intentions. (ill. Fulfil obligations – visitations) how many times do I need to tell my children to stop playing their mobile games during Chinese New Year visitation? They would enter my grandma house collect Ang Bao, sit and play mobile games while the adults talk and until we leave. Do we care for the people around us? Do we see every moment as a gospel opportunity? Or is it just fulfilling our obligations.

# Preliminary Questions

# Context: What did the author record just before this passage?

### In chapters 1:1-2:46, David hands over kingship to Solomon despite the plot to overthrow Solomon by Adonijah.

### In chapters 3:1-11:43, the passage records the highlights of King Solomon reign and his gift of wisdom from God. How Solomon rules the government with his God-given wisdom and the building of the temple for God.

### After inheriting wisdom from God in chapter 3:1-15, I noticed a gradual escalation of what King Solomon did that was pleasing to God which climaxes at chapter 8:62-66 where Solomon dedicated the temple of the LORD.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### This passage marks the beginning of Solomon’s downfall.

### There is two main cause of Solomon’s disobedience towards God. Firstly in 1 Kings 9:16, Solomon married the daughter of Pharaoh king of Egypt. He disobeyed God command in 1 Kings 11:2 when he intermarries daughters of foreign kings. God knows that they will surely turn their hearts after their gods. This also defies God’s instructions in Deuteronomy 17:17 that, “a King must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray.”

### Secondly, in 1 Kings 9:15-21, Solomon promoted slavery by using those who were left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites as forced labourers. In Deuteronomy 20:17, God commands Israel to destroy the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. Otherwise, they will teach Israel to follow all the detestable things they do in worshipping their gods and cause Israel to sin against God. Solomon did not obey God’s command yet compromised and made use of them as slaves.

### By doing so, Solomon’s godlessness reflected more of Pharaoh than King David. He forgot the source of his wisdom and disobeyed God’s command for Israel.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### When the Israelites enter the promised land, God gave them clear instructions to follow to prevent the Israelites from turning away from God and worshipping foreign god.

### In Deuteronomy 17:14-20, there were instructions given to a king as a leader of a nation is one who sets the example for his people. God’s blessings that the King and his descendants will reign a long time were on a condition that the King obeys God’s commands.

### In 1 Chronicles 17:1-27, there is an ambiguous play of the Hebrew term “House” which could be interpreted as the “palace” where the king lives, “temple” which King David wish to build for God and the “dynasty” which the descendants of King David will sit on the throne. Therefore, that passage can be interpreted as God not allowing David to build the “temple” (v4) instead God will build a “dynasty” (v12) for David’s descendants whom one of them will then build a “temple” (v10) for God.

# Sources Used

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1. Wiseman, D. J. 1 and 2 Kings: an introduction and commentary (Vol. 9). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
2. Matthews, V. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Walton, J. H. The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
3. House, P. R. 1, 2 Kings (Vol. 8). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers,1995.

# Questions & Answers (cf. p. 22 #1)

## In verse 2, why and when did the LORD appear to Solomon the first time in Gibeon? How is it related to the second appearing?

#### In 1 Kings 3:3-5, at Gibeon, God appeared to Solomon in his dream and said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

#### In 1 Kings 15:5, King David is referred to as a yardstick for judging all future kings. When God first appeared to Solomon, God grant Solomon wisdom so that he can use it to obey God. In the second appearing, God affirmed Solomon of the Davidic covenant (that He will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever 1 King 9:5, 2 Sam. 7:12-13, Jer. 23:5-6). It is a conditional covenant that any failure to obey will result in not receiving the blessings.

#### Therefore, from my observations, the blessing of wisdom (first appearance) and affirmation (second appearance) is God’s grace in helping Solomon fulfil the Davidic covenant.

## In verse 13, why is Hiram not pleased with the twenty cities? If he is not pleased, why did Hiram send to the king 120 talents of gold in return?

#### Solomon’s relationship with the Hiram was mutually beneficial where Solomon needed skilled craftsmen and material for building and Hiram needed Barley, oil, wheat and wine for his own our family and his subjects (1 Kings 5:12). But like the game of “Monopoly”, when Solomon has exhausted his finances in building the temple, Solomon started to give away land in exchange for services and raw material to complete the building.[[1]](#footnote-1)

#### V13 Solomon addressed Hiram as “brother” signifying their alliance as Hiram gave Solomon 120 talents of gold equivalent to four tons of gold.

## What cause Solomon to slowly compromise his obedience to God?

#### There are a few factors that caused this:

##### partnership with Hiram and Pharaoh (3:1,9:11).

##### made Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites forced labour to build the house of the LORD, his own house, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer (9:15).

##### influenced by his foreign wives and their gods (3:1, 9:16).

#### All these people could have influenced Solomon in various ways to slowly compromise his faith and dependence on God. Thus, wisdom is like a double edge sword, it can lead you to please God and also cause you to turn away from his ways and disobey His commands.

## What is the use of storage cities? Is it according to what God has commanded?

#### The storage sites are for grain and other goods (9:19). The Wisdom of Solomon has given his foresight to prepare food storage for possible war.

## In verse 16 and 24, what is the significance of mentioning the Pharaoh and his daughter?

#### The revealing of Solomon’s alliance with Pharaoh and marrying his daughter (3:1) signifies that dependence on their bilateral ties for security instead of trusting in God alone.

#### Even Deuteronomy 17:14-20 states that a King must not make the people return to Egypt to get more horses. He must not also take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate a large amount of silver and gold.

#### By having this alliance and marriage to Egypt, it is the evil one’s foothold on Solomon.

## Does God allow levied forced labour using slaves from pagan nations to build his temple?

#### The passage does not give us any information on whether God is against slavery. What we do know from Psalm 9:9 that, “God is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.” Solomon used the slaves to build the “temple” but in the end, suffered the consequences of it in 1 Kings 12:18. His son, Rehoboam who took over kingship placed Adoniram in charge of forced labour, but all Israel stoned him to death. But King Rehoboam manage to escape on his chariot, but Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

## What is the rationale for not making slaves of the sons of Israel? Is it in line with God’s command?

#### This is in obedience to Leviticus 25:42-46 that states, “Israelites must not be sold as slaves. Do not rule over them ruthlessly but fear your God.”

# Tentative Main Ideas

Text

# Illustrations That Apply

### <Ignore warning signs – road trips> my wife and I love road trips. Over a long weekend, we would drive as far as 800km up north into Malaysia nearing Thailand borders. You will see nice sceneries and also encounter many road signs that look foreign to me. [Flash pic-Awas] what does this sign mean? Danger but what does it need you to do? Slow down and drive with caution. But my biker friends don’t interpret this sign this way, they would all speed up as it means to them - a series of exciting bends ahead.

### <Urgency – empty playground> When I was in primary school, the teachers would give us hints every lesson on what to study for an exam. To me, the final exam is so far away in late October. It is ok. I can ignore it. Why bother? When it is about two months nearing the exam period, she would remind us once again to start our revision… yada yada yada… but during that time it’s the best time to go to the playground cos normally it is packed with children. I think you when it's like 1 week before the exam it's even better, no children are playing at the playground at all. I could have it all to myself hahaha… when it’s the day before the exam. Have you ever experience the kind of panic that you don’t know what to do and you try to justify everything studies a little bit. I would regret how come I didn’t start studying early? I didn’t know the seriousness of my teacher’s warning. Do we know the urgency of the warning?

### <following warnings-CB Mask> During the start of the circuit breaker on 7 April last year, the Singapore government gave a set of rules to enforce social distancing. At the same time, there was an effort to educate how to prevent or stop the spread of covid. Generally, Singaporeans being law-abiding followed the warnings. On the other hand, in countries like the US. The Mask is a sign of losing your rights. Many went to the streets to protest. Even President Trump refuse to see the importance to wear the mask. Likewise, Solomon followed his heart and viewed warnings in the way he wants. He fails to realize that through the Davidic and Mosaic covenant, it is God’s way to warn Solomon and show him grace before rolling out any punishment.

### (remember the grace of others – newspaper thief) When I was distributing newspapers as a part-time job, there was daily report of missing newspapers. I am pretty sure I did not miss those households or distribute wrongly. I suspect it is a probably a case of someone stealing my papers. So, after I finish distributing the papers, I stayed back to observe from the opposite block. Only on the third day I saw someone walking along the corridors and stopping to take papers from the gate. I called my co-workers and they waited for him to take the lift. We manage to catch him red handed with copies of papers in his plastic bag. He pleaded for us to give him a chance. Out of good will, I decided to take down his particulars and let him go free. Everything was fine, but the very next week newspapers started to go missing again. This incident makes me wonder. When we receive grace from someone, why do we so quickly forget? Is the thief not thankful for the grace shown? This is a true reflection of our heart.

### (bad influences - smoking) Can you believe it? I used to smoke 40 sticks per day. I used to hate smokers because of the stinky smell of smoke on your clothing, your breath and polluting the environment. But my secondary school friends that hang out around me are all smokers. After some time, I kind of get used to the smell, one fine day my friend offered me a cigarette. I took it and there was no turning back. Bad influences are gradual, and we cannot think that we are immune to bad influences. When God set the laws in Deuteronomy 17, giving the Kings guidelines in their practices. Solomon did not follow them. He had an alliance with foreign kings (in the name of developing the temple and all that he desires.) He also married Pharaoh’s daughter. V21 tell us that Solomon didn’t manage to exterminate all the Canaanites and kept them as forced slaves. Solomon followed the desires of his heart and did not do what God commanded or observe His decree and laws (v4b)

### (Desires will blind us – drugs) I have been ministering to an ex-drug offender for many years. On good days, when I visit him in helping hand. He will share with me how God has helped him this week and how thankful he was. On days where his addiction is triggered. He would disappear over the weekend and only appear once again many months later when arrested by the police for drug offences. His desire for drugs has blinded him from seeing the care and love of his family and church. Are we blinded to our pursuits as well? Do we justify our desires and make it seems like it's God’s direction?

### (Priorities – Lifestyle upgrading) The most expensive upgrade is the upgrade of lifestyle. From a simple $3 bowl of noodles to $30 a bowl. From a $15 shampoo upgrade to a $150 bottle of shampoo. Is it good? Of course. Is it necessary? My wife and I have decided to maintain a simple lifestyle and not exposed the children to luxuries. We hope to teach the children to be generous in giving access away to people who needs it more than us. We must never find security in our wealth because if it is gone then our security is gone. We must find our security in God who is eternal.

### (Fulfil obligations – visitations) how many times do I need to tell my children to stop playing their mobile games during Chinese New Year visitation? They would enter my grandma house collect Ang Bao, sit and play mobile games while the adults talk and until we leave. Do we care for the people around us? Do we see every moment as a gospel opportunity? Or is it just fulfilling our obligations.

# Possible Applications

# Old Testament Survey Notes

**Guard Your Heart**

***1 Kings 9***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*:

**The result of Solomon giving in to his desires was that he did not heed God’s covenantal warning seriously.**

# I. The condition of God’s promises to fulfil the Davidic and Mosaic covenant was that Solomon needed to follow God and heed his warnings (9:1-9).

## The condition of God’s promises to fulfil the Davidic covenant was that Solomon needed to follow God (9:1-5).

## The condition of God’s promises to fulfil the Mosaic covenant was that Solomon needed to heed God’s warnings to stay in the promised land (9:6-9).

# II. The result of forsaking God and worshipping other gods was that Solomon gave in to whatever he desired (9:10-28).

## The evidence of Solomon forsaking God was his desire to have an alliance with foreign kings (9:10-14).

## The evidence of Solomon forsaking God was his desire for foreign wives (9:16-17).

## The evidence of Solomon forsaking God was his desire for forced slaves (9:15, 20-23).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will guard against the desires of their sinful heart.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: [Don’t ignore warning signs on road trips.]

### Need: Do we know the urgency of the warning? In today’s passage 1 Kings 9, Prophet Jeremiah is giving us a very serious warning.

### Subject: What should we guard our heart against?

### Background: The main theme of the Book first Kings talks about division.

### Preview: Today’s passage will show us three ways to guard our hearts. First is the first God’s warnings. Secondly, is to remember God’s grace. Thirdly, is to guard against the desires of our heart.

### Text: The author Jeremiah reminds us about God’s faithfulness (shown in God’s Covenantal warnings) despite Solomon’s disobedience (Solomon chasing his desires and disobey God.)

### Let us turn to 1 Kings 9 before I read it for us. 1 King 9 <Pause>

(How should we guard our heart?)

# I. Follow God’s warnings (9:1-8).

## God reaffirms the Davidic covenant to Solomon (9:1-5).

## God reaffirms the Mosaic covenant to Solomon (9:6-8).

(How should we guard our heart?)

# II. Remember God’s grace (9:9).

## God freed the Israelites from slavery (9:9a).

## The Israelites turned to other gods (9:9b).

## God punished them by bringing disaster upon them (9:9c; newspaper thief)

(What should we guard against?)

# III. Guard against the desires of our heart (9:10-28).

## Guard against influences of foreign kings (9:10-14, 26-28; smoking)

## Guard against influences of foreign wives (9:16-17).

## Guard against the influences of forced slaves (9:15, 20-23).

(So what is the key point? This narrative is warning us…)

# Conclusion

### We must guard against the desires of our heart (Main idea).

### Main Points

### Exhortation/Application



**Rick Griffith**

2018

Message of 66

**Title**

***Passage***

# Introduction

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# I. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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# II. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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# Conclusion

### Main Idea has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

### Application question

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BOOK CHART

1. David Noel Freedman, Allen C. Myers, and Astrid B. Beck, eds., *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, Paperback edition. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2019), 593. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)