

The Great Story

Week 12 – King Solomon (1 Kings 01-11)

Bible Study

I. Introduction

- a. Jewish Tradition claims that Jeremiah wrote 1 and 2 Kings, but since some of the later events in 2 Kings took place in Babylon (Jeremiah never went to Babylon, but Egypt) it is unclear who wrote the books.
- b. In the Vulgate and Septuagint, 1 and 2 Kings are referred to as 3 and 4 Kings. They are tied in with 1 and 2 Samuel
- c. David was around 70 years old at the beginning of 1 Kings
 - i. 2 Samuel 5:4-5 indicates that David was 30 years old when he became King and he reigned for 40 years.
- d. David was always cold, so a young, virgin nurse was appointed to look after him. She was to lie with him and keep him warm.
 - i. The nurse's name was Abishag the Shunammite, she was likely just a teenager.
 - ii. 1 Kings 1:4 indicate that David never knew her intimately.
 - iii. What she did for David was in was in harmony with the medical customs of that day¹

II. Solomon Made King

- a. Adonijah was the fourth son of David and probably his eldest living.
 - i. Amnon died by Absalom's hand
 - ii. Absalom died by Joab's hand
 - iii. Chileab is not mentioned beyond his youth, so he likely died.
- b. When David was old, Adonijah proclaimed himself king and gathered a small army.
- c. Nathan went to Bathsheba and told her, "Go in at once to King David, and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying, "Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then is Adonijah king?'"
 - i. This oath is not recorded previously in Scripture

¹ *The MacArthur Study Bible*, ed. John MacArthur, Jr., electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 1 Ki 1:2.

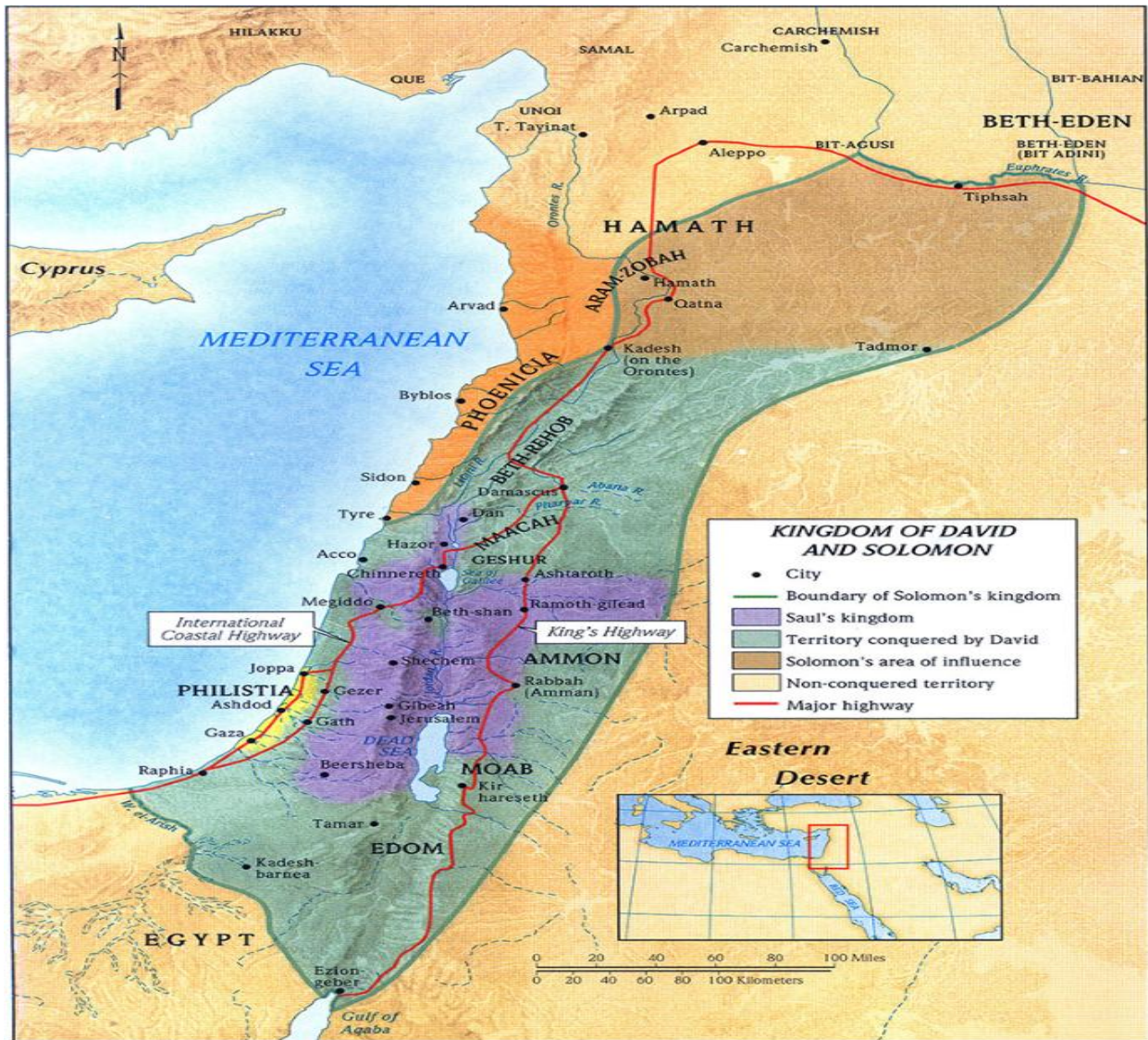
- d. Nathan then followed Bathsheba and visited the David, letting him know what Adonijah had done without David's knowledge.
- e. 1Kings 1:28-30, "Then King David answered, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king. ²⁹ And the king swore, saying, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity, ³⁰ as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' even so will I do this day."
- f. Nathan and Zadok the priest anointed Solomon king of Israel
- g. Adonijah heard that Solomon had been anointed and been declared King and was afraid of Solomon
 - i. "Took hold of the horns of the altar" -1 Kings 1:50
 - 1. These were the corners of the sacrificial altar. This was intended to show that he sought protection under God
 - ii. Solomon said, "If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."⁵³ So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and paid homage to King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."
- h. Adonijah asked Bathsheba to ask Solomon if he could take Abishag the Shunammite as his wife.
 - i. As she was a part of David's harem, taking Abishag as a wife would be very symbolic. This would illustrate that Adonijah was exercising authority as king.
- i. Solomon saw the deceitfulness of Adonijah and ordered him executed.
- j. Solomon means, "peaceful"
 - i. Nathan called Solomon Jedidiah, "Beloved of the Lord"

III. Solomon the Wise

- a. Solomon asked the Lord for Wisdom
 - i. 1 Kings 3:5-14
 - ii. He asked the Lord for the understanding to discern what was right.
 - 1. Because of this, God granted him wisdom, honor, and riches
 - 2. Solomon was commanded to walk in the ways of the Lord
- b. Solomon demonstrated his wisdom
 - i. 1 Kings 3:16-28
 - ii. Because of his unique wisdom, Solomon was able to discern the proper action that would prompt the rightful mother to react.

IV. Solomon the Administrator and Builder

- a. Solomon reigned over Israel during its most prosperous time in history.

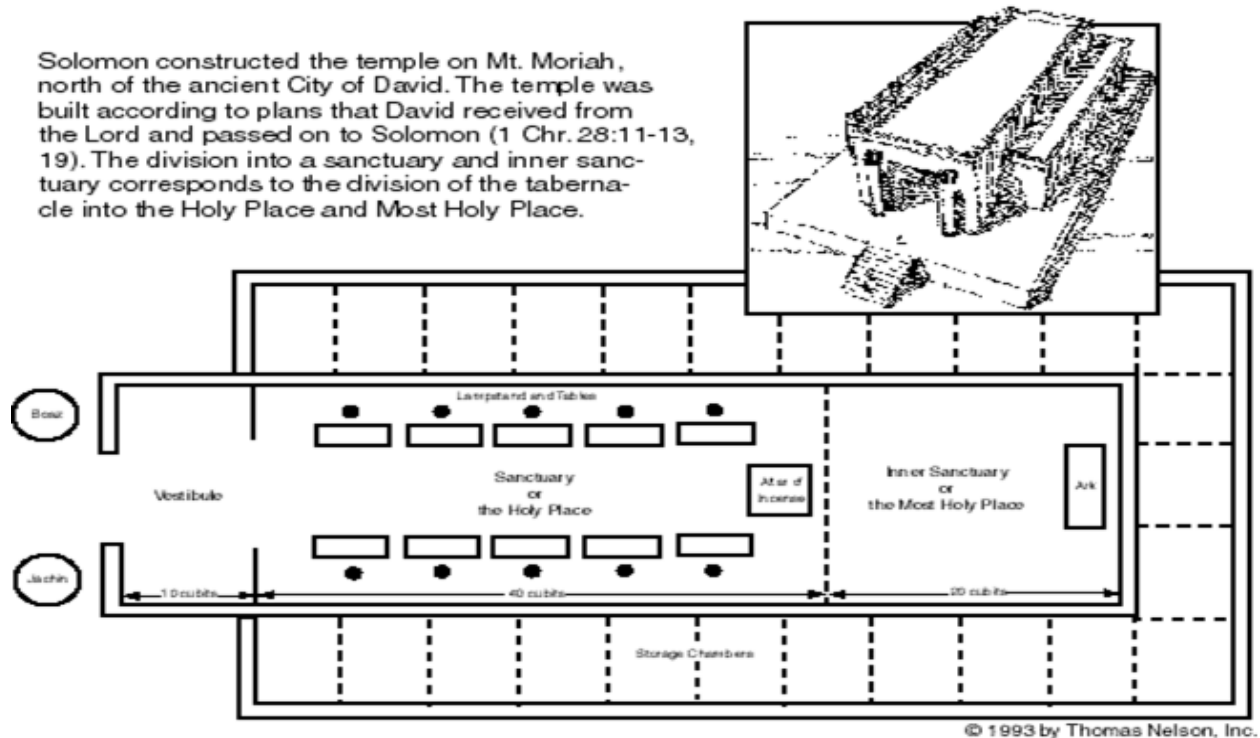


Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary. Edited by Brand, Chad, Charles Draper, Archie England et al. Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003.

- a. Solomon divided Israel into 12 districts and appointed governors over each district.
- i. These districts were different than the traditional borders of the 12 tribes.
- b. Every month, a different governor was expected to provide food for the king and his household.
- c. 1 Kings 4:24-25 – “For he had dominion over all the region west of the Euphrates from Tiphshah to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates. And he had peace on all sides around him. ²⁵ And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to

Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon”

- d. The Lord had told David that he would not be allowed to build His house because of David’s warfare, but his son would build a house for God.
- e. The entire inside of the temple was overlaid with gold - 1 Kings 6:20-22
 - a. Likely this was large sheets of gold that was hung and covered the wooden interior.



The MacArthur Study Bible. Edited by MacArthur, John, Jr. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997.

- f. The ark was brought to the temple and Solomon dedicated the temple – 1 Kings 8
 - a. Solomon was sincere in his speech, prayer of dedication and his blessing. His heart was right with God at this time.

V. The Wealth of Solomon and his love of women.

- a. 1 Kings 10:23 – “Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom”
 - i. He received income of six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold (about 25 tons) each year. This was on top of the money made from traders and merchants. (1 Kings 10:14)
 - ii. Once every three years, ships with gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys were brought into the kingdom (1 Kings 10:22)

- b. Solomon had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines (1 Kings 11:3)
 - i. Each time a new alliance was made, he received a wife to seal the relationship
 - ii. He was committing Bigamy and that is a sin.

VI. Solomon's falling away

- a. 1 Kings 9:1-9
 - i. After Solomon had obtained everything he desired, the Lord reminded him that He could take it all away if Solomon and his sons did not honor God.
- b. 1 Kings 11:4-12
 - i. Solomon's heart was turned away from God because of his foreign wives
 - ii. He built worshiping centers to the gods of all of his wives
 - iii. The Lord told Solomon that He would tear the kingdom away from his son

VII. Redemption for Solomon?

- a. Solomon may have repented of his sins before he died.
 - i. Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, likely at the end of his life. He describes all wealth and pleasures that he had and all the pain it brought him.
 - ii. He describes his possession as vanity and acknowledges that all things come from God alone.
 - iii. The book is intended to demonstrate his own mistakes so that future generations would not do the same.
 - iv. Ecclesiastes 12:13 – “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

VIII. Lesson Learned from the Story

- a. Great wealth and prosperity does not equal happiness and a heart that is submissive to God

IX. Sources

- a. *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. Edited by Brand, Chad, Charles Draper, Archie England et al. Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003.
- b. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. Edited by MacArthur, John, Jr. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997.