

King Solomon

Selected Scriptures

"It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. God said to him, because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked for riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you. I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days. If you walk in my ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days" (I Kings 3:10-13)

Solomon's Birth (II Samuel 12:24-25)

1. Solomon's mother was **Bathsheba**
 - Solomon's birth came sometime after the death of David and Bathsheba's first child (II Samuel 12:15-23)
 - "Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went into her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him **Solomon**. Now the Lord loved him and sent word through Nathan the prophet and he named him **Jedidiah** for the LORD's sake" (II Samuel 12:24-25)
 - 1) Solomon means – **peace**
 - 2) Jedidiah means – **loved of the Lord**
2. Very little else is known about Solomon's early childhood years

Solomon's Beginnings

1. As David's reign as king was coming to a close his preparation for the construction of the Temple and for the one who would succeed him became his primary focus.

- “David said, my son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. Therefore now I will make preparations for it. So David made ample preparations before his death.” (I Chronicles 22:5)
- “Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the Lord God of Israel. David said to Solomon, my son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the Lord my God. But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, you have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me. “ (I Chronicles 22:6-8)
- “Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his father, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.” (I Chronicles 22:9-10)

2. David's words to Solomon

- “Now my son, the Lord be with you that you may be successful, and build the house of the Lord your God just as He has spoken concerning you. Only the Lord give you discretion and understanding, and give you charge over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. (I Chronicles 22:11-12)
- “Then you will prosper, if you are careful to observe the statutes and the ordinances which the Lord commanded Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and courageous, do not fear nor be dismayed” (I Chronicles 22:13)
- The key component in David's charge to his son Solomon was for him to be faithful and obedient to the Lord and to the law (the statutes and ordinances). As long as Solomon remained true to the Lord – he would be blessed of the Lord.

3. David's words to the leaders of Israel concerning Solomon and the Temple

- “Then King David rose to his feet and said, listen to me, my brethren and my people, I had intended to build a permanent home for the ark of the covenant of the Lord and for the footstool of our God. So I made preparations to build it. **But God said to me, you shall not build a house for my name because you are a man of war and have shed blood.**” (I Chronicles 28:2-3)
- “**Yet, the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me** from all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever. For he has chosen Judah to be a leader; and in the house of Judah, my father's house, and among the sons of my father, **He took pleasure in me to make me king over all Israel**” (I Chronicles 28:4)
- “Of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons), **He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.** He said to me, your son Solomon is the one who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be a son to Me, and I will be a father to him. **I will establish his kingdom forever if he resolutely performs My commandments and My ordinances as is done now**” (I Chronicles 28:5-7)

4. David's final charge to Solomon

- “As for you my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. (I Chronicles 28:9)
- 1) *What key words and actions can you identify from this passage that show what Solomon's responsibility was toward the Lord? **Know, serve, and seek God with his whole heart and willing mind***
- 2) *What single action could Solomon do that would jeopardize his relationship with the Lord? **To forsake the Lord would bring judgment***
- “Then David said to his son Solomon, be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished” (I Chronicles 28:20)

Solomon's Coronation as King

1. Solomon right to reign as king over Israel:

- First and foremost he was the Lord's choice

1) "Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his father, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.**" (I Chronicles 22:9-10)

2) "Of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons), **He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.** He said to me, your son Solomon is the one who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be a son to Me, and I will be a father to him. **I will establish his kingdom forever if he resolutely performs My commandments and My ordinances as is done now**" (I Chronicles 28:5-7)

- He was David's choice

1) Of all of David's sons, his choice to reign alongside of him during the final years of his life was Solomon. David made preparations for the construction of the temple and it would become Solomon's task to complete.

2) When an attempt was made by another of Solomon's brothers (Adonijah) to take the throne – it was David who set the matter straight by declaring Solomon to be king of Israel. (I Kings 1:47-48)

- He was embraced by the people of Israel to be their king (I Kings 1:39-40)

2. David's final challenge to Solomon before he died; "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to **keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies**, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, **that you may succeed** in all that you do and wherever you turn, so that the Lord may carry out all his promises....." (I Kings 2:1-4)

3. Solomon's initial reign as King of Israel begins (I Kings 2)

- “Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. The days that David reigned over Israel were 40 years: seven years he reigned in Hebron and thirty three years he reigned in Jerusalem. **And Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established**” (I Kings 2:10-11)
- Solomon will reign as King of Israel for a total of **40** years (I Kings 11:42)
 - 1) During the reign of Solomon the **temple** will be built
 - 2) Israel will experience its greatest **territorial** expansion during Solomon's reign
 - 3) Israel will be at relative **peace** with its neighbors during this period
- During the early years of Solomon's reign it was necessary for him to purge the leadership of sin and defilement and deal with some “unfinished” business left over from his father David's reign.
 - 1) **Adonijah** – Solomon's brother who initially attempted and subsequently failed to seize the throne around the time of David's death (I Kings 1). Solomon graciously allowed him to live (although his actions were treasonous), but Adonijah continued to position himself to overthrow Solomon by requesting to marry Abishag (a member of David's harem) and set himself up to make a formal claim to the throne. This request by Adonijah was understood by Solomon to be a further act of treason resulting in Adonijah's death.
 - 2) **Abiathar** – formally removed from his priestly office because he sided with Adonijah.
 - 3) **Joab** – Once the head of David's army and a mighty military leader was executed for his earlier actions in which he murdered Abner and Amasa. Joab also participated in Adonijah's attempt to overthrow Solomon's reign.
 - 4) **Shimei** – a potential threat to Solomon's rule was initially allowed to live (though he had earlier cursed David and under judgment for his actions) in exile. Shimei violated the terms of his sentence and subsequently put to death.

4. Solomon's chooses his closest advisors and important leaders in Israel
 - **Nathan** the prophet
 - **Zadok** the Priest – II Kings 2:35
 - **Benaiah** (head of the royal bodyguard and military leader – II Kings 2:35)
5. Solomon establishes diplomatic relations with the neighboring countries
 - Some of these “diplomatic relations” were created by marriage such as was the case with Egypt. (II Kings 3:1)
 - Many of the other peaceful relations that Solomon developed with neighboring countries were the result of mutual benefit such as trade and commerce.
 - Some of these relationships with foreign countries and the subsequent marriages between Solomon and “non-Israelite” (foreign) women resulted in compromise and sin which had a huge impact on Solomon's future and the future of Israel.
6. Solomon worships the Lord and prepares to lead the people of Israel
 - “Now Solomon the son of David established himself securely over his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and exalted him greatly. Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands and of hundred and to the judges and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers households” (II Chron. 1:1-2)
 - The worship of the Lord (prior to the Temple) was to take place at the Tabernacle (also referred to as the Tent of Meeting) and as was customary, Solomon and the leaders of Israel made a pilgrimage to the Tabernacle which was located at Gibeon to offer sacrifices to the Lord. (II Chronicles 1:3-6, I Kings 3:2-4)
 - It was during this time of worship that the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and this resulted in a prayer by Solomon that completely changed his life and the course of history for the people of Israel for the next 40 years.
 - The Lord says to Solomon; “Ask what you wish Me to give you” (I Kings 3:5)

Solomon's Request and the Lord's Response

1. "Then Solomon said, you have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before you in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that **you have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day**" (I Kings 3:6)
2. "Now, O Lord My God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet **I am but a little child**; I do not know how to go out or come in. Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. **So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil**. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours" (I Kings 3:7-9)

- The reference to him being a child is probably another way of saying he understood that he was inexperienced in comparison to his father David.
- Solomon appeared to have both a sense of humility and an unassuming nature about him which lent itself to a soft heart toward the Lord and a genuine willingness to seek His direction and blessing – very similar to David.
- The overwhelming task of leading the people of Israel was not taken lightly by Solomon and the need for wisdom and discernment was clearly his focus.
 - 1) Take note of the fact that Solomon acknowledges that the Lord **chose** Israel
 - 2) Another thing worth noting is Solomon knew full well that the **source** of wisdom and discernment came directly from the **Lord**, something that Solomon would write about throughout the various **Proverbs**.
 - 3) Ever since the days of Moses when he led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, the Israelite people had been a challenge to lead and Solomon was well aware of this enormous responsibility he was taking on in leading the people of God.
- The desire for an **understanding** heart to judge the people and **discern** between **good** and **evil** was something that Solomon knew he needed from the Lord.

3. The Lord answered:

- “It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. God said to him, because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked for riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, behold, I have done according to your words. Behold I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you” (I Kings 3:10-12)

- 1) This request by Solomon; for wisdom and understanding, pleased the Lord because it was an acknowledgment that he was more interested in the eternal things of the Lord and not just the temporal things found in this world.
- 2) The wisdom that the Lord grants to Solomon will cause him to write these words that are recorded in Proverbs; “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7)
- 3) The pursuit of wisdom by Solomon is also recorded here; “My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; for if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver and search for her as hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice, and He preserves the way of His godly ones” (Proverbs 2:1-8)
- 4) In this Proverb; Solomon expresses the benefit and blessings that are a result of wisdom and of following the Lord: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- 5) Solomon expresses the value of wisdom; “How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels and nothing you desire compares with her” (Prov. 3:13-15)

- “I have also given you what you have not asked for, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days” (I Kings 3:13)
 - 1) Since Solomon placed such a high value on wisdom and discernment and since he made that his primary request, then the Lord also granted him “riches and honor” which was of secondary importance but it will aid him in governing the people of Israel.
 - 2) It became true that in Solomon’s day that he was known for his wisdom but also for his wealth.
 - 3) The **Queen of Sheba** will later declare; “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about **your words and your wisdom**. Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. **You exceed in wisdom and prosperity** the report which I heard” (I Kings 10:6-7)
 - 4) “So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom” (I Kings 10:23)
- “If you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days. (I Kings 3:14)
 - 1) The immense amount of wealth and stature that Solomon was blessed with becomes the snare that will entrap him and will eventually cause his fall.
 - 2) Like his father David, he will struggle with complete obedience to the Lord, but in the case of Solomon, he will delve much farther into a number of sinful practices that will ultimately cause future damage to the Kingdom of Israel.
 - 3) The condition of “keeping My statutes and commandments” was something that became a challenge for Solomon and as such the promise of a long and fruitful life for Solomon was never fulfilled.
- 4. “Then Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and made peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants” (I Kings 3:15)

Solomon's Display of His Will, Wealth, and Wisdom

1. Solomon rules as King of Israel and his domination of the surrounding nations and kingdoms shows the tremendous power and will of his reign:
 - In order for this to take place, Solomon first needed to establish his authority which he did by building a strong team of leaders to govern what would develop into and become known as the united kingdom of Israel. (I Kings 4:1-19)
 - “Now Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines and to the borders of Egypt; they brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life” (I Kings 4:21)
 - 1) During Solomon's reign; the Euphrates River served as the north and eastern boundaries of the kingdom, the land of the Philistines served as the western boundary, and the land of Egypt served as the southern boundary.
 - 2) Some of the territories and lands described here remained as lands allocated to other nations and kingdoms but those kingdoms were under the control of Solomon's kingdom and they paid taxes to him.
 - The actual defined borders of the kingdom of Israel during this time are described in I Kings 4:25; “So Judah and Israel lived in safety, every man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan, even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon”
2. Solomon's wealth was beyond compare and his wisdom was unmatched by any other:
 - 12,000 horses, 1400 chariots, his annual revenue of gold alone was recorded to be 25 tons, his throne was made of ivory and it was overlaid in refined gold.
 - “So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. All the earth was seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart” (I Kings 10:23-24)
 - He spoke 3000 proverbs (several hundred preserved in the Books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes), wrote 1005 songs (one of which was recorded as The Song of Songs) and he was an expert in botany and zoology. (I Kings 4:32-34)

Solomon's Work

1. The construction of the Temple in Jerusalem became the single most notable event during the reign of King Solomon.
 - Solomon enlists the services of his neighbor and friend King Hiram of Tyre (Modern Lebanon) to gather the materials needed for the Temple project:
 - 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.

2. 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.

4. 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)

5. 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

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. (Deuteronomy 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.
5. 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.

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 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” (Ecc. 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