

# Solomon - The Wisest King

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Romans 15:4** – For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
- B. When we think of certain attributes in the Bible, we immediately associate them with specific people.
1. Faith . . . . . Abraham
  2. Patience . . . . . Job
  3. Physical strength . . . . . Samson
  4. Wisdom . . . . . Solomon
- C. Of the some 2,930 people mentioned in the Bible, we will be considering one of them, "Solomon – The Wisest King"
- D. Background:
1. By way of family background:
    - a. His grandfather - Jesse
    - b. His father – David
    - c. His mother – Bathsheba
    - d. His full brothers – Absalom & Adonijah  
Note: Adonijah tried to make himself king when David was old.
    - e. His sister – Tamar
    - e. His son – Rehoboam.
  2. His name means "Peaceful"
  3. First mentioned in 2 Samuel 5:14, and last mentioned in Luke 12:27, Solomon is mentioned some **310** times in the Bible.
    - a. **302** times in the OT
    - b. **8** times in the NT
  4. As a king over Israel, Solomon was:
    - a. The third king in the United Kingdom.
    - b. The final king in the United Kingdom.
    - c. The first king in Israel to be the son of a king.
    - d. While David was anointed king three times, Solomon was crowned king twice.
      1. Zadok anointed him at the Gihon Spring. 1 Chronicles 1:38:39
      2. End of David's life. **1 Chronicles 29:22** - And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him before the LORD to be the leader, and Zadok to be priest.
  - d. Solomon was David's second son by Bathsheba, the first after their legal marriage.
    - a. He succeeded his father David on the throne at an early age.

1. Became king in 971 B.C. Reigned for 40 years.
  2. Died in 931 B.C. at age 52
  - b. Nathan, to whom his education was entrusted, called him "Jedidiah ("Beloved of the Lord)". 2 Samuel 12:24-25
  - c. His father David chose him as his successor, passing over the claims of his elder sons. "Assuredly Solomon my son shall reign after me."
  - d. Solomon's long reign of 40 years provided Israel's highest splendor, and came to be called the "Augustan Age" of the Jewish annals.
  - e. The first half of his reign was, however, by far the brighter and more prosperous. The latter half was clouded with the idolatries into which he fell, mainly from the influence of his heathen intermarriages.
- E. We observe many great things in Solomon's life.

### RECEIVED GOOD ADVICE FROM DAVID . . . . . AND FROM GOD.

#### A. Good Advice from David.

1. **1 Kings 2:1-4** - As the time of King David's death approached, he gave this charge to his son Solomon:
  - 2 "I am going where everyone on earth must someday go. Take courage and be a man.
  - 3 Observe the requirements of the LORD your God and follow all his ways. Keep each of the laws, commands, regulations, and stipulations written in the law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go.
  - 4 If you do this, then the LORD will keep the promise he made to me: 'If your descendants live as they should and follow me faithfully with all their heart and soul, one of them will always sit on the throne of Israel.'
2. David's advice to Solomon is good advice to us today. **1 Chronicles 28:9-10** - "And Solomon, my son, get to know the God of your ancestors. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and with a willing mind. For the LORD sees every heart and understands and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.
  - 10 So take this seriously. The LORD has chosen you to build a Temple as his sanctuary. Be strong, and do the work."
    - a. Get to know God personally.
    - b. Learn God's commandments and discover what He wants you to do.
    - c. Worship God with wholehearted devotion.
    - d. Serve God with a willing mind.
    - e. Be faithful.
    - f. Don't become discouraged.

#### B. Good advice from God. **1 Kings 3:14** - And if you follow me and obey my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life.

**GREAT WISDOM**

1. One of the first things Solomon did as king was to go to Gibeon to offer sacrifices to the Lord. That night the Lord made His first of two appearance to Solomon. **1 Kings 3:3-14** - Solomon loved the LORD and followed all the instructions of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local altars.

4 The most important of these altars was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed one thousand burnt offerings.

5 That night the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

6 Solomon replied, "You were wonderfully kind to my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued this great kindness to him today by giving him a son to succeed him.

7 O LORD my God, now you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around.

8 And here I am among your own chosen people, a nation so great they are too numerous to count!

9 Give me an understanding mind so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great nation of yours?"

10 The Lord was pleased with Solomon's reply and was glad that he had asked for wisdom.

11 So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people and have not asked for a long life or riches for yourself or the death of your enemies--

12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding mind such as no one else has ever had or ever will have!

13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for--riches and honor! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!

14 And if you follow me and obey my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life.

2. Solomon will forever be remembered as the wisest man who ever lived.

3. The Queen of Sheba traveled some 1,000 miles from the south to hear Solomon's wisdom . . . And was awed by it.

**SOLOMON AUTHORED GREAT WRITINGS**

A. Solomon authored:

2. The Book of Ecclesiastes

2. The Song of Solomon

3. Two of the 150 Psalms . . . . . Psalm 72 & Psalm 127

4. And many of the Proverbs

a. **1 Kings 4:32** – He composed some 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005

songs.

- b. Solomon was the principle author of the book of Proverbs.
- c. According to **Ecclesiastes 12:9** - . . . He pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs.
- d. Of his 3,000 proverbs, only about 800 of them appear in the Book of Proverbs.

B. It has been observed that Solomon probably wrote:

- 1. Son of Solomon . . . . . In his early years.
- 2. Proverbs . . . . . In his middle years.
- 3. Ecclesiastes . . . . . In his latter years.

### **CONSTRUCTION OF A GREAT TEMPLE . . . & OTHER BUILDINGS & CITIES**

A. Plan and arranged for by David and built by Solomon.

- 1. A place for worship of the God of Israel.
  - a. 90 ft. by 30 ft.
  - b. Three stories high
  - c. Estimated 23 tons of gold.
- 2. A tremendous labor force was involved.
  - a. A work force of 30,000 was employed in cutting timber from the cedars of Lebanon.
  - b. Some 80,000 cutters of stone in the quarries of Jerusalem.
  - c. 70,000 ordinary workmen.
  - d. Many superintendents.
- 3. Completed in seven years. **1 Kings 6:1** - And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.
- 4. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought into the Holy of Holies, the most sacred part of the Temple, a cloud filled the room to hide God's presence.
- 5. The dedication ceremony for the Temple lasted 7 days and was followed by observance of the Feast of Tabernacles.
- 6. Solomon completed construction of the Temple around 953 B.C. (some 20 years before the beginning of the Divided Kingdom), then it was destroyed some 367 years later by Nebuchadnezzar.

C. Solomon also constructed a great palace complex for himself.

- 1. A series of five structures made up his palace complex.
- 2. Took thirteen years to complete.

D. To protect his kingdom, he built fortresses and lodgings for his army. Chariot cities.

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| 1. Gezer,  | 3. Hazor |
| 2. Megiddo | 4. Etc.  |

### SOLOMON GAVE ISRAEL A GREAT BLESSING

A. After he had knelt in prayer at the dedication of the Temple. **1 Kings 8:56-60** – Praise the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the wonderful promises he gave through his servant Moses.

57 May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never forsake us.

58 May he give us the desire to do his will in everything and to obey all the commands, laws, and regulations that he gave our ancestors.

59 And may these words that I have prayed in the presence of the LORD be before him constantly, day and night, so that the LORD our God may uphold my cause and the cause of his people Israel, fulfilling our daily needs.

60 May people all over the earth know that the LORD is God and that there is no other god.

B. He had five basic requests:

1. For God's presence. 8:57
2. For the desire to do God's will in everything. 8:58
3. For the desire and ability to obey God's decrees and commands. 8:58
4. For help with daily needs. 8:59
5. For all the earth to come to know the true God in Heaven. 8:60

### SOLOMON'S SINS . . . . . HIS APOSTASY

A. Solomon's reign brought changes not only in Israel but also to his own life.

1. Near the end of his life, King Solomon lost the ideals of his youth, becoming restless and unsatisfied.
2. Solomon's greatest sin was his loss of devotion to the God of the Hebrew people.
3. Although the leader of Israel, he allowed his foreign wives to lead him in directions he should have never traveled. 700 wives . . . . . 300 concubines.
  - a. He allowed them to practice their pagan religions and worship their idolatrous gods.
  - b. Solomon broke the Mosaic Law and violated the warning not to stray from the path of his father David.
  - c. The result was that Jerusalem, its holy Temple, and the Mount of Olives were scenes of pagan practices and idol worship.
  - d. Solomon's own faith weakened.

1. The example he set for the rest of the nation must have been demoralizing.
2. This unfortunate error was a severe blow to the security Solomon's throne and to the nation he had built.
4. His divided loyalties brought about a divided kingdom
5. The king with a divided heart leaves behind a divided kingdom

### **SOME LESSONS FROM SOLOMON'S LIFE**

- A. One's destiny can be determined by what he asks of God.
- B. Effective leadership can be nullified by an ineffective personal life.
- C. God does not require that we do all things big . . . But that we do all things well. Patterns are found in God's Word for what God wants us to do.
- D. Man's wisdom is foolish when God is left out.
- E. Earthly wisdom does not guarantee spiritual wisdom.
- F. Sin mars great potential.
- G. Only what is done in accordance with God's will has any lasting value.
- H. People can change . . . Some for bad to good . . . others from good to bad.
- I. God's blessings are withdrawn from those who withdraw themselves from God.

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. **Nehemiah 13:35-26** - So I confronted them and called down curses on them. I beat some of them and pulled out their hair. I made them swear before God that they would not let their children intermarry with the pagan people of the land.

26 "Wasn't this exactly what led King Solomon of Israel into sin?" I demanded. "There was no king from any nation who could compare to him, and God loved him and made him king over all Israel. But even he was led into sin by his foreign wives.

- B. As wise as Solomon was, Jesus said in **Matthew 12:42** – "The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here."
- C. The one who is greater than Solomon is the one to be heard. Matthew 17:5
- D. **God Plan for man's Salvation**