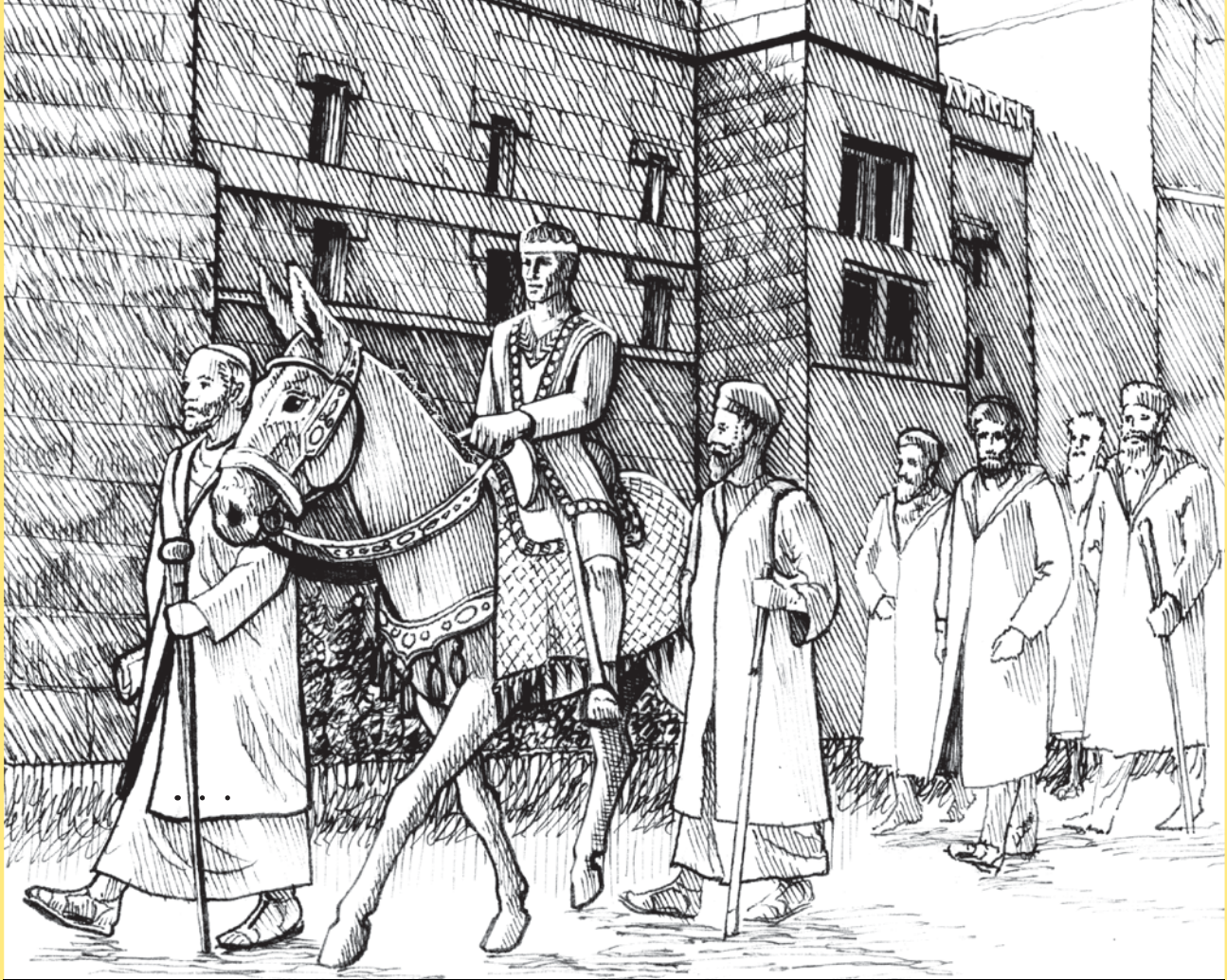
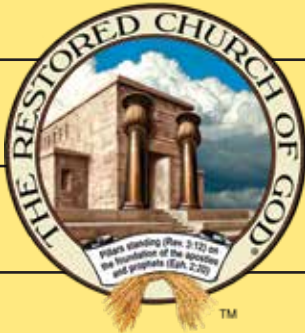


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



David Crowns Solomon King



LEVEL 5
LESSON 5

David Crowns Solomon King

As we learned in Lesson 4, King David was a man who feared and obeyed God. All the days of his life, he set his heart to do the will of God. But, like any human being, he was not perfect. He made some mistakes. However, when David recognized that a mistake had been made, he repented with all of his heart.

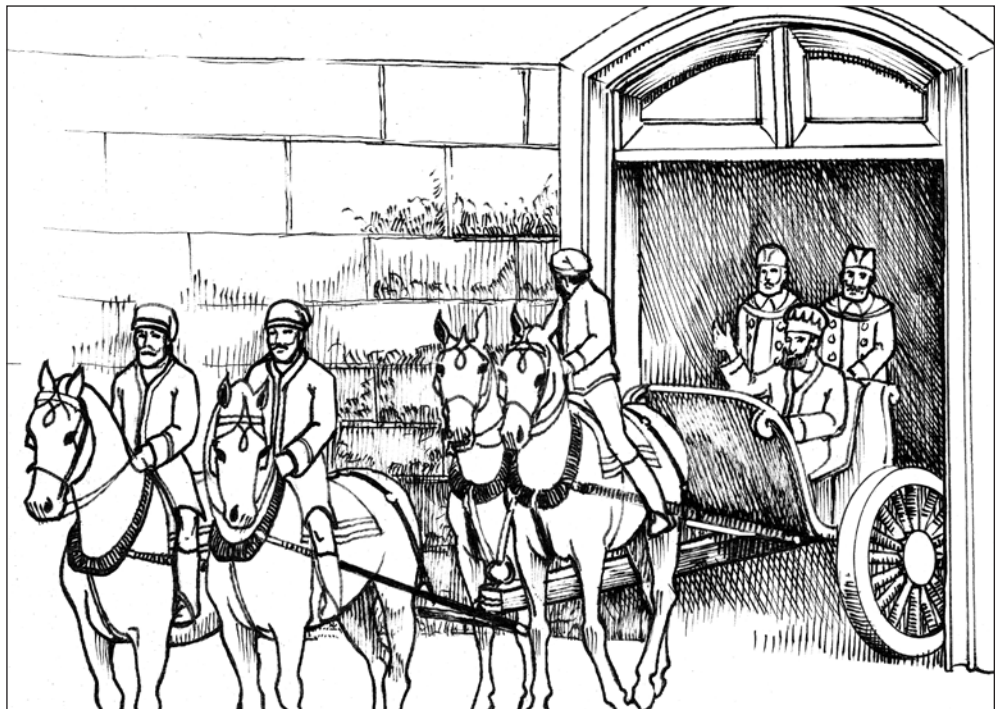
As a result of a mistake that he made in the past, God told David that his household would experience trouble. Near the end of his life, one of his sons conspired to take the throne. However, David would not stand idle and watch this happen.

to run before him. Then, Adonijah hosted a feast in his own honor and invited his brothers, all of the men of Judah, and the king's servants. However, he did not invite his brother Solomon, Nathan the prophet, or David's mighty men.

When Nathan heard what was happening, he contacted Bathsheba, David's wife and the mother of Solomon. He knew that both Bathsheba's and Solomon's life would be in danger if Adonijah succeeded in his mission. Therefore, he told Bathsheba to go to King David and inform him of everything that was going on and that afterwards

A Coup Thwarted

David's son Adonijah, brother of Absalom, thought that after his father died, he would be the king of Israel. To make sure that this came to pass, he conspired with Joab (the captain of Israel's army) and with Abiathar the priest. He also gathered a host of chariots and horsemen



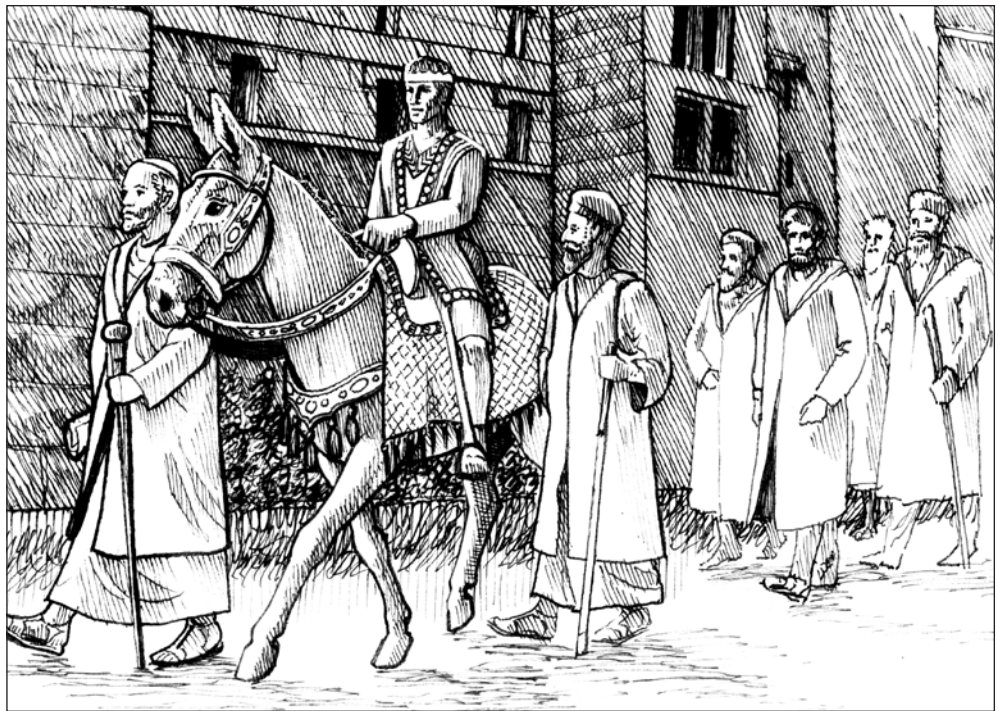
he would come in and confirm everything that she had said.

So, she did exactly as the prophet had advised. Bathsheba bowed before David and proceeded to tell him of Adonijah's actions. She explained that Adonijah had already declared himself king and that she and Solomon would be in danger after David's death. Also,

she reminded David of the promise he made about Solomon taking the throne after him.

Then, as planned, Nathan the prophet came in and confirmed Bathsheba's words.

After meditating on the words of Nathan, David summoned Bathsheba. Notice what David said to her in I Kings 1:32-35: "And King David said, 'Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.' So they came before the king. The king also said to them, 'Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, "Long live King Solomon!" Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.'"



They did exactly as the king had commanded. Zadok the priest anointed Solomon king and the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon!"

As Adonijah and his guests finished eating, they heard the commotion, and wondered what it was about. Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest, told them that David had Solomon anointed king.

After hearing the words of Jonathan, all of Adonijah's guests fled in fear. Adonijah was also fearful and fled. Then, he took hold of the horns of the altar, staying there until King Solomon promised not to put him to death.

However, Solomon made no such promise. Notice what he said in I Kings 1:52: "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." After hearing that, Adonijah came and honored the king. Then, the king sent him home.



The Passing of the Scepter

Now, David was old and ready to die. But before he did, he left the following words of wisdom for his son Solomon. Turn to I Kings 2:2-4 and fill in the blanks: “I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And _____ of the LORD your God: to walk in His _____, to keep His _____, His _____, His _____, and His _____, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you _____ in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons take heed to their

way, to _____ in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,’ He said, ‘you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’”

David also warned Solomon to put his kingdom in order by dealing with the people who caused David trouble. David said, “Now son, you know what Joab did to me and that he killed Amasa and Abner, the commanders of the armies of Israel. Therefore, do not allow him to go to the grave in peace. However, be kind to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and allow them to eat at your table, as they helped me when I fled from your brother Absalom. Also, remember that you have Shimei dwelling with you. He cursed me maliciously when I fled to Mahanaim. However, I swore to him by the LORD that I would not put him to death. But you must not hold him guiltless. You are wise and know that he should not be allowed to die in peace.”

After having reigned over Israel for 40 years, David died and was buried in the City of David.

Even to the moment of his death, David was teaching his son to obey God. He realized that the true meaning of this life is not found in any amount of money you acquire or how many possessions you have. David realized that the purpose of this life is to prepare us for the next one. And that is exactly how he lived his life.

David, a man after God’s own heart, has been chosen by God to be king over Israel in the coming Kingdom of God. Notice: “But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them” (Jeremiah 30:9).

Putting the Kingdom in Order

After Solomon had taken the throne, Adonijah approached Bathsheba with a strange request. He said, “You know that I was next in line to rule Israel and that the people wanted me to rule. Nevertheless, it was given to my brother by God. But, I ask you this one thing for me. Speak to King Solomon on my behalf, because I know that he will not hold anything back from you. Ask him to allow me to marry Abishag the Shunammite.”

Bathsheba agreed to speak to the king on his behalf.

When Bathsheba met with the king, she said, “I have a favor to ask of you, and I ask you not to deny me this request.” King Solomon said, “Go ahead and ask mother, because I will not deny you.” So she said, “Allow Adonijah to marry Abishag.”

King Solomon answered, “Why are you asking me to allow Adonijah to marry Abishag? Why not also ask me to hand over the kingdom to him—not only him, but also Abiathar the priest, and Joab the son of Zeruiah. Adonijah has asked this petition against his own life! With God as my witness, today, Adonijah will surely be put to death!”

King Solomon sent Benaiah to execute Adonijah.

Adonijah was being tricky. He figured that if he could marry Abishag, it would appear that he was the rightful heir to David’s throne. However, King Solomon saw right through his evil plot. Adonijah’s foolishness ultimately led to his death.

Afterwards, the king also decided to deal with Abiathar the priest. He said, “Go to Anathoth, out of the sight of the king, for you know that you deserve to die. But I will not destroy you because you were responsible for the Ark of the Covenant during my father’s reign, and because you afflicted yourself when my father was afflicted. However, I am removing you from being a priest. Now be gone!”

This event fulfilled God’s promise to remove Eli’s family line from the priesthood (I Samuel 2:30-35). This is further proof that when God says that He is going to do something, He does not fail to do it!

When Joab heard what had happened to Adonijah and Abiathar, he knew that he was next. So, he also fled and took hold of the horns of the altar.

King Solomon found out where Joab was and sent Benaiah to execute him. Benaiah yelled for Joab to come out of the tabernacle. However, Joab refused, saying that he would rather die where he was.

Benaiah told the king what Joab had said. The king responded, “Do exactly as he has said. Destroy him and then bury him. Let the innocent blood of Amasa and Abner be on his head and no longer on my father’s house.” Benaiah obeyed the king and killed Joab in the tabernacle, and then he buried him. Afterward, the king placed Benaiah in charge of the army of Israel and put Zadok in the office of high priest.

Remembering what his father told him, Solomon summoned Shimei. When he appeared, the king said, “Build a house here in Jerusalem in which to dwell, because you are forbidden to go anywhere else. The day

that you disobey me and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain that you will be put to death; and you will be guilty of your own death.”

When Shimei heard the king’s terms, he agreed to them.

However, one day, two of Shimei’s slaves ran away to Gath. When he heard this, he saddled his donkey and went after—directly disobeying the king’s command. After Shimei returned, the king summoned him again. King Solomon said, “Did you not swear by the Lord that you would not leave Jerusalem, and did I not tell you what would happen to you if you did? Why did you not keep your oath, and why did you disobey me? You already know that because of what you did to my father, you are worthy of death. Today, that sentence will be carried out.”

The king had Benaiah execute Shimei, which completed the task of putting his kingdom in order as his father had instructed.

Test Your Memory:

- 1) Which of David’s sons tried to seize the throne? _____
- 2) True or False? Bathsheba was Solomon’s sister.
- 3) After the death of Joab, who did Solomon make commander of Israel’s army? _____

The Wisdom of Solomon

One day, while King Solomon was offering sacrifices at Gibeon, the Eternal appeared to

him in a dream. God asked Solomon what he wanted from Him and He would give it to him. Turn to I Kings 3:6-9 for Solomon’s answer, and fill in the blanks:

“And Solomon said: ‘You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because _____

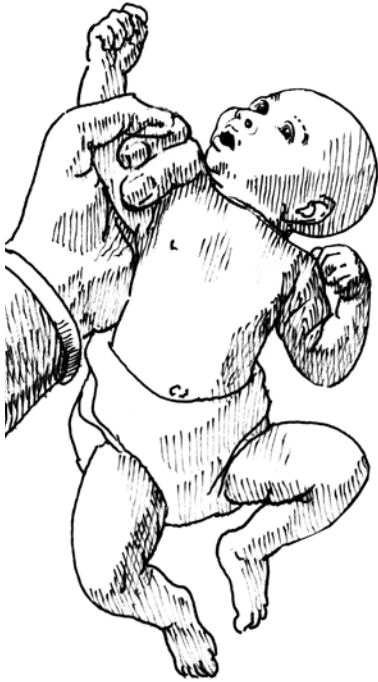
_____ in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but _____

_____ ; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore give to Your servant

_____ to judge Your people, that I may _____ between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?’”

When God heard this, He was very pleased. Solomon was practicing the give way of life. He was not focused on himself. He could have asked for selfish things, but he did not. And because of that, God answered his prayer, and He decided to give Solomon those things for which he did not ask—riches, honor and long life.

Also notice that Solomon considered himself to be a child when he made this prayer. God, the same Being who said, “Suffer the little children to come unto Me,” heard Solomon’s prayer and answered it. Do not be afraid to go to God because you are a child. If you talk to God, He will listen



and respond to you.

S o m e t i m e after this prayer, two women appeared before the king. Both women claimed that a certain child was their own and that the other's child had died. King Solomon commanded that the child be cut in two pieces and

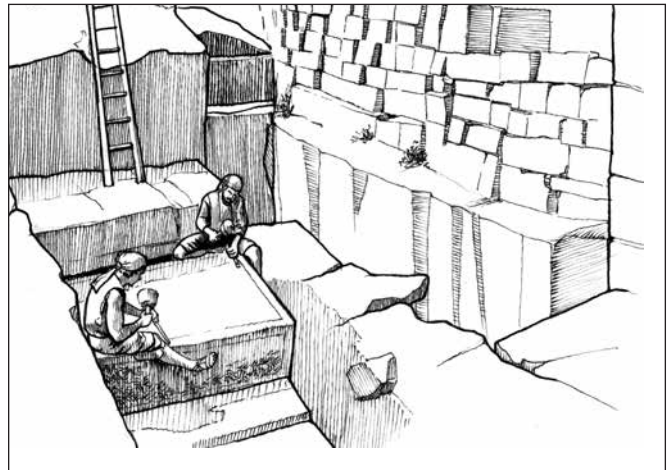
one half given to one woman and the other half given to the other. The real mother of the child begged the king to let the other woman have her son. She did not want to see her son killed. However, the other woman agreed with the king and asked for the child to be cut in two. The king perceived that the first woman was the mother because of the compassion that she had for the child, and he commanded that she be given the child.

God kept His promise. He gave King Solomon great wisdom. All of Israel feared the king because they knew that God had given him great wisdom so that he could execute proper judgment.

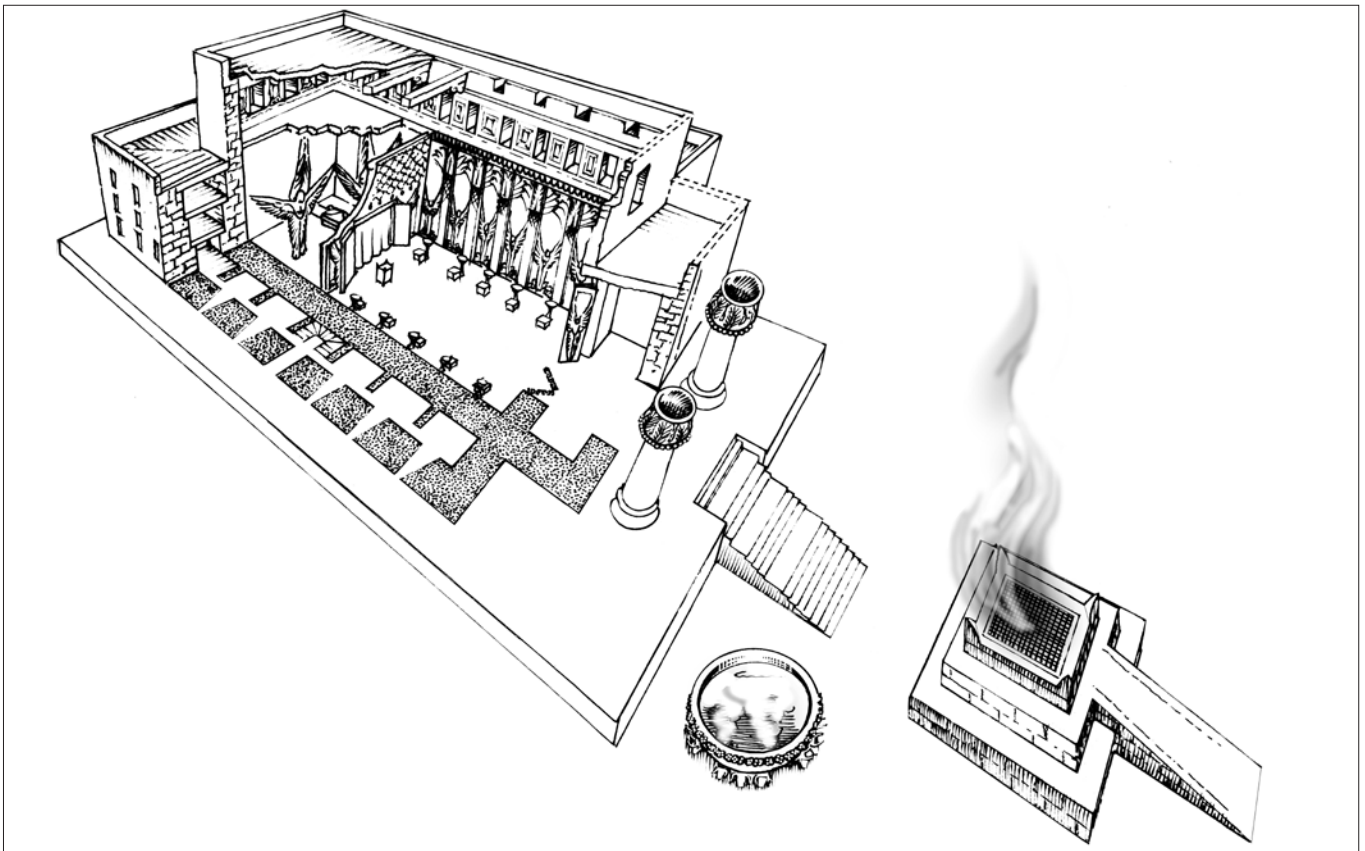
Solomon had great riches in addition to the wisdom God gave him. He spoke over 3,000 proverbs and created over 1,000 songs. Men from different parts of the world came to hear Solomon's understanding. God answered David's prayer and made his son's throne greater than his.

The Temple Is Built

Now, Solomon was ready to build God's temple. He requested the help of Hiram, king of Tyre, in this task. The Sidonians were very skilled at cutting timber, and Solomon wanted the best. King Hiram, a dear friend of David, was happy to help Solomon in any way that he could.



The temple was patterned after God's tabernacle. Its stone walls were covered with cedar paneling and overlaid with gold. Just outside the temple's entrance were two giant pillars, named Boaz ("in it is strength") and Jachin ("He shall establish"). Inside the temple was a vestibule (or porch) at the front. Next was the sanctuary, or the Holy Place, which housed the altar of incense and 10 golden tables with 10 golden lamp stands. After this chamber came the inner sanctuary, or the Most Holy Place. This is where the Ark of the Covenant was to be stationed. Around the temple was an inner court used by priests. It had a round bronze basin called a Sea, and held about 12,000 gallons of water that the



priests used to wash themselves and their sacrifices. It also supplied water for the smaller basins that were used. There was also an outer court used by the rest of the Israelites. From the laying of the foundation to its completion, the temple of God took seven years and six months to finish.

After the building of the temple had been completed, King Solomon assembled Israel at the temple. He had the priests bring the Ark of the Covenant and set it in the Most Holy Place. Once the priests came out of the Holy Place, the glory of God descended upon the house of the Lord in a cloud. This took place in front of the eyes of all of Israel.

The king reminded the assembly why God's temple was built. Then Solomon knelt before the altar, spread his hands out toward heaven—as Moses had done

when the Amalekites attacked Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 17:8-16)—and prayed to God.

In his prayer of dedication, the king said, “Eternal God of Israel, there is none like You in heaven or on the earth. You have kept Your promise to my father David in having his son build Your house. Now I ask that You keep Your promise to always have a descendant of David sitting on Israel's throne, as long as that man is careful to walk in all Your ways.”

When he finished praying, Solomon stood up and blessed the assembly.

Then, he and the people dedicated the temple to God's service, and offered burnt sacrifices—22,000 bulls and 120,000 sheep. The people had given so much in burnt offerings, grain offerings and peace offerings that the bronze altar outside the temple

was too small to handle such large contributions.

The ceremony was an especially awe-inspiring and festive occasion, as the latter half of the 14-day event took place during the Feast of Tabernacles, which pictures the Kingdom of God.

When the celebration was finally over, Solomon sent the people home. They were full of joy and appreciative of all the good that God had done for them.

Shortly after his dedication prayer, God appeared before Solomon in a dream. He let Solomon know that He heard his prayer and that He consecrated the temple. Turn to I Kings 9:4-7 for the rest of God's words to Solomon, and fill in the blanks:

“Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in _____, to do according to all that _____

_____, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’ But if you or your sons at all _____ from following Me, and _____ keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then _____ Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples.”

This was a serious warning to King Solomon and to the house of Israel. If they

had continued to obey God, He would have established them as His model nation to the world. However, if they did not continue to obey Him, then He would remove them from the land and destroy the temple. God kept His word. Other than the tribe of Judah, Israel no longer inhabits the “promised land.” And in the place in which the temple was located, there is now a Muslim mosque.

Always take God's warnings seriously. He always does what He says He will do. It may not come immediately, but God's words always come to pass.

Test Your Memory:

1) Where was Solomon sacrificing to God when He appeared to him in a dream? _____

2) Why did Solomon decide to give the child to the first woman? _____

3) What king agreed to help Solomon build the temple? _____

The Queen of Sheba Seeks Solomon

One day, the king received a visit from the Queen of Sheba, who had brought spices, gold and precious stones from her kingdom. She had traveled more than 1,000 miles to see if Solomon's reputation of being the wisest man on Earth was indeed true.

The queen peppered Solomon with many difficult questions and riddles—and was amazed at his ability to answer all of them. Finally, she was convinced that all she had

heard about him was true. In fact, she said to him, “I have not heard even half of the greatness of your wisdom! Your servants and assistants are blessed to be in your company and hear your great understanding. Your God, the Eternal, must be delighted in using you to execute justice and righteousness over His people Israel.”

Before her visit was over, the Queen of Sheba presented Solomon with almost 4 1/2 tons of gold, an abundance of silver and precious stones and more spices than the king had ever received.

And King Solomon gave back to the queen all that she desired, even more than she had given to him. Then, she and her

entourage returned to her kingdom (I Kings 10:1-13; II Chronicles 9:1-12).

Solomon Turns From God

As the years went by, Solomon married many women. In fact, he had over 700 wives and 300 concubines. Many, if not most, of them were foreign, and they turned Solomon’s heart away from following God.

Centuries earlier, God warned the future leaders of Israel to not intermarry with the surrounding nations. Read Deuteronomy 17:14-17, then fill in the blanks: “When you come to the land which the



LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me _____

_____ that are around me,’ you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. But he _____

_____ horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ Neither shall he _____ for himself, lest his heart _____...”

Solomon did not heed this warning. Instead, earlier in his life, he married the daughter of Pharaoh. He loved his wives. He even set up idols in the high places for his wives to sacrifice to and worship.

This made God very angry. Notice what God said to Solomon in I Kings 11:11-13: “Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, ‘Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.’”

Because of Solomon’s sin, the peace that the kingdom experienced was over. God raised up adversaries to trouble Israel—even

one from the house of Israel! God decided to make an Ephraimite by the name of Jeroboam king over 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel. God promised to establish Jeroboam’s house like David’s if he would obey Him.

This did not make King Solomon happy. In fact, as Saul did to David, Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam. However, he escaped to Egypt and stayed there until the death of Solomon.

Solomon reigned over Israel for 40 years, and then he died.

Because the Bible does not openly say so, most people believe that Solomon did not repent before he died. Yet, the book of Ecclesiastes, which he wrote, reveals a man nearing the end of his life, one who realizes that seeking after the material things of this world is useless. The book teaches that true happiness, peace and fulfillment come from putting God’s Way first—rejecting foolish ways for godly wisdom.

In the next lesson, we will learn what occurred in the aftermath of Solomon’s decision and death.

Test Your Memory:

1) Why did the Queen of Sheba want to meet Solomon? _____

2) How many wives and concubines did Solomon have? _____

3) Who did God decide to make king over 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel? _____

BIBLE MEMORY: I Kings 2:1-3

WHO AM I?

Can you find out who is being described below?
Use each name from the name bank.

- _____’s bothers were Adonijah and Absalom.
- _____ cursed King David. Later, King Solomon had him put to death.
- _____ is the wife of King David.
- _____ killed Amasa and Abner.
- _____ is where Solomon was declared king.
- _____ and _____ were commanders of Israel’s armies.
- _____ the Gileadite helped King David when Absalom was chasing him.
- _____ wanted to marry Abishag the Shunamite.
- _____ the priest anointed Solomon king of Israel.

Name Bank:

Abner	Barzillai	Gihon	Zadok
Adonijah	Bathsheba	Joab	
Amasa	Solomon	Shimei	