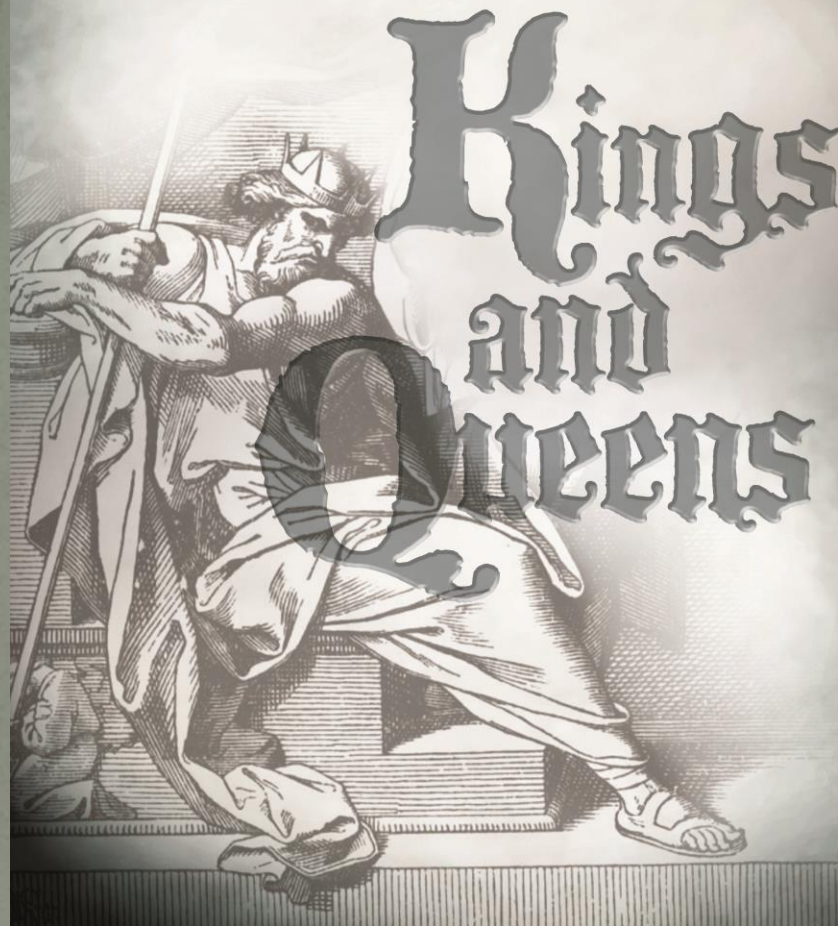


The Rise and Fall of Israel's Monarchs



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# King Solomon

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## Solomon's Work

The construction of the  
*Temple* in Jerusalem  
became the single most  
notable event during the  
reign of King Solomon.



- The construction of the Temple in Jerusalem became the single most notable event during the reign of King Solomon.
  - 1) King Hiram was actually a friend and ally of Solomon's father David and he also provided the building materials and labor force for David's palace.
  - 2) Solomon continued that friendship which provided the opportunity for him to tap into the natural resources of wood so readily available along the coastal mountains of Lebanon.
  - 3) In addition to the wood supplied by Hiram, the skilled labor force to prepare the wood for construction came from the neighboring kingdom of Sidon (another coastal empire from which King Hiram had a peaceful alliance).

The efforts put forth by King Hiram to provide materials and labor for the building of the Temple in exchange for fair payment by King Solomon, generated a peace treaty between the two kings which continued for many years.

- King Solomon puts together a massive labor force from all regions and territories under the control of the United Kingdom of Israel:
  - 1) “Now King Solomon levied forced labor from all Israel; and the forced laborers numbered 30,000 men” (I Kings 5:13)
  - 2) “Now Solomon had 70,000 transporters and 80,000 hewers of stone in the mountains, besides Solomon’s 3300 chief deputies who were over the project and who ruled over the people who were doing the work” (I Kings 5:15-16)



The alliances made between Solomon and these other nations will set the stage for future compromise. The use of forced labor, especially among fellow Israelites, will cause division among the people of Israel in the years to come. This helps to fuel the eventual split between the tribes of Israel and Judah.

# King Solomon

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The Temple itself  
(I Kings 6)



- The construction began in 966 B.C. and the dimensions were (I Kings 6:1-10):

1) 90 feet long

2) 30 feet wide

3) 45 feet high

4) 2700 square feet of interior floor space

“Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon saying, concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep all My commandments by walking in them, then I will carry out My word with you which I spoke to David your father. I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel. So Solomon built the house and finished it” (I Kings 6:11-14)

- There was an inner sanctuary (the **most holy place**) that would also house the **Ark of the Covenant**, the golden altar, and the altar of incense. (I Kings 6:19-20, II Chronicles 3:8-14)
- There was an inner courtyard (approx. 150 feet by 400 feet) that was surrounded by a wall and there was also an outer courtyard which was surrounded by a wall as well. (I Kings 6:35, II Chronicles 4:9, Jeremiah 36:10)
- The total time it took to complete the project was 7 years (I Kings 6:38-39)
- Solomon spared no expense for the Temple furnishings ( II Chronicles 4)



3. Solomon also built his own palace at the same time which took 13 years to complete
  - It is believed Solomon's palace was built close to or just south of the Temple
  - The interior floor space (11,250 square feet) of Solomon's palace was 4 times the interior floor space (2700) of the Temple.

# King Solomon

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The dedication of the Temple  
(I Kings 8)

“Thus all the work that King Solomon performed in the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought it the things dedicated by his father David, the silver and the gold and the utensils, and he put them in the treasuries of the house of the Lord” (I Kings 7:51)

- 1) These treasures (silver and gold) were given and dedicated by King David from the various nations that he subdued and or conquered. (II Sam. 8:11)
- 2) It is possible that these were the same treasures that would later be removed by King Nebuchadnezzar and taken to Babylon when he conquers the Southern Kingdom of Judah approx. 323 +/- years later.



“Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers households of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the city of David which is in Zion” (I Kings 8:1)

- 1) There was probably a sense of great accomplishment and an overwhelming sense of awe among the people, the priests and the leaderships as the Ark of the Covenant and the holy utensils were paraded down the streets of Jerusalem and now placed in their permanent home – The Temple.
- 2) Prior to this the Ark of the Covenant was located inside the “temporary dwelling” known as the Tabernacle located on Mt. Zion. (II Samuel 6:17)

- “It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord” (I Kings 8:10-11)
- Solomon addresses the people and dedicates the temple (I Kings 8:12-66) “May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us, that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances which He commanded our fathers” (I Kings 8:57-58)

# King Solomon

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Later years of Solomon's reign  
(I Kings 9-10)



Later years of Solomon's reign (I Kings 9-10)

There were a number of achievements by Solomon but the construction of the *Temple* was the single most notable accomplishment during his reign.

- Unlike his father David – Solomon was not known as a warrior but he was equally respected and feared by the neighboring countries and their leaders.
  - 1) Until the later years of his life; Solomon enjoyed a reign of relative peace with the surrounding nations and many of the kings who ruled those empires/countries paid homage and or tribute to this very wise king.
  - 2) Solomon's construction projects alone made other nations wealthy as he purchased their goods and hired their workers to complete the infrastructure of his growing and vast empire. (I Kings 9:10-28)
  - 3) The geographic region governed by Solomon was the largest land mass ever controlled by a king of Israel or Judah.

- Solomon's wisdom was unmatched (I Kings 10:1-13)
- Solomon's wealth was beyond compare (I Kings 10:14-29)



6. The Lord required one thing of Solomon - he was to remain faithful to the Him
- “The Lord said to him, I have heard your prayer and your supplication, which you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built by putting My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually” (I Kings 9:3)
  - “As for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel” (I Kings 9:4-5)
  - Solomon did not heed the Lord’s advice - he sinned and was judged accordingly

# King Solomon

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## Solomon's Weakness

1. It was Solomon's attraction to foreign women (those who did not share his same faith in Jehovah) that got him into trouble.
- **“Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the sons of Israel, **you shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.** Solomon held fast to these in love.” (I Kings 11:1)**
- **“He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away” (I Kings 11:2)**



- Solomon's conduct during this stage of his life was completely opposite of what he should have done and his actions were most disappointing to the Lord:
  - 1) Mosaic Law (Deuteronomy 17:17) prohibited the taking of many wives and yet Solomon had quite the harem (he had 1000 or more of them).
  - 2) Solomon began his down fall as he began to amass large quantities of horses and wealth to build a strong military force to defend his empire (I Kings 10:26-29) which was also forbidden by Mosaic Law. (Deut. 17:15-20)

- Solomon's wives led him down a path of idolatry and the worship of a number of false gods such as:
  - 1) Ashtoreth – The national goddess of the Sidonians. She was their goddess of sex and fertility. The worship of the stars was directly connected to her.
  - 2) Molech - was the national god of the Ammonites (descendants of Lot) and part of the worship of Molech was the offering of a human sacrifice (especially children) in order to appease him. This was expressly forbidden by the Mosaic Law.
  - 3) Chemosh – was the national god of the Moabites (descendant of Lot)

2. Solomon continued down a slippery slope of sin and he became obsessed with the worship of these false gods. He even constructed altars of worship (mini or small shrines/temples) in “high places” in order to burn incense and allow for the offering of sacrifices to these false gods.



“For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom (Molech) the detestable idol of the Ammonites”  
(I Kings 11:4-5)

“Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as David his father had done. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. This also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods” (I Kings 11:6-8)

3. Solomon's attitude toward God had *changed* and this shift was clearly influenced by his choice and decision to materially participate in the worship of these pagan gods.



- This shift in Solomon's attitude during this stage of his life is recorded in the Book of *Ecclesiastes* and it is quite apparent from his words in this book that he went a little sideways in his spiritual and emotional life.

- 1) "I said to myself, behold, I have magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge. And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; I realized that this is also is striving after the wind. Because in much wisdom there is much grief and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain" (Ecclesiastes 1:16-18)
- 2) "So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after the wind" (Ecc. 2:17)

Toward the end of the Book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon will show signs of a repentant life in which he acknowledges the Lord's sovereignty, but much damage to his personal life and to that of the kingdom is yet to come.

4. The result of this disobedience was that the United Kingdom of Israel and Judah that Solomon ruled would now face external threats and become divided upon his death.
- “So the Lord said to Solomon, because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to My servant.” (I Kings 11:11)
  - “Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen” (I Kings 11:12-13)



- In the remaining days of Solomon's reign, the Lord raised up **adversaries** who continually attacked and raided the various cities and towns of what remained of the United Kingdom of Israel. These adversaries were people groups who disliked the Israelites. Two of the named adversaries were:

- 1) **Hadad** the Edomite (The Edomites were descendants of Esau and their territory bordered the Southeastern portion of the Kingdom of Israel)
- 2) **Rezon** – king of Aram who ruled from Damascus (North of Jerusalem)

- The Lord also raised up *Jeroboam* (one of Solomon's servants), who was from the tribe of Ephraim, to bring about the division of the kingdom.
  - 1) The 10 tribes of Israel would follow *Jeroboam* who rebelled against Solomon and initially fled to Egypt. These 10 tribes would become known as the *Northern* Kingdom of Israel.
  - 2) The other 2 tribes (Judah and Benjamin) would follow Solomon's son *Rehoboam* and that Kingdom would become known as the *Southern* Kingdom of Judah.

Solomon's choices to willfully sin and disobey the Lord's commands are a good reminder that our actions have consequences. It is true that our Lord is a gracious and forgiving God. He also keeps His promises and sometimes the fulfillment of those promises come in the form of His judgment.



# King Solomon

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## Solomon's Repentance and Restoration

1. The writer of II Chronicles and I Kings seem to indicate there are other sources that provide insight into the remaining days of Solomon's life. It is possible that some of these sources may have been incorporated into the recorded Biblical accounts that we have but more than likely they are additional resources that have not been preserved.
  - “Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, from first to last, are they not written in the records of Nathan the prophet and in the prophecies of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat” (II Chronicles 9:29)
  - “Now the rest of the acts of Solomon and whatever he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the books of the books of the acts of Solomon” (I Kings 11:41)

2. Our best and only record of Solomon's spiritual and emotional condition toward the end of his life is found in the Book of Ecclesiastes, and it is here that I believe we find Solomon's repentance and restoration:
  - “Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly” (Ecclesiastes 8:12)
  - “The Conclusion, when all has been heard, is fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)



3. “Thus the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty year. And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place” (I Kings 11:42-43)

- Solomon’s 40 year reign was a mixture of highs and lows (clearly articulated in his book Ecclesiastes) but his understanding of wisdom was his legacy.
- Solomon was laid to rest with the others forefathers of faith who went before him
- Rehoboam will take over the throne and the United Kingdom of Israel will divide