



E38

2017 MESSAGE SERIES

38 ESSENTIAL PASSAGES IN UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STORY, THEIR STORY, & YOUR STORY.



Physical Erosion: The process where something diminishes and is destroyed.

Spiritual Erosion: The gradual process of moral and spiritual decline.

Spiritual Erosion...

What are the reasons for it?

What can we do about it?

1st and 2nd Kings = 430 years of Israelite history

“1st and 2nd Kings presents Israel’s history as a series of events that describe how and why the nation of Israel fell from the heights of national prosperity to the depths of conquest and exile.”

-Paul House

1st & 2nd Kings = 430 years of Israelite history







“Now Solomon the son of David established himself securely over his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and exalted him greatly.”



“Now the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,” 1 Kings 11:9

Erosion is never sudden. No garden “suddenly” overgrows with thorns. No church “suddenly” splits. No building “suddenly” crumbles. No marriage “suddenly” breaks down. No nation “suddenly” becomes a mediocre power. No person “suddenly” becomes base. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, certain things are accepted that were once rejected. Things once considered hurtful are now secretly tolerated. At the outset it appears harmless, perhaps even exciting, but the wedge it brings leaves a gap that grows wider as moral erosion joins hands with spiritual decay. The gap becomes a canyon.

-C. Swindoll





“I went past the field of a sluggard...thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins.”

Prov. 24:30-1

Spiritual Erosion...

What are the reasons for it?

What can we do about it?



-Solomon



Erosion sign #1

Rationalization of disobedience
for personal gain.

“you shall not intermarry with other nations...For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods;” Deut. 7: 3



“When Solomon was old he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives **turned his heart away** from the living God.” 11:3

“I know I am rationalizing an action of disobedience when I find myself having to do a **lot of explaining** and **justifying** of an action...I have found holiness doesn't need to be explained, truth stands by it's self, and purity never has to be defended.”

-Don Cousins

Erosion sign #2

Becoming **careless** in response to the Grace of God.

“Solomon’s actions show that he has lost sight of God’s holiness. Because of God’s amazing grace we could fall into the trap of finding our attitude towards God being that of ‘our buddy.’ God wants us to enjoy His grace, but for our own sakes we must never forget that He is a Holy God who says, ‘Be holy, for I am holy!’”

-Don Cousins

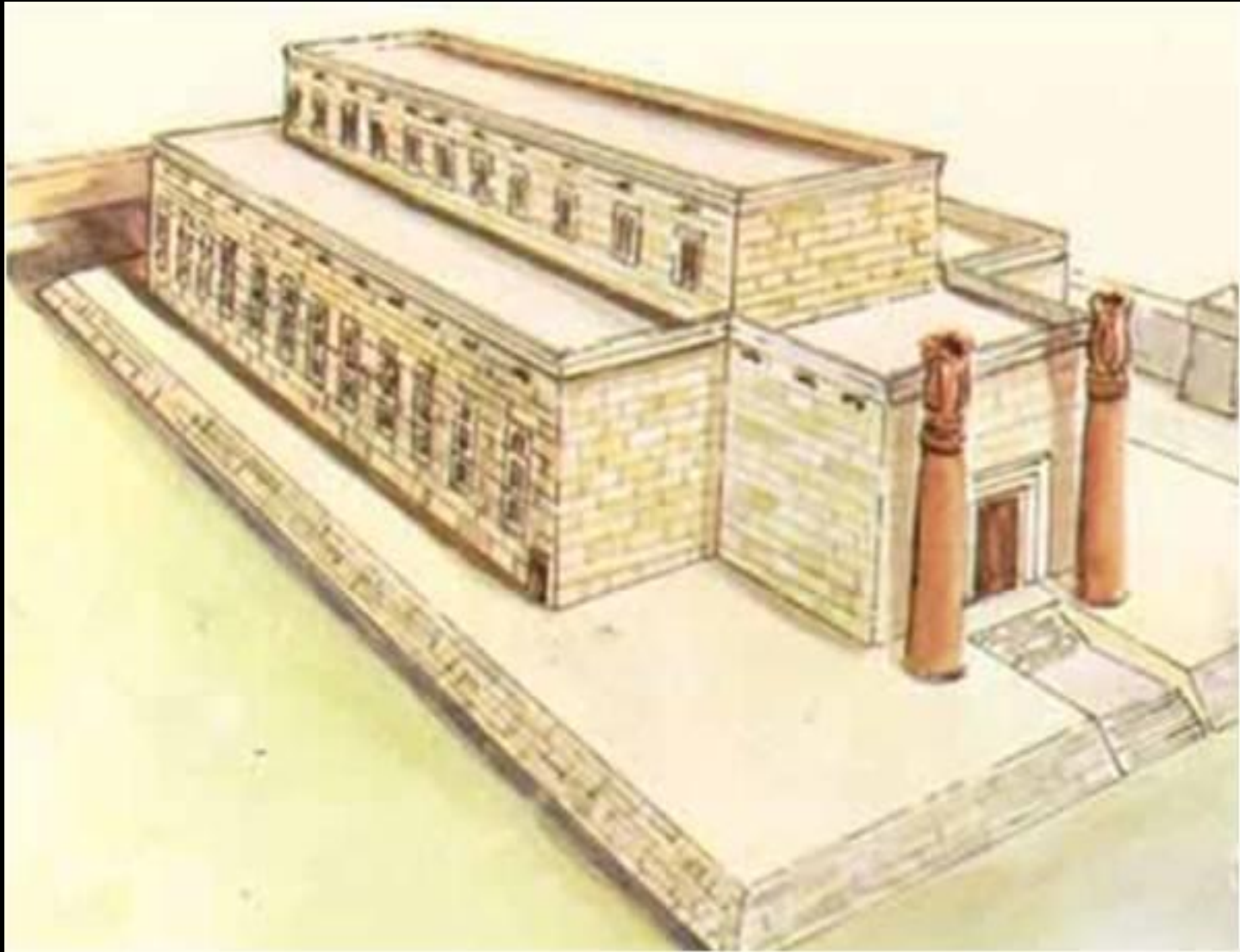
“So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we’ve left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn’t you realize we packed up and left there for good?”

Romans 6:1-2

Erosion sign #3

An **Indulgence** in that which God has allowed us to have.

“I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.” Ecc. 2:10





“Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, ‘Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.’”

1 Kings 12:4

“Am I using something I have freedom in as a Christian in such a way to where it is actually causing loss of freedom?”

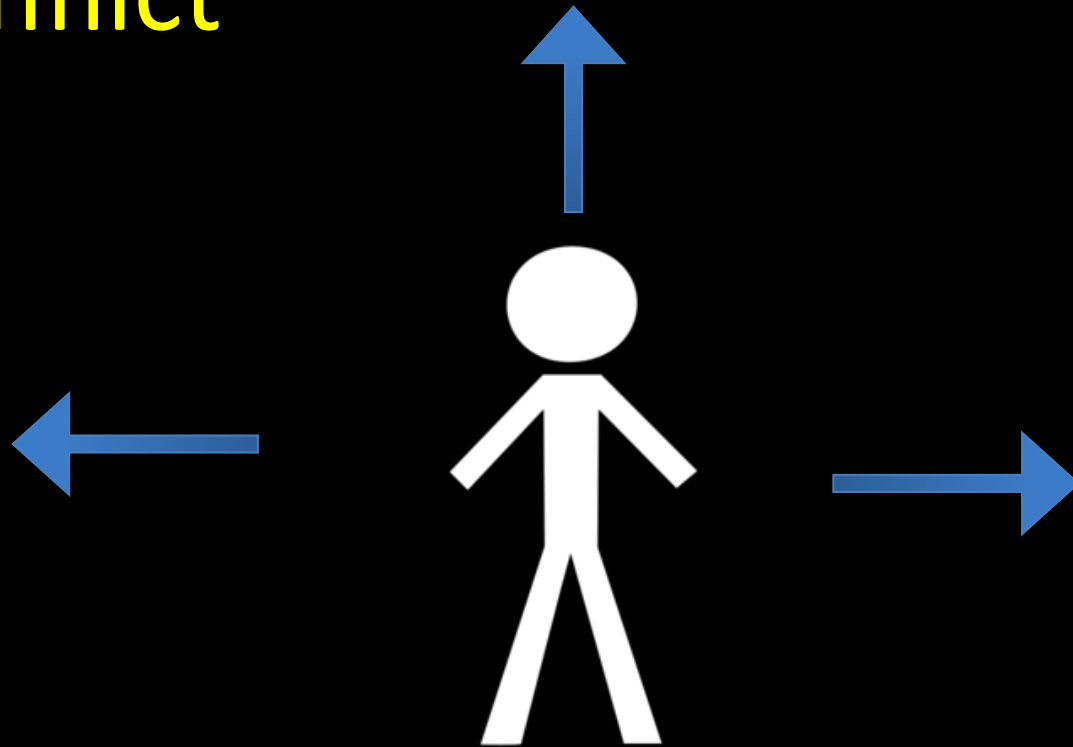
Jerry Bridges

“Prosperity has ruined more people than adversity ever will, because prosperity if not handled well will lead to indulgence and extravagance every time.”

– Thomas Carlyle

Erosion sign #4

Indifference about Unresolved Conflict



Spiritual Erosion...

What can we do about it?

“Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall **write for himself** a copy of **this law** on a scroll in **the presence of the Levitical priests**. It shall be with him and **he shall read it** all the days of his life, that he may learn to **fear the Lord his God,**”

Deut. 17:18-19

First:

Take God and His Word **SERIOUSLY!**

“Whenever I am in disagreement with Scripture, I automatically assume I am wrong.”

Francis Chan

Second:

Be proactive in...

Relational Accountability

“Both David and Solomon had major character flaws but the difference maker was David had a Nathan, someone who loved him enough to call out actions that were clearly outside of God’s will.”

Third:

Stay focused on **God** –
the giver of gifts, not so much
the gifts.

“We need to guard our lives against love of riches and worldly cares. But having and **enjoy earthly goods**, however, is **not sin** for the Christian. Their sweetness is a drop of his love and they have his goodness imprinted on them. They are intended to kindle our love for him as love tokens from our dearest Father. Christian enjoy his gifts is not a sin, as **they are in intended to grow your love for him.**”

Richard Baxter

“Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

1 Cor. 1:24

“Who ever hears these words of mine and puts them into practice builds his house on the rock.”

Matt. 7:24