

OT-OV

Lesson 94

1. Earlier 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 two.
3. Solomon was the the third king of Israel, Solomon reigned for some 40 years. (960-922 B.C.)
4. 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. 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. Being a mere boy, 18 at the most, Solomon's dying father gave him some instructions to dispose of those who might wrest the government out of his hands; Solomon saw the wisdom of David's counsel; accordingly he quickly liquidated his chief rivals. (1Ki 2:1-9)
7. The crowning event of Solomon's formative regal years was his choice of wisdom; Not long after, two mothers stood before him accusing each other of the same crime. His answer became renown as a manifestation of his wisdom. (1Ki 3:7-10; 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).
9. Early in his reign Solomon resolved to fulfill the promise of his father to build a Temple in Jerusalem to house the Ark. The Temple was the most important of his public work projects. It was located on Mount Moriah where Abraham had offered Isaac. The actual work began in Solomon's fourth year; the work was completed seven years later. (2Ch 3:1; Gen 22:2; 1Ki 6:1)
10. Dedication of the Temple (1Ki 8-9; 2Ch 5-7)
 - 10.1 Before the heads of the tribes, the Ark of the Covenant was transferred from the city of David to the Holy of Holies beneath the two cherubim.

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

10.3 Solomon's final acts of the dedicatory service were the offering of numerous sacrifices of peace, burnt, and meal offerings. All were impressed when fire came down from heaven and devoured the massive sacrifices.

11. There were other buildings constructed in the city; not the least of which was a house for himself and a house for the Pharaoh's daughter. His own house was built to accommodate 700 wives and 300 concubines. The wives and concubines resulted in the down fall of Solomon and much suffering in the land.

11.1 This act of major polygamy would result in his son Rehoboam losing the northern Kingdom to Jeroboam and 18 other Kings. 1Ki 11:10-14

11.2 Solomon also built military defenses and fortified certain cities throughout his kingdom; during the 40 years of his reign Israel rarely had to fight a battle. (1Ki 9:15,17-19; 2Ch 8:1-6)

12. 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. His most profitable commercial enterprise was his maritime trade.

12.1 He built sea going vessels at Ezion-geber at the head of the Gulf of Aqabah. This city was developed into a great seaport and became the home base for Solomon's fleet. Hiram's experienced sailors manned and sailed these ships on the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and even to Ophir. 1Ki 9:26-28

13. Solomon's wisdom and splendor were legendary.

13.1 The wisdom of Solomon is celebrated in the Bible (1Ki 4:29-34) and in legend.

1Ki 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

1Ki 4:30 Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.

13.2 The book of Proverbs begins with the statement: "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel." (A large section of the book is accredited to him Pro 25:1.)

Pro 25:1 These are more proverbs of Solomon, copied by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah:

13.3 The title verse of Ecclesiastes is meant to refer to Solomon.

13.4 He is credited with the Song of Solomon and the apocryphal book The Wisdom of Solomon.

13.4.1 The compiler of 1Ki 4 states that Solomon was responsible for 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. Many think the 5 canticles making up the Song of Solomon are five of the 1,005.

13.4.2 Two of the psalms were written by David for Solomon (Psa 72 and 127).

13.4.3 The obituary of Solomon (1Ki 11:41-43) refers to his wisdom as recorded in the Acts of Solomon--the official record in the royal archives.

1Ki 11:41 As for the other events of Solomon's reign-- all he did and the wisdom he displayed-- are they not written in the book of the annals of Solomon?

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

1Ki 11:43 Then he rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.

14. During the middle of Solomon's reign he received a notable visit from the Queen of Sheba, who came from "the ends of the earth" to hear of his wisdom. (Mat 12:42)

Mat 12:42 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.

14.1 Solomon showed her Jerusalem, its temple, palaces, and fortifications.

14.2 The queen was so overwhelmed by the beauty of his capital, the food on his table, the array of his servants, and the general magnificence of his court, that "there was no more spirit in her." (1Ki 10:4-6)

1Ki 10:4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built,

1Ki 10:5 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

1Ki 10:6 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true.

14.3 But it was Solomon's wisdom that profoundly impressed her. She was so impressed she purportedly trembled in his presence.

14.4 She bombarded him with questions and enigmas.

14.5 All of her riddles and conundrums were so cleverly answered she finally exclaimed congratulatory words: "Happy are thy men ... thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom." (1Ki 10:8)

1Ki 10:7 But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard.

1Ki 10:8 How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!

1Ki 10:9 Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD'S eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness."

14.6 In keeping with the oriental custom, she presented Solomon with rich gifts besides 120 talents of gold. (\$4,800,000, 1Ki 10:8-10-11)

1Ki 10:10 And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

1Ki 10:11 (Hiram's ships brought gold from Ophir; and from there they brought great cargoes of sandal wood and precious stones.

15. Wycliffe in his comments has this to say of Solomon: "Many of Solomon's policies were unsound:

15.1 his forced labor disrupted the family life of his people;

15.2 his foreign trade brought in foreign gods and encouraged idolatry;

15.3 his excessive building program overextended his resources;

15.4 his court of splendor overtaxed his people and overburdened them;

15.5 his gross polygamy was unwise, (his foreign wives turned his heart after other gods.)"

16. Though angry with him, Jehovah graciously did not rend the kingdom from him but from his son.

16.1 But Jehovah raised up "adversaries" to trouble Solomon.

16.2 Jeroboam inwardly rebelled against the king's policy, and the prophet Ahijah encouraged him in his patriotism and assured him the kingship over the ten northern tribes.

16.3 When Solomon suspected him, Jeroboam fled to Egypt and waited for his death.

17. With all his weaknesses, Solomon made great contributions to Israel:

17.1 He was responsible for establishing the temple as the central religious shrine of the nation.

17.2 He hastened the transition of Israel from an agricultural people to a commercial people.

17.3 He made Israel a major player in international affairs.

17.4 He championed the ideal of justice in the courts.

17.5 In his proverbs he provided numerous common sense principles.

18. So Solomon closed his career worn out by excessive self-indulgence, leaving behind him an impoverished treasury, a discontented people, and a tottering empire ready to fall apart.

18.1 However, he made immortal contributions:

18.1.1 Solomon was the father of Hebrew wisdom literature, and builder of the temple.

18.1.2 Also, Solomon with all his glory and splendor became the type of Him who is to rule in peace one day "from sea to sea."

Psa 72:8 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

19. Now let's see what we can learn of Solomon's two replacements - Jeroboam and Rehoboam.

End Lesson