



THE BOOK OF KINGS

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Topic: Solomon

Solomon's Reign: 970–931 BC

Father: David

Verses: 1 Kings 2–11

Dynasty: Davidic

Synopsis: Solomon is the third (and last) king of the United Kingdom of Israel. God told David that Solomon would sit on his throne (1 Kings 1:29–30; 1 Chronicles 22:6–10). Solomon was an effective king because God aided him according to promises made both to David and Solomon (1 Kings 3:10–14). Solomon made Jerusalem and the temple the place where God's name could be found (1 Kings 8:12–21). Sadly, Solomon allowed his heart to turn away from the Lord because he allowed his wives to introduce other gods (1 Kings 11:1–8).

Solomon Establishes his Reign

David gave plans for Solomon to “clean up” a few things:

- Adonijah, Solomon's older brother and the one who was self-appointed as king, requested to have David's *bed servant* to be his wife. Solomon kills him (1 Kings 2:13–25). *Solomon dispatches Benaiah as his executioner (see throughout).
- Abiathar deserves death (1 Kings 2:26–27), but Solomon shows him mercy because Abiathar was with David in a very low point (1 Samuel 22:20–23). Zadok the priest replaces Abiathar (1 Kings 2:26–35) and this was to fulfill the promise made to the house of Eli (1 Samuel 2:12–36).
- Joab hears that Solomon is “cleaning house” and runs for safety in the tabernacle (he “caught hold of the horns of the altar” 1 Kings 2:28; compare Adonijah 1:49–53). Solomon pronounces the death sentence on Joab because Joab mercilessly killed Abner and Amasa (see Lesson 2).
- Shimei (the one who threw rocks at David) is placed on “house arrest” (1 Kings 2:36–46). After three years Shimei leaves his home to pursue some escaped servants, and it is at this time Solomon (by Benaiah) kills him.

Solomon's kingdom is said to have peace after he deals with Abiathar, Joab, and Shimei (1 Kings 2:46).

Solomon as King

- 1 Kings 3:1–2. Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He married Pharaoh's daughter and they lived in the city of David until Solomon's house was built, the house of Lord was finished, and the wall around Jerusalem was completed.
- “The people were sacrificing at the high places. . . because no house had yet been built for the name of the Lord” (1 Kings 3:2).

Discussion Question: Was it wrong for the people to worship at high places?

- “Solomon loved the Lord” (1 Kings 3:3); compare 1 Kings 11:1–8.
- Solomon requests wisdom from God instead of riches and honor (1 Kings 3:5–14; 4:29–34; 1 Chronicles 29:23–25). Solomon used this wisdom;
 - When he judged cases (1 Kings 3:16–28)
 - When he organized his kingdom (1 Kings 4:1–19)
 - When he handled wealth (1 Kings 4:20–28; 10:14–29)
 - When he handled politics (1 Kings 10:1–13; see also with the temple below)
- There is a difference before Solomon receives wisdom (1 Kings 3:3–4) and after (1 Kings 3:15).

Solomon and the Temple

Solomon wanted to build a temple to God (1 Kings 5:1–5). David was not able to build a temple because of the blood on his hands (*See Shimei’s curse 2 Samuel 16:7–8), but he made preparations for it (1 Chronicles 28:1–29:22).

Solomon used his wisdom to make plans for building the temple:

- David had already put aside a great deal of wealth for the temple. His philosophy was: “I will not offer burn offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing” (2 Samuel 24:24).
- He acquired Cedars of Lebanon from Hiram, king of Tyre (1 Kings 5:1–14).
 - He quarried stones too (1 Kings 5:15–18; 6:7).

*Time stamp: In the 480th year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the 4th year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv (the second month), Solomon began to build the house of the Lord (1 Kings 6:1).

- God tells Solomon that the temple will be accepted if Solomon remains on the right path (1 Kings 6:11–14).
- It took 7 years to build the temple (1 Kings 7:37–38).

Solomon also built many other things:

- He build his own house in 13 years (1 Kings 7:1–12)
- He remade the temple furnishings (1 Kings 7:13–51).
- He utilized forced labor (1 Kings 9:10–28)

The specifications for the temple are recorded so well that one could remake the temple based on his dimensions and descriptions (see images in presentation).

Solomon Dedicates the Temple

1 Kings 8–9

- Solomon brings the ark into the temple and then “filled the house of the Lord” (1 Kings 8:1–11)
- Solomon blesses the Lord (1 Kings 8:12–21; highlight vs. 16) *God did not pick a single city from a tribe, but rather selected David. This means that God entrusted David with decisions, and it was David’s decision to have a house made for God.
- Solomon dedicates the temple (1 Kings 8:22–53)
 - ***”. . .heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built” (vs. 27).

- “Listen to the plea. . . of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive” (vs. 30).
- People come to the temple, where God dwells:
 - If a man sins against his neighbor (vs. 31–32)
 - When the Israelites are defeated by an enemy due to sin (vs. 33–34)
 - When heave is shut up and there is no rain because of sin (vs. 35–36)
 - If there is famine in the land, pestilence, blight, mildew, locust, caterpillar, enemies at the gate, plague, sickness (vs. 37–40)
 - When a foreigner comes because of God’s name (vs. 41–43)
 - If people go out to battle (vs. 44–45)
 - If people sin (vs. 46–51)
- “Let your eyes be open to the plea of your servant and to the plea of your people Israel, giving ear to them whenever they call to you. . .” (vs. 52–53)
- Solomon offers up another prayer of blessings (1 Kings 8:54–61)
- Solomon offers sacrifices and hosts a feast (1 Kings 8:62–66)
- God appears to Solomon a second time (1 Kings 9:2:2) and approves him (1 Kings 9:1–9)

Solomon’s Fall

Solomon allowed his heard to turn away from God; therefore, God sent him an adversary. . .