

Solomon

Introduction. When we hear the name Solomon, we immediately think of wisdom, wealth and the temple. Let's consider all three.

I. ***Solomon Established As King***

- A. Adonijah's plot fell apart, his support evaporated and he was left pleading for his life (1 Kings 1:1-53).
- B. Solomon spared him, but Adonijah still coveted the throne. He asked for the hand of Abishag the Shunammite in marriage. This plan failed also and he was executed (2:13-25).
- C. Joab and Shimei were also executed, and Abiathar was exiled (2:26-46).
- D. Solomon made an alliance with Egypt and married Pharaoh's daughter (3:1).

II. ***The Request For Wisdom***

- A. Solomon loved the Lord and offered sacrifices at Gibeon (3:4).
- B. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, "Ask what shall I give thee?"
- C. In asking for wisdom, Solomon showed his concern for serving God first. Therefore, God blessed him with power, wealth and long life if he remained faithful (3:14).
- D. Now, instead of sacrificing at Gibeon (a high place), Solomon offered sacrifices in Jerusalem before the ark of the covenant.

III. ***Solomon's Wisdom Displayed***

- A. Solomon displayed his wisdom in revealing the true mother of the living child (3:16-28).
- B. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the Egyptians and was known worldwide.
- C. Appropriate principles.
 - 1. Our priorities should be to serve God first, others second and ourselves last.
 - 2. We should worship as God commands.
 - 3. God gives wisdom and prosperity.

IV. ***Solomon's Prosperity***

- A. Judah and Israel prospered (4:20).
- B. Solomon's reign extended over a wide area (4:21).
- C. Gold was imported by the shipload, and silver was so common that it had no worth (2 Chronicles 9:13-28).
- D. God blessed Israel with prosperity through the wisdom of Solomon.

V. **Solomon Builds The Temple**

- A. Before he died, David instructed Solomon to build the temple (5:1-9).
- B. Solomon had close ties with Hiram, king of Tyre, as had his father before him.
- C. A labor force of Israel went to Lebanon in shifts of 10,000; 70,000 carried burdens, 80,000 quarried stone and 3,300 supervised (5:13-18).
- D. The temple was built 480 years after the exodus (6:1).
 - 1. The length was 60 cubits, the width was 20 cubits and the height was 30 cubits (6:2).
 - a) The porch was 20 cubits x 10 cubits (6:3).
 - b) There were windows with narrow, beveled frames (6:4).
 - c) There were compartments outside the walls of the temple proper (6:5-6).
 - d) The house was built of stone prepared at the quarry site (6:7).
 - e) The house was covered with beams and planks of cedar (6:9).
 - f) Each side chamber was five cubits high (6:10).
 - 2. God gave a promise during the building of the temple (6:11-13; cf. 2 Samuel 7:12-16).
 - 3. Internal arrangements of the temple building.
 - a) The walls were made of cedar and the floors of cypress (6:15).
 - b) The inner sanctuary or the Most Holy Place was 20 cubits (6:16).
 - c) The Holy Place was 40 cubits (6:17).
 - d) The inside of the temple was cedar (6:18).
 - e) The Most Holy Place was a perfect cube, overlaid with gold and contained the ark of the covenant (6:19-20).
 - f) The inside of the house was overlaid with gold, along with the altar (6:21-22).
 - g) Two cherubim were in the inner sanctuary (6:23-28).
 - h) The walls, floor and doors were also heavily ornamented (6:29-35).
- E. The temple was completed according to specifications (6:37-38).

Conclusion. Although Solomon fell away from God later in his years, he was richly blessed with wisdom and wealth, and was able to build a house for the Lord which was used to worship God for 400 years.

Questions:

- 1. Why was Gibeon called the "great high place" (2 Chronicles 1:3; 1 Chronicles 21:29)?
- 2. What attitudes did Solomon's prayer reflect? Describe God's response.

3. How is 1 Kings 4:20 related to Genesis 22:17; 32:12? How is 1 Kings 4:21 related to Genesis 15:18-21?
4. Why was Adonijah's request for Abishag the Shunammite a threat to Solomon's authority?
5. Why was Joab executed (2 Samuel 3:22-30; 20:8-12; 1 Kings 1:7), Shimei told to stay in Jerusalem (1 Kings 2:8-9; 2 Samuel 16:5-14) and Abiathar exiled? How was this a fulfillment of God's word (1 Samuel 2:31-36)?
6. Comment on wisdom as it relates to the following passages (Job 28:1-28; Proverbs 1:20-2:22; 1 Corinthians 1:19-21; James 1:5).
7. Jesus said, "... a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:23-24). How does wealth affect us (cf. Proverbs 30:7-9; Luke 12:13-21; Mark 12:43-44).
8. What was the significance of the temple (1 Kings 8:13; 27-30; 9:3)?
9. Describe Israel's worship in the early years of Solomon's reign. What were the "high places" (1 Kings 3:2; cf. Leviticus 17:1-9; Deuteronomy 12:2-5, 13-14). Some people feel that they can worship God anywhere. Is it important to assemble with the saints to worship?