



# Reign of King Solomon c. 950 B.C.

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History Dude

# Solomon secures the throne (very ancient kinglike)

- Killing spree in 1 Kings 2: 28-46
- Solomon kills of Abner and Joab using the “hitman” Benaiah, he had previously killed Adonijah, his brother.
- Abithar is banished in 1 Kings 2: 27 (he was not killed because he was a Jewish priest, bad juju to kill a priest)
- 1 Kings 2: 36-46 is the story of Shimei, let’s review that one (read 36-46, then 2 Samuel 16:5-8)
- Why was it noted that killing of Shimei was as big or bigger deal than the killing of the generals Abner and Joab?
- “So, the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon” it reads at the end of 1 Kings 2

# The first things Solomon does as king?

- 1 Kings 3:1 “Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt; he took Pharaoh’s daughter and brought her into the City of David, until he had finished building his own house and the house of the Lord and the wall around Jerusalem.”
- This is immediately followed by the story of Solomon asking God for wisdom, followed by the two women and the baby as a demonstration of the wisdom in chapters 3&4.
- But remember, Kings is primarily from the “where did we go wrong” perspective, so the wisdom story is immediately followed by the building of the temple and palace in chapters 5-7. Great right? Building like an ancient king to glorify? Who was Solomon really glorifying?
- Read 1 Kings 6:37-38, then follow with the first verse in chapter 7.
- Who was Solomon glorifying? Which building did he spend more time, money and effort on? The Lord’s house, or his house? The Lord’s house or the house of his foreign wives? (7:8)
- Who did Solomon use to build these great buildings? (See 5:13). How do you think the Israelites felt about their new king?

# Solomon parties

1 Kings 8:62-65: <sup>62</sup>Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the LORD. <sup>63</sup>Solomon offered a sacrifice of fellowship offerings to the LORD: twenty-two thousand cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So the king and all the Israelites dedicated the temple of the LORD. <sup>64</sup>On that same day the king consecrated the middle part of the courtyard in front of the temple of the LORD, and there he offered burnt offerings, grain offerings and the fat of the fellowship offerings, because the bronze altar that stood before the LORD was too small to hold the burnt offerings, the grain offerings and the fat of the fellowship offerings. <sup>65</sup>So Solomon observed the festival at that time, and all Israel with him-a vast assembly, people from Lebo Hamath to the Wadi of Egypt. They celebrated it before the LORD our God for seven days and seven days more, fourteen days in all.

# God intervenes

- 1 Kings 9:1-9: <sup>1</sup>When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, <sup>2</sup>the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. <sup>3</sup>The LORD said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. <sup>4</sup>"As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, <sup>5</sup>I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.' <sup>6</sup>"But if you or your descendants turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, <sup>7</sup>then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. <sup>8</sup>This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' <sup>9</sup>People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them-that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.'"

Look at the site of Solomon's temple today...



## How does Solomon pay Hiram of Tyre (Canaanite)?

- <sup>10</sup>At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built these two buildings-the temple of the LORD and the royal palace- <sup>11</sup>King Solomon gave twenty towns in Galilee to Hiram king of Tyre, because Hiram had supplied him with all the cedar and juniper and gold he wanted. <sup>12</sup>But when Hiram went from Tyre to see the towns that Solomon had given him, he was not pleased with them. <sup>13</sup>"What kind of towns are these you have given me, my brother?" he asked. And he called them the Land of Kabul, a name they have to this day. <sup>14</sup>Now Hiram had sent to the king 120 talents of gold. (1 Kings 9:10-14)
- He is literally giving away the Promised Land!

# King Solomon loves foreign women...

- 1 Kings 11:1-8: <sup>1</sup>King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter-Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. <sup>2</sup>They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. <sup>3</sup>He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup>So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. <sup>7</sup>On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. <sup>8</sup>He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.



# God responds to Solomon's sinful ways...

- 1 Kings 11: 9-13: <sup>9</sup>The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. <sup>10</sup>Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command. <sup>11</sup>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 to one of your subordinates. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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."

# The remainder of Solomon's life

- Roughly the last 20 years of his reign
- God raises up enemies against Solomon
- He spends all his time trying to put them down, largely by forming an alliance with them by marrying a princess or two
- He proceeds to worship the gods of his foreign wives, just as God said he would if he married foreign women
- As Solomon dies, the kingdom is in fact divided. Rehoboam (Solomon's son) will inherit Judah and Benjamin, Jeroboam (a former military commander under Solomon) will return from exile and seize the North/Israel and those 10 tribes

# God + \_\_\_\_\_ = Nothing

- Solomon begins his reign as the good guy, the “wise guy” but ends his reign “spiritually disqualified” from leadership
- This demise came about when he divided his heart. He was clearly devoted to himself, and his earthly relationships before he was to God (Palace bigger than the temple, foreign wives, etc.)
- He saw no harm in diversifying his spiritual investments, he “checked off” the believe in God box then went about living it up for the here and now
- Solomon’s sin was not so much the subtraction from God as the addition of God’s (Canaanite influence), he bought the syncretistic God-plus lie in thinking he could serve two (or more) masters
- God will not be reduced by such additions. God alone must receive our wholehearted devotion.
- The trueness of God in Christ assumes and asserts the falseness of every other god and faith
- People prefer syncretism over exclusivism
- When we choose to embrace preferred ideas, ideologies and spiritualities that serve our own interests, over a single sovereign God whose interests we must serve, we suffer!
- Are we like Solomon and turn away from the absolute and exclusive God? Does God + something describe our lives? Are we spiritual two-timing?
- Too many Christians believe they need to be married to God...but have a mistress or two (or 1000) “on the side”.
- The more spiritually single-minded we are, the more despised and marginalized we will become here in America
- The cross is where undistracted loyalty to Christ always leads!!

(Adapted from an article by Rev. Tim Shorey, TGC)