

Part 3: UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson 15: THE RISE AND FALL OF SOLOMON, 1 KINGS 1–11

8. What sacred items does Solomon bring to the temple, and how does God demonstrate his approval? (1 Kgs 8:1-11)
Summarize the dedication speech, prayer, benediction (blessing), and sacrifices of Solomon (vv. 12-66).
(OPTIONAL: Solomon echoes what Old Testament promises in his dedication?) What promise(s) and warning(s) does God relate to Solomon? (9:1-9)

9. What "gift" does Solomon give to Hiram? (1 Kgs 9:10-11) Does Hiram appreciate the "gift"? (vv. 12-14) Summarize the social and political policies of King Solomon (vv. 15-28).

10. What foreign queen does Solomon impress (and seemingly form an alliance)? (1 Kgs 10:1-13) Summarize the prosperity of Solomon (vv. 14-29). (OPTIONAL: Estimate the present value of the described wealth of Solomon.)

**11. Solomon loves women from what nations? (1 Kgs 11:1-3)
What happens to Solomon in his old age? (vv. 4-8) How
does God feel about Solomon's actions, and what does God
promise? (vv. 9-13) What enemies does God raise up
against Solomon? (vv. 14-40)**

**12. How long does Solomon reign over Israel before his death,
and who takes his place thereafter? (1 Kgs 11:41-43)**

CHALLENGE: Solomon initially loved God. He ruled with wisdom over the people of God. He fulfilled the promises of God and built the temple. Yet, Solomon also married foreign women and abandoned the Lord because he eventually loved his wives more than he loved God. Evaluate your present relationships, and make sure that you are influencing your worldly friends for good rather than they you for evil.

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Lesson 16: The Book of FIRST KINGS and the New Testament

1. The enemies of Solomon (e.g., Adonijah) attempt to steal the throne from him, but his first act as king is to extend mercy to them (1 Kgs 1:49-53). How does Solomon in this way parallel Christ?
2. Solomon fulfills the Davidic covenant (2 Sam 7:12-16; 1 Kgs 2:2-4; cf. v. 24). But even he is not the ultimate fulfillment of the divine promise. List at least three ways in which Jesus is the ultimate "son of David"?

3. Solomon asks God for wisdom to rule justly. God grants his request on the condition that Solomon obeys the law. In what way(s) do law and wisdom find their fulfillment in Christ? (Matt 5:17; 1 Cor 1:30)
4. Read 1 Kgs 4:20-21. What Old Testament promise(s) do these verses echo? What New Testament promise(s) or fulfillment(s) do these verse foreshadow?

5. Solomon builds the temple of God (1 Kgs 5-8). The temple is a beautiful and sacred place. God dwells in it. (The palace of Solomon is near [attached to?] the temple precinct.) The temple uses Eden imagery. The people of God (and even the nations) find forgiveness and blessing in it. What New Testament realities does the temple preview? (John 2:19-21; 1 Cor 3:16-17; 6:19; 1 Pet 2:4-10)

6. The wisdom of Solomon attracts the attention of the queen of Sheba (1 Kgs 10:1-13). How and why does Jesus use the story of the queen of Sheba in Luke 11:31? (NOTE: Christ affirms the historicity of First Kings.)

7. Why does God not end the line of David with Solomon? (1 Kgs 11:11-13, 31-39) (NOTE: Enemies rise up against both Solomon and Jesus. Solomon faces his adversaries because he sins. Jesus faces his adversaries because he never sins. Interestingly, the places of origin of their enemies overlap—Edom [Hadad // Herod], Syria [Rezon // the Galileans?], and Israel [Jeroboam // the Jews].)

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