

MIDWEEK EVENT

This week's main point is: Insecurity leads to sin.

SCRIPTURE | 1 Kings 11:30-39; Psalm 122:6-7; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 10:12

THEOLOGY CONNECTION | SIN'S EFFECTS IN THE WORLD

Sin does not only impact our relationship with God; it is also the root of our broken relationships with the people around us. Human sinfulness is the reason the creation groans in anticipation for redemption and deliverance from its bondage to evil powers (Rom. 8:20-22). Sin has infected and redirected the social structures of society, leading to injustice and oppression. The distorting effects of sin are visible all around us, but the good news of the gospel is that the battle against these powers will be won through the work of Christ.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The kings of Israel led the people astray. Under their leadership, Israel fell into idol worship and did what was evil in God's eyes. Christ is the King of kings, and He perfectly leads us to worship the Father.

1 1 KINGS 11:30-39; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:12

MISPLACED TRUST MAKES US INSECURE.

The Israelites trusted their kings rather than God, and it led to their downfall—and years in exile from the good home God had given them. But trust was an issue on a smaller scale too. Look at what we learned about Jeroboam in the main session: He didn't trust anyone, and it led to his downfall. He didn't trust his people, King Rehoboam of Judah, and, ultimately, he didn't trust God. In 1 Kings 11, God told Jeroboam he would be king and that God would be with him—so long as Jeroboam obeyed God and did “what is right in {God's} sight” (v. 38). Instead of rooting himself in the security of God's promises, Jeroboam looked around him and became insecure about his people's loyalty. So, he made idols for them to worship, hoping it would cement their loyalty to and love for him. But all it did was add to Israel's downward spiral and eventual exile. Jeroboam chose what he thought was best for him above what was right. And God promised then to “bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam” (1 Kings 14:10). Sometimes, we're tempted to look at these Old Testament kings and judge them harshly or criticize them. But in the New Testament, Paul warns about this, saying, “Whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall” (1 Cor. 10:12). In other words, instead of criticizing the actions and hearts of ancient kings, we should turn to examine our own. Finding security in ourselves, believing we can do it all or know better than God, makes us insecure and eventually leads to falling further away from God and deeper into sin.

- › **WHO WOULD YOU SAY YOU TRUST THE MOST RIGHT NOW?**
- › **DO YOU FEEL MORE SECURE IF YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE CONTROL OVER SOMETHING? EXPLAIN.**
- › **HOW DOES OUR CONTROL ACTUALLY BRING A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY?**
- › **ANSWER HONESTLY: DO YOU TRUST GOD ABOVE ALL OTHERS? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- › **WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TO BUILD A DEEPER TRUST IN GOD?**

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2 PSALM 122:6-7; ROMANS 8:31-39

OUR SECURITY RESTS IN GOD.

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “security breach”? Today, this might mean passwords or other personal info being leaked online; it could be a break-in or theft; or it could even be something someone you know does that makes you feel unsafe in some way. Security really boils down to safety. Do we feel safe in this place or with this person? Do we feel safe to be who we are? With God, we never have to wonder. What He calls us to do might not always feel safe and secure depending on the situation, and it may not seem wise in the eyes of the world. But Scripture makes it clear that “those who love [God]” are secure in Him. Absolutely nothing, whether from our own faults and failures or someone else’s decisions, can come between God and those who love Him. However, in looking at Jeroboam’s story, here’s a question of caution: Do we love God or are we using Him? Jeroboam used the golden calves to make sure his people remained loyal to him, but it wasn’t about worship or religion at all; this decision was born out of his fear and used for his personal gain. If we’re honest, sometimes we “use” God the same way. We view the all-powerful God as a way to get what we want rather than looking at Him and saying, “God, you’ve given me so much. What can I give for you today?” When our love for God is genuine, no matter what comes our way, He holds us securely in His capable and loving hands (John 10:28-30).

- › **WHAT DOES SECURITY LOOK LIKE TO YOU?**
- › **WHAT’S THE WORST “SECURITY BREACH” YOU CAN IMAGINE HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE? WHY?**
- › **WHY DO YOU THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT OUR SECURITY—OF OUR IDENTITY, OUR FAITH, AND OUR SALVATION—RESTS IN GOD ALONE?**
- › **WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN TEMPTED TO FIND YOUR SECURITY IN SOMETHING OTHER THAN GOD? WHAT WAS IT?**
- › **HOW DOES IT HELP YOU TO KNOW THAT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING—NOT ANYTHING YOU DO OR DON’T DO OR EVEN DEATH ITSELF—CAN COME BETWEEN GOD AND THOSE WHO LOVE HIM?**

WRAP UP

Brainstorm together some things we might find security in other than God. Discuss why they make us feel secure. A helpful question might be: What do we hope to find when we turn to these things? Acceptance, hope, love, success? Then ask: If finding these things relies only on you, does that make you feel secure? Why or why not? Discuss how trusting God instead brings greater security.