

OT-OV

Lesson 93

1. Last week I began a study of the book of 1st Kings by way of the Doctrine of Solomon.

2. We need to review some of that learned and then pick-up with new material on page three.

3. Solomon, the "man of sunset and shadows," was the second son of David by Bathsheba. 2Sa 12:24

3.1 Solomon was the the third king of Israel, Solomon reigned for some 40 years. (c. 960-922)

4. He was also known as Jedidiah, meaning "beloved of Jehovah." 2Sa 12:25

5. Little is known of the early life of Solomon. He was the son of King David's wife Bathsheba, an intelligent, charming woman who wielded tremendous influence over the king and exerted power in the court.

5.1 Solomon grew up in a polygamous house. King David, his father married often and had many concubines. There were constant tensions among the wives and their respective children. The king's harem became the scene of all manner of plots and counterplots for favor and places of prestige.

6. During David's final illness there was a mad scramble for the throne between Adonijah, the oldest son, and Solomon, the next in line of succession. 1Ki 1:5-6

6.1 After Amnon and Absalom self-destructed David promised Bathsheba that Solomon would accede to the throne. 1Ki 1:13-15

6.2 Adonijah solicited the assistance of Joab, the general of the army, and Abiathar, one of the tandem high priests. His friends met at En-rogel, south west of Jerusalem, to anoint him King. This abortive coronation feast did not include Solomon and those favorable to his cause. 1Ki 1:7-10

6.3 Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the chief of David's bodyguard were conspicuously absent. When they heard of Adonijah's plot to seize the throne, they spearheaded a counter-plot with the assistance of Bathsheba. At the spring of Gihon Zadok anointed the royal lad with a horn of sacred oil in the midst of trumpet blasts and crowds shouting "long live King Solomon!" 1Ki 1:17-25

6.4 Adonijah was executed for plotting against the coronation of Solomon. (1Ki 2:23-25)

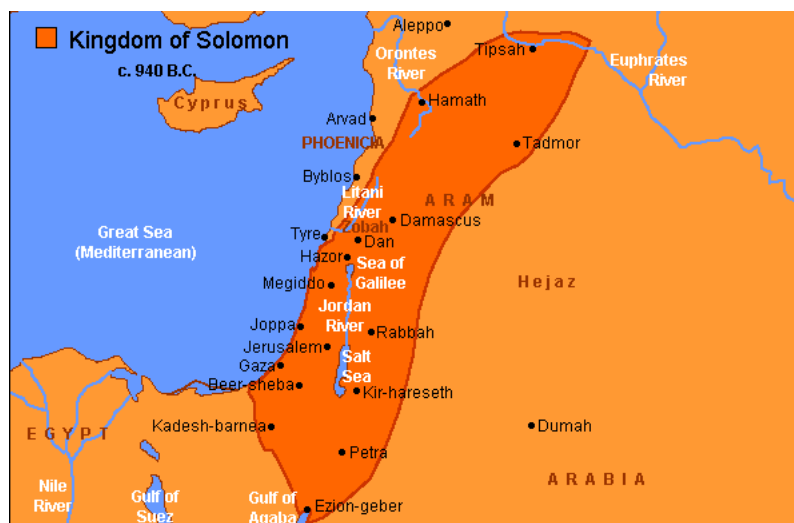
6.5 Being a mere boy, 18 at the most, his dying father gave him some instructions to dispose of those who might wrest the government out of his hands. (1Ki 2:1-9)

6.6 Solomon saw the wisdom of David's counsel; accordingly he quickly liquidated his chief rivals.

7. The crowning event of Solomon's formative regal years was his choice of wisdom. 1Ki 3:7-10

7.1 Not long after, two mothers stood before him accusing each other of the same crime. His answer became famous as manifestation of his wisdom. 1Ki 3:16-27

8. The administration of Solomon was again a master-piece and an outgrowth of his God given wisdom. King David's kingdom fell full-orbed into Solomon's lap. It totaled some 50,000 square miles (a little less than the area of Illinois and a little more than New York state).



8.1 David gave birth to the Israelitish nation; Solomon produced the Israelitish state. Solomon's government was an absolute monarchy. The members of his enlarged cabinet were called princes. With the exception of two carryovers from David, they were all new.

9. Solomon began an impressive building program. (1Ki 5-7; 2Ch 2-4)

9.1 Early in his reign Solomon resolved to fulfill the promise of his father to build a Temple in Jerusalem to house the Ark.

9.2 Solomon re-established the alliance which David had made with Hiram of Tyre.

9.3 Under the agreement Solomon supplied Hiram with food in return for cedars from Mount Lebanon (1Ki 5:1-12).

9.4 The king's greatest need was workmen. To secure an adequate construction force, he resorted to forced labor. He reduced the Canaanites to the grade of state slaves. (1Ki 9:20-21).

9.5 Solomon did not use Israelites as his building slaves but did put them to useful service. 1Ki 9:22

9.6 The Temple was the most important of his public work projects. It was located on Mount Moriah where Abraham had offered Isaac. (2Ch 3:1; Gen 22:2)

9.7 Materials were collected by David (1Ch 22:2-4), but actual work began in Solomon's fourth year. (1Ki 6:1)

9.8 Seven years were spent in its construction. Its floor plan was modeled after the tabernacle of Moses. The architectural prototype of this shrine was the Syrian or Canaanite style of temple. (e.g., as found at Ugarit)

9.9 Neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was building. (1Ki 6:7)

1Ki 6:7 In building the Temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the Temple site while it was being built.

9.10 The sanctuary proper was inlaid with gold as though carved out of one solid mass.

9.11 Two immense pillars stood at the entrance of the court.

1Ki 7:21 He erected the pillars at the portico of the Temple. The pillar to the south he named Jakin and the one to the north Boaz.

9.12 The Temple centralized and fixed Jerusalem as the center of Jehovah worship, as the focal point for all 12 tribes to migrate and worship at the same altar and shrine.

10. Dedication of the Temple (1Ki 8-9; 2Ch 5-7)

10.1 On the completion of the "royal chapel" in the eleventh year of his reign (1Ki 6:38), Solomon planned a great celebration. (1Ki 8.1).

1Ki 8:1 Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the LORD'S covenant.

10.2 Before a convocation of convocations composed of the heads of the tribes and the princes of the fathers of the Israelites, the Ark of the Covenant was transferred from the city of David to the Holy of Holies beneath the two cherubim.

10.3 The Temple was a place of mass sacrifices.

10.4 A cloud filled the building to screen the glory of Jehovah.

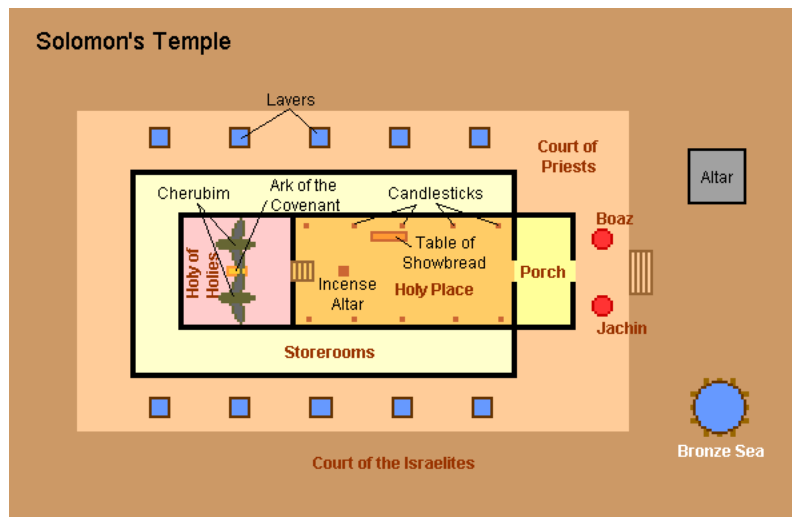
10.5 Solomon blessed the assembled multitudes, recited the history of the Temple's construction and his part in the process.

10.6 Then standing before the altar of Jehovah, Solomon spread his hands toward heaven and offered a dedicatory prayer unsurpassed in all religious literature (1Ki 8:23-53).

10.7 He requested Jehovah to hear and answer the prayers of His people.

10.8 His conclusion appealed to the attentiveness and continued presence of Jehovah, that He might clothe His priests with salvation and His saints with goodness.

10.9 Solomon's final acts of the dedicatory service were the offering of numerous sacrifices of peace, burnt, and meal offerings.



11. There were other buildings constructed in the city.

11.1 Among the numerous buildings and public works in Jerusalem, Solomon constructed:

11.1.1 the house of the forest of Lebanon (150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high, containing an audience room and an armory);

11.1.2 a pillared hall (75 by 45 feet); it had several porches where he pronounced judgment;

11.1.3 a house for Pharaoh's daughter (1Ki 7:2-8) close by his own house with the splendor befitting an Egyptian king's daughter.

1Ki 7:8 And the palace in which he was to live, set farther back, was similar in design. Solomon also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had married.

11.2 He spent 13 years building his own house to accommodate 700 wives and 300 concubines and the necessary servants (1Ki 11:3). The wives and concubines will result in the down fall of Solomon and much suffering in the land.

1Ki 11:3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.

1Ki 11:4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

1Ki 11:5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.

1Ki 11:6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done.

11.2.1 This act of major polygamy would result in his son Rehoboam losing the northern Kingdom to Jeroboam and 18 other Kings.

1Ki 11:10 Although God had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD'S command.

1Ki 11:11 So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it a subordinate.

1Ki 11:12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

1Ki 11:13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

1Ki 11:14 Then the LORD raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom.

11.3 Just north east of the city Solomon improved Fort Millo, to protect the Temple.

11.4 Also Solomon built military defenses and fortified cities throughout his kingdom. (1Ki 9:15,17-19; 2Ch 8:1-6)

2Ch 8:1 At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built the temple of the LORD and his own palace,

2Ch 8:2 Solomon rebuilt the villages that Hiram had given him, and settled Israelites in them.

2Ch 8:3 Solomon then went to Hamath Zobah and captured it.

2Ch 8:4 He also built up Tadmor in the desert and all the store cities he had built in Hamath.

2Ch 8:5 He rebuilt Upper Beth Horon and Lower Beth Horon as fortified cities, with walls and with gates and bars,

2Ch 8:6 as well as Baalath and all his store cities, and all the cities for his chariots and for his horses--whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and throughout all the territory he ruled.

11.5 Solomon spent 14 years in these building operations and spent the staggering sum of approximately \$4,400,000,000.

12. Because of his military superiority provided in the main by his daddy David the land rested from war.

12.1 During the 40 years of his reign (1Ki 11:42) Israel rarely had to fight a battle.

1Ki 11:42 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.

12.2 Solomon was a shrewd trader striking numerous deals with the likes of King Hiram of Tyre, Musri of Asia Minor, the Pharaoh of Egypt, the King of the Hittites, and the Aramaeans.

12.3 Solomon's most profitable commercial enterprise was his maritime trade.

12.4 He built sea going vessels at Ezion-geber at the head of the Gulf of Aqabah.

12.4.1 This city was developed into a great seaport and became the home base for Solomon's fleet.

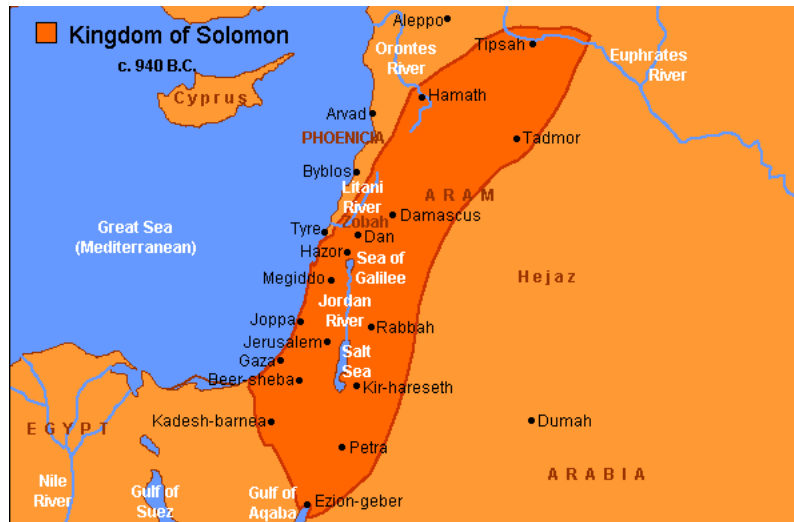
12.4.2 Hiram's experienced sailors manned and sailed these ships on the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and even to Ophir.

12.4.3 Ophir was located in India (Jos Ant. viii. 6.4). It was probably a way station for ships of Solomon trading between India and the Israel seaport of Ezion-geber. (1Ki 9:26-28)

1Ki 9:26 And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Ezion-geber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.

1Ki 9:27 And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon.

1Ki 9:28 And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to king Solomon.



12.5 The store cities or warehouses (2Ch 8:4-6) built in strategic areas were filled with revenue (tariff) collected from caravans crossing Solomon's dominion.

2Ch 8:4 He also built up Tadmor in the desert and all the store cities he had built in Hamath.

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2Ch 8:6 as well as Baalath and all his store cities, and all the cities for his chariots and for his horses--whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and throughout all the territory he ruled.

2Ch 8:7 All the people left from the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites),

2Ch 8:8 that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites had not destroyed-- these Solomon conscripted for his slave labor force, as it is to this day.

2Ch 8:9 But Solomon did not make slaves of the Israelites for his work; they were his fighting men, commanders of his captains, and commanders of his chariots and charioteers.

12.6 Solomon's annual gold revenue, exclusive of his traders' profits, his merchants' traffic, and the king's tribute from the mixed population and the governors of the country, reached the incredible sum for that day of approximately \$25,000,000.

End Lesson