

Royal Lessons from the Kings

By Doug Hamilton

Solomon: The “Take Heed Lest Ye Fall” King

- Matthew 6:28-29 “And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,²⁹ yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

His Beginnings

- He was the second son of David and Bathsheba from as revealed in *2 Sam 12:24-25*. *Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved him²⁵ and sent word through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the LORD’S sake.*
- His name means “peaceable” and his nickname Jedidiah means “beloved of the LORD” and that he was, for he was the “Golden Child” of David his father. He was promised the throne years prior as indicated in *1 Kings 1:17* “*My lord, you swore to your maidservant by the LORD your God, saying, ‘Surely your son Solomon shall be king after me and he shall sit on my throne.’*”

His Wisdom

- In *1 Kings 3:5-9* when God granted Solomon one wish, Solomon said, “...*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?*” He could have asked for money, power, a long life or a 60” flat screen with a BlueRay player, but he chose the best request of all, wisdom. Because of that God gave him not only the wisdom, but also the entire package.
- *1 Kings 3:16-28* Then two women who were harlots came to the king and stood before him.¹⁷ The one woman said, “Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she *was* in the house.¹⁸ “It happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house.¹⁹ “This woman’s son died in the night, because she lay on it.²⁰ “So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom.²¹ “When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I looked at him carefully in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne.”²² Then the other woman said, “No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son.” But the first woman said, “No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son.” Thus they spoke before the king.²³ Then the king said, “The one says, ‘This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one’; and the other says, ‘No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.’ ”²⁴ The king said, “Get me a sword.” So they brought a sword before the king.²⁵ The king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.”²⁶ Then the woman whose child *was* the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, “Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him.” But the other said, “He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide *him!*”²⁷ Then the king said, “Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother.”²⁸ When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed

Royal Lessons from the Kings

By Doug Hamilton

down, they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

- 1 Kings 4:30-34 Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ For he was wiser than all men, than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was *known* in all the surrounding nations. ³² He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. ³³ He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon even to the hyssop that grows on the wall; he spoke also of animals and birds and creeping things and fish. ³⁴ Men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.
- Anyone having read the Proverbs could clearly see that Solomon was a wise man. It is in the Proverbs that he addressed wisdom concerning topics such as parenting, leadership, money, marriage, sex, morals, anger, happiness, stress, contentment, resentment, life, death and dozens of other pertinent topics.
- 1 Kings 10:1-8 states that the "...*queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with difficult questions.*" She had heard about his wisdom, but she did not believe it. He answered all her questions in such a way that there remained no "spirit" of unbelief in her. Jesus actually used this as an example for the condemnation of the unbelieving Jews in *Matthew 12:42* "*The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.*"
- His wisdom was second only to Christ as those that walked upon the earth and the historical record indicates this fact.

His Buildings

- It was predicted that he would be the builder of the temple of God many years prior to his reign. 2 Samuel 7:12-13 "*When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.*" ¹³ "*He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*"

The Temple

- 1 Chronicles 28:11 states that Solomon received the building plans from David his father. 1 Kings 6:1 says "...*in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.*"
- It was a seven year project that became one of the most ornate locations on earth. Hundreds of hand carvings, ornate wood and hangings, hundreds of pounds of gold, hand cut stones and craftsmanship that was the very best in the world.
- When he dedicated the temple he spoke to the nation, saying 1 Kings 8:12-13 "*The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud.*" ¹³ "*I have surely built You a lofty house, A place for Your dwelling forever.*" 1 Kings 8:63 states that Solomon *offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the LORD, 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the sons of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.* Everyone was impressed!

Royal Lessons from the Kings

By Doug Hamilton

- This would be the permanent location of the Ark of the Covenant and the other holy furniture of the Lord. It was the place of sacrifice of the entire nation of Israel. It would remain in place for the next four-hundred years until Babylon destroyed it in 586 BC.

The Palace

- Solomon spent thirteen years building a palace for himself which was quite impressive in its own right.
- It was 150' long, 75' wide, having more than 11,000 square feet of living space. There were 45 nearly fifty foot pillars supporting the primary palace.
- The front porch of the palace was another 3,300 square feet.
- He also built a wing for Pharaoh's daughter and several other rooms along the side.
- The palace was filled with many costly carvings, stones, gold, linens and whatever else was extravagant. He was a billionaire and the house communicated this point.
- The bill alone for the contractor was twenty cities in Galilee and 400 pounds of gold.

His Wealth

1 Kings 4:21-28 states concerning the wealth of Solomon...

- That all of the surrounding nations brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.
- That the daily provision for his palace was 300 bushels of fine flour, 600 bushels of meal, 30 oxen, 100 sheep and much additional wild game.
- That he had 40,000 stalls of horses, 12,000 riders and unlimited feed for both.
- He made money on every transaction and on every trade route. *2 Chronicles 9:27* states that he "...made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamore trees that are in the lowland." 1 Kings 10:14 states that he received more than 50,000 pounds of gold per year.
- There have been some economists that have estimated his earnings to nearly a billion dollars per year.

His Fall

God warned Solomon to stay faithful.

- 1 Kings 9:4-7 "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 have commanded you *and* will keep My statutes and My ordinances, ⁵ 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.' ⁶ "But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, ⁷ then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

He fell into "Love" with a lot of women.

- 1 Kings 11:1-3 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ² from the

Royal Lessons from the Kings

By Doug Hamilton

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.³ He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away.

- He wrote the Song of Solomon to illustrate the love of one of the women. One can see his deep passion for the opposite sex within the pages of that writing. HE LOVED HIS WOMEN!

He fell out of love with the Father.

- 1 Kings 11:4-9 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*.⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites.⁶ Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father *had done*.⁷ 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.⁸ Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.⁹ Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD

It is said that Solomon wrote Proverbs at the height of his relationship with God and that Ecclesiastes was at the lowest depths of the same. In the latter he exposes futility in light of all that he attained in life. He discusses the futility of wisdom, pleasure, possessions, labor and of life in general. “*Vanity, vanity, all is vanity.*” It is rather a depressing book that must be read in the context of a man that lost his passion for the Lord. It is not until the end that he comes to the most brilliant thought of the twelve chapters. It is very likely that these are the last recorded words of Solomon that we have, therefore listen closely.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person.¹⁴ For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

Church, take heed lest ye fall. (1 Cor 10:12)