

## **Doctrine of the House**

- 1A** Definitions: “House” is not just literal in the Bible; it is so common to life that it is employed to illustrate many concepts.
- 1B** A house is any place where God dwells: Genesis 28:10-17, 10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. 12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 14 “Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” 16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” 17 He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”
- 2B** House means extended family, Genesis 12:17, 17 But the Lord struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife.
- 3B** House as the nation of Israel, or a portion thereof, Leviticus 17:3,3 “Any man from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox or a lamb or a goat in the camp, or who slaughters it outside the camp,
- 4B** The royal family as a house, 2 Samuel 7:11-16, 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. 12 “When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 “He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 “I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 “Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ’
- 5B** The temple as the Lord’s house, 1 Kings 5:2-5, 2 Then Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, 3 “You know that David my father was unable to build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the wars which surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. 4 “But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. 5 “Behold, I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord

- spoke to David my father, saying, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he will build the house for My name.’
- 6B Heaven as the house of the Lord, Psalm 23:6, 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
  - 7B The house as a symbol of spiritual life, Matthew 7:24-27.
  - 8B The body as the temporary house for the soul, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10
  - 9B The church universal as a temple-house for God, 1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:18-22, 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
- 2A Perspective: Typical Homes of Bible Times:
- 1B Old Testament houses followed a three or four room pattern. Accoutrements included a small amount of storage space and an oven. There was a central living room where the cooking and eating took place, and then bedrooms.
  - 2B New Testament houses might add a second story and maybe a rooftop living space.
  - 3B In every case, the typical domestic house was very small, with one door, and one or two small windows. The windows were sometimes just openings, while some others were finished with a lattice-work.
- 3A Principles Concerning Your Home:
- 1B Practical:
    - 1C Establish an income before you buy your house, Proverbs 24:27, 27 Prepare your work outside And make it ready for yourself in the field; Afterwards, then, build your house.
    - 2C Quality of life in a home is dependent on who you share it with:
      - 1D Proverbs 17:1, 1 Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it Than a house full of feasting with strife.
      - 2D Proverbs 21:9, 9 It is better to live in a corner of a roof Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
    - 3C Homes are dangerous as objects of covetousness, Deuteronomy 5:21, 21 ‘You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, and you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field or his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.’
    - 4C The owner of the house is responsible to make it safe for others, Deuteronomy 22:8, 8 “When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, so that you will not bring bloodguilt on your house if anyone falls from it.
    - 5C Maintenance requires diligence, Ecclesiastes 10:18, 18 Through indolence the rafters sag, and through slackness the house leaks.

- 6C** The actual building is to be accomplished with integrity, Jeremiah 22:13-17, 13 “Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness And his upper rooms without justice, Who uses his neighbor’s services without pay And does not give him his wages, 14 Who says, ‘I will build myself a roomy house With spacious upper rooms, And cut out its windows, Paneling it with cedar and painting it bright red.’ 15 “Do you become a king because you are competing in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink And do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. 16 “He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy; Then it was well. Is not that what it means to know Me?” Declares the Lord. 17 “But your eyes and your heart Are intent only upon your own dishonest gain, And on shedding innocent blood And on practicing oppression and extortion.” .
- 2B** Priorities and your home:
- 1C** Care for the one who builds the house, Psalm 127:1, 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.
- 2C** God’s house as priority, Psalm 84:1-5, 10, 1 How lovely are Your dwelling places, O Lord of hosts! 2 My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. 3 The bird also has found a house, And the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, My King and my God. 4 How blessed are those who dwell in Your house! They are ever praising You.Selah. 5 How blessed is the man whose strength is in You, In whose heart are the highways to Zion! 10, 10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
- 3B** The spiritual responsibilities of the homeowner:
- 1C** Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 4 “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
- 2C** A sound declaration, Joshua 24:15, 15 “If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
- 3C** Integrity matters, not the home which you occupy:
- 1D** Job 8:13-18, 13 “So are the paths of all who forget God; And the hope of the godless will perish, 14 Whose confidence is fragile, And whose trust a spider’s web. 15 “He trusts in his house, but it does not stand; He holds

fast to it, but it does not endure. 16 “He thrives before the sun, And his shoots spread out over his garden. 17 “His roots wrap around a rock pile, He grasps a house of stones. 18 “If he is removed from his place, Then it will deny him, saying, ‘I never saw you.’

2D The Lord allows the wicked to prosper as a test, Job 21:7-10, 7 “Why do the wicked still live, Continue on, also become very powerful? 8 “Their descendants are established with them in their sight, And their offspring before their eyes, 9 Their houses are safe from fear, And the rod of God is not on them. 10 “His ox mates without fail; His cow calves and does not abort.

4C Responsibility over those in your house, Genesis 17:13, 13 “A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

5C What you do in your house is your responsibility, Psalm 101:2, 2 I will give heed to the blameless way. When will You come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.

6C Proverbs 17:13, 13 He who returns evil for good, Evil will not depart from his house.

7C Proverbs 27:10, 10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father’s friend, And do not go to your brother’s house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.

8C Houses are to be idol-free:

1D Deuteronomy 7:25-26, 25 “The graven images of their gods you are to burn with fire; you shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, or you will be snared by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. 26 “You shall not bring an abomination into your house, and like it come under the ban; you shall utterly detest it and you shall utterly abhor it, for it is something banned.

2D Jeremiah 19:13, 13 “The houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah will be defiled like the place Topheth, because of all the houses on whose rooftops they burned sacrifices to all the heavenly host and poured out drink offerings to other gods.” ’ ’

9C 2 John 9-11, 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

4B The Lord’s attitude toward the homeowner:

1C Proverbs 3:33, 33 The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

2C Proverbs 12:7, 7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.

- 3C Proverbs 14:11, 11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed, But the tent of the upright will flourish.
- 4C Psalm 101:7, 7 He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me.
- 5C Proverbs 15:25, 25 The Lord will tear down the house of the proud, But He will establish the boundary of the widow.
- 6C A house may be protected by the Lord, and the protection removed for testing, Job 1:10, 10 “Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.
- 4A The surrender of the home:
- 1B House to be surrendered upon a heavenly call, Genesis 12:1, 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;
- 2B Homes were given to the temple for their use, Leviticus 27:14-15, 14 ‘Now if a man consecrates his house as holy to the Lord, then the priest shall value it as either good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall stand. 15 ‘Yet if the one who consecrates it should wish to redeem his house, then he shall add one-fifth of your valuation price to it, so that it may be his.
- 3B Matthew 19:27-30, 27 Then Peter said to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?” 28 And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. 30 “But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.
- 5A The millennium changes the house to a more lasting dwelling, Isaiah 65:17-22, 17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. 18 “But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing And her people for gladness. 19 “I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying. 20 “No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed. 21 “They will build houses and inhabit them; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 “They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.
- 6A The house as a metaphor for your spiritual life:
- 1B Matthew 7:24-27, 24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed

against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 “Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 “The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

**2B** 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

**7A** The human body as very temporary house for the soul:

**1B** Job 4:17-21, 17 ‘Can mankind be just before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker? 18 ‘He puts no trust even in His servants; And against His angels He charges error. 19 ‘How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before the moth! 20 ‘Between morning and evening they are broken in pieces; Unobserved, they perish forever. 21 ‘Is not their tent-cord plucked up within them? They die, yet without wisdom.’

**2B** 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, 1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, 3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. 4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. 6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. 9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**3B** Isaiah 38:10-12, 10 I said, “In the middle of my life I am to enter the gates of Sheol; I am to be deprived of the rest of my years.” 11 I said, “I will not see the Lord, The Lord in the land of the living; I will look on man no more among the inhabitants of the world. 12 “Like a shepherd’s tent my dwelling is pulled up and removed from me; As a weaver I rolled up my life. He cuts me off from the loom; From day until night You make an end of me.

**8A** The House as Wealth.

**1B** The Psalm about Wealth, Psalm 49:5-20:

**1C** The absence of fear and the nature of the foe, vv.5-6, 5 Why should I fear in days of adversity, When the iniquity of my foes surrounds me, 6 Even those who trust in their wealth And boast in the abundance of their riches?

**2C** The cost of redemption, vv.7-10, 7 No man can by any means redeem his brother Or give to God a ransom for him— 8 For the redemption of his soul is costly, And he should cease trying forever— 9 That he should live on

eternally, That he should not undergo decay. 10 For he sees that even wise men die; The stupid and the senseless alike perish And leave their wealth to others.

- 3C The belief of those who trust in wealth, v.11, 11 Their inner thought is that their houses are forever And their dwelling places to all generations; They have called their lands after their own names.
- 4C The false durability of man, vv.12-13, 12 But man in his pomp will not endure; He is like the beasts that perish. 13 This is the way of those who are foolish, And of those after them who approve their words.Selah.
- 5C The ultimate destination of the fools who believe in wealth, v.14, 14 As sheep they are appointed for Sheol; Death shall be their shepherd; And the upright shall rule over them in the morning, And their form shall be for Sheol to consume So that they have no habitation.
- 6C The redemption of the one who trusts in God, v.15, 15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, For He will receive me.Selah.
- 7C Exhortation against the fear of the rich, vv.16- 20:
  - 1D The exhortation against fear, v.16, 16 Do not be afraid when a man becomes rich, When the glory of his house is increased;
  - 2D The transitory nature of wealth, v.17, 17 For when he dies he will carry nothing away; His glory will not descend after him.
  - 3D The self-congratulatory nature of the wealthy, v.18, 18 Though while he lives he congratulates himself— And though men praise you when you do well for yourself—
  - 4D The ultimate destination of the wealthy, v.19, 19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; They will never see the light.
  - 5D The final comparison, v.20, 20 Man in his pomp, yet without understanding, Is like the beasts that perish.
- 2B Accumulation of wealth is ultimately doomed, Isaiah 5:8-12, 8 Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field, Until there is no more room, So that you have to live alone in the midst of the land! 9 In my ears the Lord of hosts has sworn, “Surely, many houses shall become desolate, Even great and fine ones, without occupants. 10 “For ten acres of vineyard will yield only one bath of wine, And a homer of seed will yield but an ephah of grain.” 11 Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink, Who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them! 12 Their banquets are accompanied by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine; But they do not pay attention to the deeds of the Lord, Nor do they consider the work of His hands.
- 3B True prosperity comes from the Lord and is not defined by the material, Psalm 112:1-3, 1 Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, Who greatly delights in His commandments. 2 His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches are in his house, And his righteousness endures forever.
- 4B It genuinely matters how you come by wealth, Proverbs 1:13, 13 We will find all kinds of precious wealth, We will fill our houses with spoil;



- 5B** Proverbs 11:28-29, 28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like the green leaf. 29 He who troubles his own house will inherit wind, And the foolish will be servant to the wisehearted.
- 6B** Proverbs 15:6, 6 Great wealth is in the house of the righteous, But trouble is in the income of the wicked.
- 7B** Proverbs 19:14, 14 House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the Lord.
- 8B** Proverbs 15:27, 27 He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.
- 9B** Proverbs 24:3-4, 3 By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; 4 And by knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.
- 10B** A prosperous house may be a source of idolatry, Deuteronomy 8:11-20, 11 “Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; 12 otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 15 “He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. 16 “In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end. 17 “Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’ 18 “But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19 “It shall come about if you ever forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish. 20 “Like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you, so you shall perish; because you would not listen to the voice of the Lord your God.
- 9A** The illustration: the royal house of Solomon, called the “Forest of Lebanon”:
- 1B** The building and description of Solomon’s elaborate home: 1 Kings 7:1-12:
- 1C** The time for building the house, 1 Now Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.
- 2C** Physical size: 2 He built the house of the forest of Lebanon; its length was 100 cubits and its width 50 cubits and its height 30 cubits, on four rows of cedar pillars with cedar beams on the pillars.
- 1D** This is roughly 150 feet x 75 ft, or 11,250 square feet.
- 2D** The ceilings were 45 feet tall..
- 3C** The finishing details, vv.3-5, 3 It was paneled with cedar above the side chambers which were on the 45 pillars, 15 in each row. 4 There were artistic window frames in three rows, and window was opposite window in three



ranks. 5 All the doorways and doorposts had squared artistic frames, and window was opposite window in three ranks.

- 4C The interior floor plan, vv.6-8, 6 Then he made the hall of pillars; its length was 50 cubits and its width 30 cubits, and a porch was in front of them and pillars and a threshold in front of them. 7 He made the hall of the throne where he was to judge, the hall of judgment, and it was paneled with cedar from floor to floor. 8 His house where he was to live, the other court inward from the hall, was of the same workmanship. He also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom Solomon had married.
- 5C The materials of the house, vv.9-12, 9 All these were of costly stones, of stone cut according to measure, sawed with saws, inside and outside; even from the foundation to the coping, and so on the outside to the great court. 10 The foundation was of costly stones, even large stones, stones of ten cubits and stones of eight cubits. 11 And above were costly stones, stone cut according to measure, and cedar. 12 So the great court all around had three rows of cut stone and a row of cedar beams even as the inner court of the house of the Lord, and the porch of the house.
- 6C Conclusion: since a greater portion of the home was the judgment hall, the liv
- 2B The blessing on any house is conditional, 1 Kings 9:1-9:
- 1C The theophany of the Lord at the finishing point, vv.1-2, 1 Now it came about when Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all that Solomon desired to do, 2 that the Lord appeared to Solomon a second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon.
- 2C The answer of the Lord and His consecration of the house, v.3, 3 The Lord said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your supplication, which you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built by putting My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.
- 1D The word "consecrate" is *qadash*, which means to set apart or sanctify.
- 2D This is God who does the sanctification here, and not Solomon.
- 3D God also declares His presence, the eternal, watchful eye of divine sensory perception.
- 3C The condition for the sanctification and perpetuation of the Davidic covenant, vv.4-9:
- 1D The positive condition, vv.4-5, 4 "As for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, 5 then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'
- 2D The negative condition, vv.6-9, 6 "But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given

them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples. 8 “And this house will become a heap of ruins; everyone who passes by will be astonished and hiss and say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?’ 9 “And they will say, ‘Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and adopted other gods and worshiped them and served them, therefore the Lord has brought all this adversity on them.’”

- 3B** Solomon’s house as a testimony to his godly wisdom and fulfillment of the positive condition, 1 Kings 10:1-10:
- 1C** The motivation for the queen’s visit, v.1, 1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with difficult questions.
  - 2C** Her arrival and retinue, v.2a, 2 So she came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones.
  - 3C** Her candor, v.2b, When she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.
  - 4C** The answers of Solomon, v.3, 3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from the king which he did not explain to her.
  - 5C** The perceptions of the queen, and the result, vv.4-5, 4 When the queen of Sheba perceived all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.
  - 6C** The declaration of the queen, vv.6-8, 6 Then she said to the king, “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 7 “Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. 8 “How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom.
  - 7C** The reflection of her praise toward the Lord, v.9, 9 “Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”
  - 8C** Her incomparable gifts, v.10, 10 She gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and a very great amount of spices and precious stones. Never again did such abundance of spices come in as that which the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.
- 4B** Solomon’s personal degeneracy, Ecclesiastes 2:1-11:
- 5B** His motivation, v.1, 1 I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself.” And behold, it too was futility.
  - 6B** Categories of pleasure, vv.2-8:

- 1C Solomon investigates stoicism and asceticism, v.2, 2 I said of laughter, “It is madness,” and of pleasure, “What does it accomplish?”
- 2C Solomon investigates chemical stimulation, v.3, 3 I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives.
- 3C Solomon undertakes great works, vv.4-6, 4 I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; 5 I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; 6 I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees.
- 4C Solomon enlarges all his possessions of people and livestock, v.7 7 I bought male and female slaves and I had homeborn slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem.
- 5C Solomon accumulates mineral wealth, v.8a, 8 Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces.
- 6C Solomon is entertained, v.8b, I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines.
- 7C Solomon’s self-estimation grows alongside all else, v.9, 9 Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me.
- 8C The result of the growth of his pride: Solomon pursues every lust and labor, v.10, 10 All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor.
- 9C The final conclusion regarding it all: vanity!, v.11, 11 Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.
- 7B Destruction:
  - 1C Shishak’s raid, *five years after the death of Solomon*, 1 Kings 14:25-26, 25 Now it happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam, that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. 26 He took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king’s house, and he took everything, even taking all the shields of gold which Solomon had made.
  - 2C The final ransacking, *fifteen or twenty years after the death of Solomon*, 1 Kings 15:16-19, 16 Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days. 17 Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent anyone from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah. 18 Then Asa took all the silver and the gold which were left in the treasuries of the house of the Lord and the treasuries of the king’s house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying, 19 “Let there be a treaty between you and me, as between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you a present of

silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me.”

**10A** Summary of Principles:

- 1B** The house is a metaphor which describes our relationship to worldly things. As the most valuable thing we own, it symbolizes everything we own.
- 2B** Homes are transitory: either we will leave them, or they will leave us.
- 3B** Homes are useful and a roof over your head is a legitimate logistical need.
- 4B** Homes are dangerous places – not regarding accidents and the like, but regarding temptation.
  - 1C** The first danger is to get your eyes on someone else’s home, to covet your neighbor’s house (or to covet the house in the advertisements that you see).
  - 2C** The second danger is to get your eyes on your own home, in such a way that it becomes a form of idolatry.
  - 3C** These two dangers are of the same kind – where the house becomes a too-high priority in life.
  - 4C** Advice: get into the dwelling which you can afford: spiritually, and with respect to your family.
  - 5C** Make it the place you live, not the center of your life
- 5B** The logistical necessity of your dwelling is not size, not feng shui, but function:
  - 1C** The function of shelter from the elements;
  - 2C** The function of hygiene, including access to clean water;
  - 3C** The function of a place where you can sleep in relative safety;
  - 4C** The function of having a place to eat.
- 6B** Relationship with God is the major determining factor in quality of life, not your possessions.
- 7B** The most beautiful home in the Bible was ransacked and destroyed a few short years after the death of its owner.