



St. Michael's Church  
CHARLESTON, SC  
ALL SAINTS' DAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019  
2 KINGS 17:9-15  
MATTHEW 22:34-40

PREACHER: THE REV. AL ZADIG, JR.

HELP US LORD TO BE SO CONNECTED TO YOU THAT WE MIGHT BECOME  
THE SERVANTS OF OTHERS.

TAKE OUR LIPS AND SPEAK THROUGH THEM,  
OUR MINDS AND THINK THROUGH THEM,  
AND TAKE OUR HEARTS, AND SET THEM ON FIRE.

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**Slide 1: The Great Molasses Disaster**

It was one of the greatest messes of all time.

If you ever think your life is a mess, let me take you to Boston--January 15, 1919.

The great Molasses massacre on Keany Square in the North End..

On January 15, a 2.5 million gallon Molasses tank bursts...Sending a 25 foot high wave of molasses rushing through Boston at 35 miles an hour.

Can you imagine a wall of molasses two stories high 25 coming at you at 35 miles an hour?

**Slide 2: The Great Molasses Disaster**

People drowning in molasses.

21 people dead, 150 injured, all because one construction worker took a shortcut when they built the tank.

Generations of Bostonians would be forever changed.

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**Slide 3: Israel's mess**

As we move through Israel's history through the Gospel Project, Israel was in a mess, I mean a real mess worse than molasses.

Why?

I want to open with this eternal truth:

**Slide 4: Eternal Truth**

Moms and Dads...our personal holiness-dictates the health of our families and nations to the next generations.

What we do and don't do.. affects the generations after us.

Just as Israel would be forever changed because of the decisions of:

**Slide 5: Legacy of King Solomon**

King Solomon, nearly 200 years before our reading from First Kings today.

Okay, a bit of a history lesson, stick with me.

**Slide 6: Time Counts Down Before Jesus**

Remember, the years before Jesus counts down, the years after Jesus count up.

**Slide 7: King Saul: 1045**

- The First King of Israel was King Saul in 1045

**Slide 8: King David: 1003**

- King David replaces King Saul in 1003

**Slide 9: King Solomon: 970**

- King Solomon replaces King David in 970

Solomon begins really well.

**Slide 10: Great Start-Horrible Ending**

He even asks God to make him wise...which God does and Solomon goes on to write 3 amazing books!

- Song of Solomon in his youth
- Proverbs in his middle age
- And Ecclesiastes in his elder age.

But Solomon proves you can be a wise-FOOL.

Idolatry seeps into his life. What is idolatry? What is an idol?

An idol is anything you love more than God. An Idol is the first thing you think about in the morning.

- An idol can be bad things like alcohol and other addictions
- An idol can be difficult things like regret, and sorrow, things that take over our lives that we hyper focus on.
- An idol can be good things, like our spouse, children, college football.
- As I said last week, Biblically speaking the NFL is exempt from idolatry, you just have to read Leviticus carefully..

Back to Solomon...you began so well, but over time, women became your idol!

Yes, Solomon would have 700 wives and 300 girlfriends....imagine how expensive mother's day would have been!

As horrible as all that is, most of his wives believe in pagan gods...

And over time Solomon begins to worship those gods.

Solomon lets his women choose his gods rather than letting

the one true God choose his wo---man!

And God is infuriated.

**Slide 11: Solomon Does Not Form the Faith in His Own Family**

**With all those wives, he's even too busy to form faith in his own children, which is key to the whole story.**

**He does not form the faith in his own family..**

**And again...God is infuriated.**

**Slide 12: God Keeps His promises, even the hard ones**

God promises:

“Solomon, I will tear the kingdom of Israel away from you and give it to others...”

Indeed..

God keeps His promises, even the painful ones.

The mess Solomon would make would make the Boston Molasses Massacre look like a walk in the park.

Here we go:

After Solomon dies in 930 B-C:

**Slide 13: King Rehoboam: 930 B.C-Judah**

His son Rehoboam who has no spiritual anchor is made king and does evil...

That same year, 930..the nation of Israel would split literally in 2.

Kind of like splitting Florida into two..

Solomon’s wicked son Rehoboam takes the Southern part they name Judah..

**Slide 14: King Jeroboam: 930: Israel**

And Jeroboam, a former cabinet member of Solomon’s, takes the northern part they continued to call Israel.

Over the next several hundred years both countries would have a combined 37 Kings..

And only 6 would be faithful to God.

The majority adopt Solomon’s pagan ways...

What’s crazy about this is that God had saved Israel from defeat so many times!

You would think they would want to be faithful!

All God asked was this:

- Worship Me only
- Do not worship idols
- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength
- Love your neighbor as yourself.

They do anything but and instead decide to live Solomon's legacy and both kingdoms would end up being destroyed.

Before the destruction however, God sends a group of people called prophets.

**Slide 15: Prophets: 3 Duties:**

Prophets had a '3' part job description:

1. Speak of God's Holiness
2. Fearlessly condemn sin in society
3. And attack spiritual apathy..

After the last prophet, there would be 400 years of silence from God...after the silence...Jesus.

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**Slide 16: The Year: 760: Israel-Judah=Evil**

Let's quickly turn to the reading we just read from 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings..

We're now at the year 760 or so...

Solomon had been dead for 170 years...

And things in Israel, thanks to Solomon...are horrible..

Chapter 17 tells us that the Israelites:

- Secretly did things against the Lord that were not right

Not only did they worship idols in public, but in private they committed worse sins!

Secret sins, you know the sins they didn't want others to know about because they were embarrassing..

Yet sins done in private are never a secret from God...secret sins are just as damaging as open rebellion.

- They worshiped worthless idols and in doing so the Bible says, they in turn became worthless.

This is where God brings down the

**“doom boom.”**

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**Slide 17: Welcome Amos!**

Enter stage right the prophet:  
Amos...!

The Remarkable thing about Amos is that unlike Solomon, there is nothing remarkable about Amos.

- Just a little sheep herder
- No great lineage
- Never went Ivy League..

Which tells us that God doesn't always choose the qualified..

God qualifies those whom he chooses.

Amos comes on the scene with a simple symbol...

I never want you to forget it....

**Slide 18: Amos and the Plumb line**

Amos says: God is our plumb line...measure yourself against Him.

What is a plumb line?

If you build homes you know what this is.

It's a cord with a weight attached...Painters and Carpenters use plumb lines to keep their work straight.....

The thing about a plumb line is that it doesn't change or move with the whims of the carpenter.

**Slide 19: Bob Villa on the Plumb line**

Bob Villa Explains..

(Video)

**Slide 20: The Plumb line: Keep Straight!**

The plumb line always remains true to gravity, and every bit of work must line up with it or risk being crooked.

Amos is telling these pagan descendants of Solomon...

I am setting a plumb line among you, I am declaring an end to all the excuses you make to justify your crooked ways.

God is our plumb line standard.

God does not change with the whims of culture.

What is the ancient Plumb line?

**Slide 21: Ancient Plumb line**

The 10 Commandments:

- No idols allowed!
- Honor father and mother
- don't steal lie or covet...

These are not suggestions!

And here is the most important part of this sermon, if you forget everything else, remember this:

- Wise people are those who change their lives
  - according to God's plumb line....
- Rather than trying to change God's plumb line
  - to suit their lives!

What would Israel have looked like 200 years after Solomon had Solomon lived according to the plumb line?

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**Slide 22: Jesus as Plumb line**

Fast forward, God would bring that plumb line to life..

His own son Jesus Christ...

Jesus who said: I am the way, the truth and the life.

I am the eternal Plumb line.

I am:

- Your anchor
- Your way
- Your truth
- And the source of your life!
- I do not change!

Jesus, Scripture: The plumb-line for all humanity.

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Doesn't this make you love God even more!

The plumb line of Jesus, the plumb line of God's Word helps us make sense of our lives!

These plumb lines help avoid the molasses disasters of our lives..

**Slide 23: We are all crooked**

Because the truth is...

We were all born crooked, every single one of us.

We all have:

- Adam and Eve
- Solomon
- and those bad kings
- in us...

The way to get straight is through the unchanging power of Jesus Christ through repentance!

**Slide 24: Repentance is key to the Plumb line**

Repentance means identifying our crooked-ness and at the same time, hating, I mean hating what is causing us to be crooked...where we pray:

- Search me Lord
- Expose me Lord
- Lead me Lord!
- Forgive me for falling for the false gods of money, and all the other material of the world that won't last.

The plumb line does not change.

Scripture does not change.

- We as individuals get crooked and need to be straightened out according to the plumb line...
  - I-e..do I really need to take my children to worship today?
  - Or
  - Disciple my children by using the Gospel Project devotionals?
  - Yes...for the sake of future generations...yes!
- Nations even, get crooked and need to be straightened out, even on issues of the day!
  - For instance, is marriage really only between a male and female?
  - Yes, that's what the Bible, our plumb line tells us!

That's the plumb line.

Either we change our lives to fit the plumb line

or

We try and change the plumb line to fit our wants of the day.

Solomon did the latter and destroyed a nation.

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**Slide 25: All Saints Day!**

Which is why we have All Saints' Day.

To remind us that A Saint is any person on earth who says heavenly Father,

I know your plumb line...Help me change me to fit your plumb line...

Forgive me when I try to change the plumb line to fit me.

That's a saint.

A saint is not just some person we could never measure up too.

It's someone who says...I will love no one or any earthly thing more than I love Jesus...

Not even my wife, not even money...

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**Slide 26: Example of Sainthood Today**

On this All Saints Day, let me give you a modern day Saint who is a living breathing plumb line Amos.

He's 92 years old, Retired bishop of South Carolina, father of 4, grandfather of many.

Bishop Christopher Fitzsimmons Allison!

One of the reasons that our Diocese of South Carolina is Biblically faithful is that 41 years ago, he became Bishop here and instilled like never before the power of the plumb line.

I know this because if you were to walk in his front door up at his house in Georgetown, do you know what you would see?

The plumb line...reminding Him...change self to live for Jesus...

I also know he lived according to the plumb line because I just talked to his daughter last week who loves the Lord!

**Slide 26: The Challenge**

Moms and dads, ...

Through the Holy Spirit, Our personal holiness-  
Our Obedience to the plumb line-----

Dictates the health of our families and nations to the next generations.

What we do today will prevent the molasses messes, the divided families.

Let us pray.