

## ISRAEL'S GOLDEN AGE

The 80 years David and his son, Solomon, reigned over Israel was considered the *Golden Age of Hebrew History*.

In the world at large, Homer was writing poetry in Greece. The dawning of Greek civilization had just begun. Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon – the traditional world powers – were in a state of decline. At the time, Israel was the most powerful nation on earth – the world's lone superpower.

Solomon ruled over a global empire. He built alliances, and entered into trade

agreements with foreign kings that brought unprecedented wealth to Israel. He even built a navy, and a merchant marine. He opened up Israel to world markets, and in the process, spread his fame and reputation to the ends of the earth.

David won battles, and established a dynasty – Solomon took it to the next level. He expanded the kingdom, and God used him to make Israel great!

1 Kings 1-11 focuses on the reign of David's son, King Solomon.

## PROVE YOURSELF A MAN

1 Kings 2 records the death bed scene where David utters his final words.

I love these scenes in the old movies. One of the most famous is in the movie "Knute Rockne", where Ronald Reagan plays the star running back, George Gipp. Gipp is about to die. He's on his deathbed, and with his dying breath he tells the coach, "When the team needs to win a big game, and their back is against the wall, and they need encouragement... tell'em coach, *to win one for the Gipper*."

What an emotional moment! A new rallying cry for Notre Dame football is born.

Well, here David utters his last words. He challenges his son, Solomon. And I love what the wise old king tells him in verse 2, "be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man." Solomon was born in the palace. His whole life had been lived among the perks and luxuries of royalty. In essence, Solomon had been born with a silver spoon in his mouth. But now it's time for him to grow up – become a man.

Every boy wants to be considered a man. But you can tell a boy a million times he's a man, and in his heart, he knows it's not enough. Every boy knows that man-

hood isn't granted. It has to be earned. We have to prove we're a man.

Most cultures take this fact into consideration. They have rites of passage from childhood to manhood - ways a boy can prove himself a man. Certain Indian tribes used to require a boy to slay a bear, canoe a river, or brave the elements.

Yet, how do you prove yourself a man? It's sad the sinful tests some men use. *Can he hold his liquor? Lose his virginity? Is he willing to fight?* Hey, drunkenness, sex, and violence don't prove you are a man – that stuff just proves you're stupid!

Listen to how David tells Solomon he can prove his manhood. Verse 3, "keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn..."

Here's a true test of manhood – *are you brave enough to obey and follow God?* It takes a real man (or woman) to go against the flow of this world, resist temptation, and put God first!

# Bible Scan - 1 Kings 1-11

## PARALYZED PARENT

In 2 Samuel 12, after David's affair with Bathsheba God warned the king, "the sword shall never depart from your house... I will raise up adversity against you from your own house..."

It happened with Absalom – a revolt erupted - and now it's happening again with Absalom's brother, Adonijah.

1 Kings 1:5-6, "Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him." (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?")...

Again David fails to discipline his kids. This was a recurring problem with David. He was able to lead a nation, but David failed to guide his own household. His lack of leadership at home elicited power plays, rebellious attitudes, and defiant acts among his kids.

I believe David's sin with Bathsheba paralyzed him as a parent. He was so overcome with guilt over his own sin he couldn't muster the moral backbone to punish the sin in his kids. This is how you create a permissive parent.

Guys, we need to receive God's forgiveness for a lot of reasons. Forgiveness is critical to our mental health, and peace of mind - but God's pardon is especially vital to a parent. Forgiveness allows us to start over. If I'm a new creation in Christ I'm no longer a hypocrite for disciplining my kids for sins I once committed.

To be an effective parent, you've got to get over your past. Who you were is not who you are - and you want your kids to be like who you are, not who you were.

## PROFILE ON SOLOMON

### Solomon the Merciful

1 Kings 4:29 tells us, "God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore." Solomon ruled with his head and his heart.

### Solomon the Superior

1 Kings 4:30 says, "Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt." Solomon could match wits with anyone and win.

### Solomon the Poet

1 Kings 4:32, "He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five." The book of Proverbs contains roughly 750 proverbs, which means we only have about 25% of his proverbs. And of his 1005 songs – we only have 3 – Psalms 72, 127, and the Song of Solomon. We'll have to wait until heaven to read the complete works of King Solomon.

### Solomon the Scientist

1 Kings 4:33, "Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish." Solomon was a student of science - a botanist, and a zoologist.

### Solomon the Builder

In 7:1-12 Solomon's architectural achievements are listed. In addition to the Temple, he built a palace, halls, and walls. Notice in 7:10 some of the stones Solomon's builders worked with were 8-10 cubits long, or 12-15 feet. These are huge stones. We have no idea how the builders manipulated them. Solomon's engineers must've been quite sophisticated.

### Solomon the Rich

In 1 Kings 10:21 we're told all Solomon's drinking glasses were made of gold... and he thought nothing of it. Verse 21 says, "for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon."

In verse 27 we're told, "The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones..." And when you go to Jerusalem, you discover there are stones everywhere.

Verse 22 says Solomon even bought exotic pets.

Solomon's wealth is summed up in verse 23, "So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom." He was the Bill Gates of his day.

### Solomon the Sinister

1 King 10:14 presents an intriguing fact, "The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold..." Solomon's yearly salary was 666 talents of gold.. What's intriguing is the association of Solomon with the number 666. Read Revelation 13:18, and you discover 6-6-6 is the number of the Antichrist.

But this is not the only association between Solomon and 6-6-6. Look at verses 19-20, and Solomon's throne. When you approached it you saw 6-6-6 - Six lions to the left, six steps in the center, and six lions on the right... Or from right to left... 6-6-6.

Of course this all comes up before Solomon's slide, but we're about to see that Solomon was a good apple who went bad. He took a terrible fall. He has the infamous distinction of being the culprit who introduced idolatry into Israel.

And I'd like to suggest that Solomon is a perfect type of the Antichrist...

Solomon was a man of peace and a temple-builder. That's how the Antichrist will start out. People from all over the world journeyed to Jerusalem to marvel at Solomon's wisdom. The Antichrist will likewise impress the world with his wisdom. Solomon was initially a good man, but ended up falling into idolatry and bringing it home to Israel. The Antichrist will likewise initiate idolatry in Israel. Solomon showed keen business prowess and amassed great wealth. We learn in Revelation 18 the Antichrist does the same.

The parallels between Solomon and the Antichrist are numerous.

## FACTS ABOUT SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

According to 1 Chronicles 22:14, 100,000 talents of gold went into the Temple. That's equal to 10 million pounds of gold. At today's prices, the Temple would've cost at least \$30 billion. And understand it was a small building – a total of 14,000 square feet – including it's outer court. That's \$2 million per square foot.

Solomon's Temple may've been the most costly building ever erected.

1 Kings 6:2 tells us the Temple's dimensions: 60 cubits long, 20 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. If a cubit is 18", the Temple was 90' long, by 30' wide, by 45' high.

Verse 3 measures the front porch.

Verses 5-6 describe the chambers that skirted the outside wall of the Temple. The chambers housed the priestly paraphernalia.

The outside of the Temple was stone, but the inner walls were all paneled with wood overlaid with gold – including the Holy of Holies. The inner sanctum where God literally dwelt was a 20 cubit cube – 30' by 30' by 30'. In the Holy of Holies Solomon placed two 15 foot tall angels, or cherubim, made of wood, overlaid with gold. They represented the angels in heaven that surround the throne of God.

## OPEN HOUSE AT THE TEMPLE

Now that the construction is finished, it's time for "open house"... and guess who pays a visit? 1 Kings 8:10-11 tells us, "it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD."

The glory was so intense the priests couldn't continue. The enormity of God's presence forced all human activity to cease.

Verses 15-53 records Solomon's prayer of dedication. And I love what he prays in verse 27. Solomon has not lost perspective. The king has just spent \$30 billion and 7 years to build this Temple, but he's known all along that God will never fit in a house made with human hands. He says, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!"

From the earth to the sun is 93 million miles. Imagine that distance as the thickness of a piece of paper. The nearest star is 4.5 light years. In keeping with our analogy, that's a stack of paper 71' high. The diameter of our galaxy is 100,000 light years - a stack of paper 310 miles high. And to the edge of the known universe is 10 billion light years - a stack 31 million miles.

Now read Isaiah 40:12, "Who has measured... heaven with a span?" A span is the distance between God's thumb and forefinger, yet with a span He's measured the heavens. That means there's at least 31 million miles between God's thumb and forefinger. Solomon knows God ain't going to fit in a 90' by 30' building.

God is boundless. He doesn't fit into Temples made by men – nor does He confine Himself to man-made systems, formulas, or traditions. Just about the time you think you've figured out how God has to work – bang, God blows out a side of your box. God is beyond our ability to hem in, figure out, or tuck away. You've just gotta let Him be God! Trust God, don't try to fit Him in a straightjacket.

Solomon doesn't try to put God in a box, but he asks God to make the Temple a point of contact – a meeting place between His mercy and humble, repentant sinners.

Chapter 8 describes all kinds of scenarios... when people sin - are defeated by the enemy - in the event of drought and famine - even in the case of a foreigner who hears of God's glory, and seeks God's face – Solomon says in verses 44-45, "when they pray to the LORD toward the city which You have chosen and toward the temple which I have built in Your name, then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause."

Years later Daniel is living in exile in far-away Babylon. The Temple is in ruins. It's been razed by the Babylonians. But 3 times daily Daniel opens his windows and prays toward Jerusalem. Apparently he'd read Solomon's prayer.

### Devotion Box - Quiet Construction

1 Kings 6:7 reveals an interesting point, "the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built."

The stones were sized and fitted off-sight. God wanted the Temple built in an atmosphere of peace.

Guys, it's not our business and clamor that pleases God. It's our faith, trust, and rest in His will.

We learn later the only noise heard during the building of the Temple were the praises of the Levites. It was a strange construction site...

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - [sandyadams@calvarychapel.org](mailto:sandyadams@calvarychapel.org)

Calvary Chapel Announcements - March 19, 2000

**Tuesday, March 21st:** Ladies Morning Bible Study 10:00 AM Ladies Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, March 22nd:** Middle School Youth (Acts 5) 7:00 PM Café: Bible Study by Pastor James, Special Music by Jack & Andy

**Saturday, March 25 through Friday, March 31st:** Adult Mission Trip-Reynosa, Mexico Please be in prayer for our brothers and sisters as they leave for their trip to Mexico to serve the Lord, and share the love of Jesus Christ.

**Sunday, March 26th:** Worship & Bible Study/BIBLE BLAST! 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM Calvary Chapel Christian School Open House 3:00 PM Middle School Youth Bible Study 6:30 PM Bible Scan 6:30 PM

**Tuesday, March 28th:** Women's Prayer, Praise and Potluck 10:00 AM (Childcare Available)

Next Bible Scan- March 26 - 1 Kings 12-22

## Jesus and Solomon

In 1 Kings 10 the Queen of Sheba comes to see Solomon. Jesus mentions her visit in Matthew 12:42 as an example to the hard-hearted Pharisees.

Jesus said, "The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here."

The Queen of Sheba so admired Solomon's wisdom she traveled 1200 miles to sit at his feet. Yet Jesus was wiser than Solomon, and the Pharisees refused to listen to Him.

## Devotion Box - Solomon's Request

In 1 Kings 3:5 God comes to Solomon in a dream, and gives him a signed blank check: "Ask! What shall I give you?" It was a dream, but it was a dream that God promised would come true.

What if God gave you a blank check? What if He promised to make your dream come true? Make a request - any request - and God will see to it that it becomes a reality - what would it be? Gold? Girls? Glitz? What would you ask to receive?

One look at today's popular television shows and everyone "Wants to be a millionaire". But what if you gain all the riches of the world - or all the notoriety - and yet, you don't know how to manage your possession and keep it all in proper perspective? Getting what you want can destroy you. Solomon knew first and foremost that he needed wisdom.

God was so pleased with Solomon's request, He not only granted him wisdom - He threw in riches and honor as well.

1 Kings 3 proves the truth of Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

"I have given you a wise and understanding heart... and I have also given you what you have not asked; both riches and honor..." - 1 Kings 3:12-13

**Bible Scan  
Memory Verse**

## Solomon's Slide

Chapter 11:1 reveals the reason for Solomon's downfall: his besetting sin - his Achilles heel - his kryptonite...

"King Solomon loved many foreign women... from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart..."

Solomon's love for exotic women turned his heart away from God.

His foreign wives with their pagan religion became a spider's web that trapped his heart, and injected its poison.

In order to appease his wives, Solomon turned his back on God. He made ever-increasing concessions to pacify their pagan tastes, and before long, he'd introduced full-fledged idolatry into Israel.

Hey, just a little compromise here and there begins to add up. Compromise is like a snowball rolling down the hill. Once it starts, it's awfully difficult to stop.