

OT-OV

Lesson 92

1. Last week I taught the Doctrine of Abishai and then we began a study of the Book of 1st Kings.

2. The best way to overview 1st Kings is to review the Doctrine of Solomon.

2.1 The name of Solomon occurs 300 times in the Old Testament and 12 times in the New Testament.

3. Solomon, the "man of sunset and shadows," was the second son of David by Bathsheba.

2Sa 12:24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him;

3.1 Their first son died soon after birth. (2Sa 12:18)

3.2 Solomon was the fourth son born to King David in Jerusalem. (2Sa 5:14).

3.3 The third king of Israel, Solomon reigned for 40 years. (c. 960-922 B.C.)

4. He was also known as Jedidiah, meaning "beloved of Jehovah."

2Sa 12:25 and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

5. Early Life:

5.1 Little is known of the early life of Solomon.

5.2 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.

5.2.1 Bathsheba was also a great woman of doctrine and the granddaughter of the very influential Ahithophel, her dad being the great general and war hero Eliam. 2Sa 11:3; 2Sa 23:34

5.3 Solomon grew up in a polygamous house. King David, his father married often and had many concubines.

5.4 There were constant tensions among the wives and their respective children.

5.5 The king's harem became the scene of all manner of plots and counterplots for favor and places of prestige.

6. The struggle for the Throne (1Ki 1-2):

6.1 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 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him.

1Ki 1:6 (His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

6.2 After Amnon and Absalom self-destructed David promised Bathsheba that Solomon would accede to the throne.

1Ki 1:13 And Nathan said to Bathsheba: Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?'

1Ki 1:14 While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and confirm what you have said."

1Ki 1:15 So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him.

6.3 Adonijah solicited the assistance of Joab, the general of the army, and Abiathar, one of the tandem high priests.

6.4 His friends met at En-rogel, south west of Jerusalem, to sacrifice sheep, oxen, and fatlings.

6.5 This abortive coronation feast did not include Solomon and those favorable to his cause.

1Ki 1:7 Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support ...

1Ki 1:9 Adonijah then sacrificed sheep, cattle and fattened calves at the Stone of Zoheleth near En Rogel. He invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah who were royal officials,

1Ki 1:10 but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.

6.6 Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the chief of David's bodyguard were conspicuously absent.

1 Ki 1:8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei and David's special guard did not join Adonijah.

6.7 When they heard of Adonijah's plot to seize the throne, they spearheaded a counter-plot with the assistance of Bathsheba.

6.8 Armed with David's orders, Solomon mounted the royal mule and rode in the midst of his regal supporters down to the spring of Gihon in the Kidron Valley on the east side of Zion.

6.9 There 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 She said to him, "My lord, you yourself swore to me your servant by the LORD your God: 'Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne.'

1Ki 1:18 But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it.

1Ki 1:19 He has sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the king's sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant.

1Ki 1:20 My lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to learn from you who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

1Ki 1:21 Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals."

1Ki 1:22 While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived.

1Ki 1:23 And they told the king, "Nathan the prophet is here." So he went before the king and bowed with his face to the ground.

1Ki 1:24 Nathan said, "Have you, my lord the king, declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne?"

1Ki 1:25 Today he has gone down and sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep. He has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest. Right now they are eating and drinking with him and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

6.10 Adonijah's abortive coup collapsed. He in turn begged for mercy and promised allegiance to Solomon.

6.11 Adonijah will continue to plot against Solomon or so it seemed; Solomon will take drastic action.

1Ki 2:13 Now Adonijah, the son of Haggith, went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. Bathsheba asked him, "Do you come peacefully?" He answered, "Yes, peacefully."

1Ki 2:14 Then he added, "I have something to say to you." "You may say it," she replied.

1Ki 2:15 "As you know," he said, "the kingdom was mine. All Israel looked to me as their king. But things changed, and the kingdom has gone to my brother; for it has come to him from the LORD.

1Ki 2:16 Now I have one request to make of you. Do not refuse me." "You may make it," she said.

1Ki 2:17 So he continued, "Please ask King Solomon--he will not refuse you--to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife."

1Ki 2:18 "Very well," Bathsheba replied, "I will speak to the king for you."

1Ki 2:19 When Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, the king stood up to meet her, bowed down to her and sat down on his throne. He had a throne brought for the king's mother, and she sat down at his right hand.

1Ki 2:20 "I have one small request to make of you," she said. "Do not refuse me." The king replied, "Make it, my mother; I will not refuse you."

1Ki 2:21 So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given in marriage to your brother Adonijah."

1Ki 2:22 King Solomon answered his mother, "Why do you request Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? You might as well request the kingdom for him--after all, he is my older brother--yes, for him and for Abiathar the priest and Joab son of Zeruijah!"

6.12 Adonijah was executed for plotting this intrigue. (1Ki 2:23-25)

1Ki 2:23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD: "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if Adonijah does not pay with his life for this request!

1Ki 2:24 And now, as surely as the LORD lives--he who has established me securely on the throne of my father David and has founded a dynasty for me as he promised--Adonijah shall be put to death today!"

1Ki 2:25 So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he struck down Adonijah and he died.

6.13 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)

1Ki 2:5 "Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruijah did to me--what he did to the two commanders of Israel's armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.

1Ki 2:6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

1Ki 2:7 "But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

1Ki 2:8 "And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD: 'I will not put you to death by the sword.'

1Ki 2:9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood."

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

6.15 Because of his part in Adonijah's plot to snatch the throne, venerable Abiathar was deposed from the priesthood and banished to his native town of Anathoth. (1Ki 2:26-27)

1Ki 2:26 To Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go back to your fields in Anathoth. You deserve to die, but I will not put you to death now, because you carried the ark of the Sovereign LORD before my father David and shared all my father's hardships."

1Ki 2:27 So Solomon removed Abiathar from the priesthood of the LORD, fulfilling the word the LORD had spoken at Shiloh about the house of Eli.

6.16 Zadok assumed Abiathar's place.

6.17 Joab, in fear for his life, fled to the horns of the altar for refuge.

6.18 But Solomon commanded Benaiah to cut him down.

1Ki 2:27 So Solomon removed Abiathar from the priesthood of the LORD, fulfilling the word the LORD had spoken at Shiloh about the house of Eli.

1Ki 2:28 When the news reached Joab, who had conspired with Adonijah though not with Absalom, he fled to the tent of the LORD and took hold of the horns of the altar.

1Ki 2:29 King Solomon was told that Joab had fled to the tent of the LORD and was beside the altar. Then Solomon ordered Benaiah son of Jehoiada, "Go, strike him down!"

6.19 Benaiah in turn succeeded Joab as commander-in-chief of Israel's hosts.

1Ki 2:34 So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up and struck down Joab and killed him, and he was buried on his own land in the desert.

1Ki 2:35 The king put Benaiah son of Jehoiada over the army in Joab's position and replaced Abiathar with Zadok the priest.

6.20 Shimei, a Benjamite who cursed King David during Absalom's rebellion, was kept under surveillance in Jerusalem for three years and was killed when he sought to recover two renegade servants who had fled to Gath. (1Ki 2:36-46)

1Ki 2:36 Then the king sent for Shimei and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there, but do not go anywhere else....

1Ki 2:42 the king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD and warn you, 'On the day you leave to go anywhere else, you can be sure you will die'? At that time you said to me, 'What you say is good. I will obey.'

1Ki 2:43 Why then did you not keep your oath to the LORD and obey the command I gave you ..."

1Ki 2:46 Then the king gave the order to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck Shimei down and killed him. The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon's hands.

7. The crowning event of Solomon's formative regal years was his choice of wisdom.

1Ki 3:7 "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.

1Ki 3:8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.

1Ki 3:9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

1Ki 3:10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.

7.1 Not long after, two mothers stood before him accusing each other of the same crime. His answer became renown as manifestation of his wisdom.

1Ki 3:16 Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.

1Ki 3:17 One of them said, "My lord, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me.

1Ki 3:18 The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

1Ki 3:19 "During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him.

1Ki 3:20 So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast.

1Ki 3:21 The next morning, I got up to nurse my son--and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne."

1Ki 3:22 The other woman said, "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours." But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued before the king.

1Ki 3:23 The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.'"

1Ki 3:24 Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword for the king.

1Ki 3:25 He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."

1Ki 3:26 The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

1Ki 3:27 Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."

7.2 The decision spread like wildfire from village to village. Now the king was revered as a wise and fair ruler.

8. The administration of Solomon was again a master-piece and an outgrowth of his God given wisdom. (1st Kings Chapter 4)

8.1 King David's kingdom fell full-orbed into Solomon's lap.

8.2 It totaled some 50,000 square miles (a little less than the area of Illinois and a little more than New York state).

8.3 David gave birth to the Israelitish nation; Solomon produced the Israelitish state.

8.4 His government was an absolute monarchy.

8.5 The members of his enlarged cabinet were called princes.

8.6 With the exception of two carryovers from David, they were all new, consisting of:

8.6.1 the (chief) priest, Azariah grandson of Zadok and son of Ahimaaz;

8.6.2 two secretaries, Elihoreph and Ahiah;

8.6.3 a chronicler or recorder, Jehoshaphat;

8.6.4 the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and commander of the army, Benaiah;

8.6.5 the High Priest Zadok;

8.6.6 an overseer of the 12 commissary officers, Azariah, son of Nathan the prophet;

8.6.7 the "king's friend" or counselor, Zabud (son of Nathan the prophet);

8.6.8 a court chamberlain, Ahishar;

8.6.9 a superintendent of slave service, Adoniram (1Ki 4:2-6).

8.7 Ignoring the old tribal divisions, Solomon divided the entire country into 12 administrative districts, nine west of the Jordan and three east of it.

8.8 Over each district was stationed a commissary officer whose responsibility was to provide the king's court with provisions for one month each year.

8.9 A single day's provisions were 337 bushels of fine flour, 674 bushels of meal, 10 fat stall-fed oxen, 20 pastured oxen, 100 sheep, besides harts, gazelles and roebucks; also barley and straw for the animals in government stables.

8.10 Solomon introduced chariots and cavalry in his army: 40,000 stalls of horses, 12,000 cavalry men, and 1,400 chariots.

8.11 These were kept in Jerusalem or in his fortified cities ready for distribution in time of danger.

8.12 These necessitated new, unparalleled roads.

8.12.1 Border fortresses such as at Arad with its small temple in the citadel were built to guard the trade routes.

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)

1Ki 5:1 When Hiram king of Tyre heard that Solomon had been anointed king to succeed his father David, he sent his envoys to Solomon, because he had always been on friendly terms with David.

1Ki 5:2 Solomon sent back this message to Hiram:

1Ki 5:3 "You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the LORD his God until the LORD put his enemies under his feet.

1Ki 5:4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster.

1Ki 5:5 I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God, as the LORD told my father David, when he said, 'Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.'

1Ki 5:6 "So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the Sidonians."

1Ki 5:7 When Hiram heard Solomon's message, he was greatly pleased and said, "Praise be to the LORD today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation."

1Ki 5:8 So Hiram sent word to Solomon: "I have received the message you sent me and will do all you want in providing the cedar and pine logs.

1Ki 5:9 My men will haul them down from Lebanon to the sea, and I will float them in rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will separate them and you can take them away. And you are to grant my wish by providing food for my royal household."

1Ki 5:10 In this way Hiram kept Solomon supplied with all the cedar and pine logs he wanted,

1Ki 5:11 and Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand bushels of wheat as food for his household, in addition to twenty thousand baths of pressed olive oil. Solomon continued to do this for Hiram year after year.

1Ki 5:12 The LORD gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him. There were peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

9.4 The king's greatest need was workmen.

9.5 To secure an adequate construction force, he resorted to forced labor.

9.6 He reduced the Canaanites to the grade of state slaves (1Ki 9:20-21).

1Ki 9:20 All the people left from the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites),

1Ki 9:21 that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites could not exterminate--these Solomon conscripted for his slave labor force, as it is to this day.

9.7 Solomon did not use Israelites as his building slaves but did put them to useful service of the nations.

1Ki 9:22 But Solomon did not make slaves of any of the Israelites; they were his fighting men, his government officials, his officers, his captains, and the commanders of his chariots and charioteers.

9.8 The Temple was the most important of his public work projects.

9.9 It was located on Mount Moriah where Abraham had offered Isaac (2Ch 3:1; Gen 22:2).

2Ch 3:1 Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.

Gen 22:2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

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

1Ch 22:2 So David gave orders to assemble the aliens living in Israel, and from among them he appointed stone cutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God.

1Ch 22:3 He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed.

1Ch 22:4 He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.

1Ki 6:1 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the LORD.

9.11 Seven years were spent in its construction. Its floor plan was modeled after the tabernacle of Moses.

9.12 The architectural prototype of this shrine was the Syrian or Canaanite style of temple (e.g., as found at Ugarit).

End Lesson