

King Solomon

Objectives

To learn form the strengths and weaknesses of King Solomon during his reign

References

1. www.aish.com/.../Crash_Course_in_Jewish_History_Part_19_-_King_Solomon.asp
2. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon
3. jeru.huji.ac.il/eb32s.htm
4. www.newadvent.org/cathen/14135b.htm
5. www.execulink.com/~wblank/solomon.htm
6. 1 kings 2:1-9 and 2 Chronicles - chapters 1-9

Scriptural Verse

“And keep the charge of the Lord your God to walk in His ways, to keep his statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn” (1 Kings 2:3)

Lesson Outlines

1. The name Solomon is derived from the Hebrew word meaning peace. The prophet Samuel also called him Jedidiah, which means loved by God. He was born approximately 1030 B.C.; the tenth son of King David and the second son of his mother, Bathsheba.
2. He was the third king of Israel and the last king of the united kingdom. Solomon reigned for 40 years and was less than 18 years when he was enthroned. On his deathbed, David gave parting instructions and encouragement to his son (1 Kings 2:1-9, 1 Chronicles 22:7-16). It certainly seemed to help - Solomon, with God’s help, lost no time in changing the former slave nation and wanderers of the desert, into the most powerful nation in the region.
3. Solomon’s 40 years of reign were a high point in Bible and Jewish history. The first two decades were definitely the brightest since he built the original temple of God.
4. Solomon is perhaps most famous for building the original temple of God in Jerusalem to serve as a place of worship as well as a permanent home of The Ark Of The Covenant. David had made extensive preparations for the building (1 Chronicles 29:6-9, 2 Chronicles 2:3-7), but God declared that Solomon would be the builder (1 Chronicles 22:8).
5. After the temple was completed, Solomon engaged in numerous other great projects throughout Jerusalem and Israel. The magnificence and splendor of the kingdom was unrivaled. Trade with other nations such as Tyre, Egypt, Arabia, Spain, India and the coasts of Africa flourished. Solomon accumulated vast

wealth from many nations (1 Kings 9:26-28, 10:11-12, 2 Chronicles 8:17-18, 9:21). It was Israel's "golden age."

6. In the later two decades, and despite of all his known wisdom, he drifted into idolatry. Ironically, Solomon even made an alliance with Egypt and married the daughter of Pharaoh (1 Kings 3:1) - one of many political marriages that eventually contributed greatly to his downfall. He also entered into an alliance with Hiram, king of Tyre, who proved to be a powerful ally of Israel. Solomon eventually had 700 wives and 300 concubines from many different nations. And **"when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David."** (1 Kings 11:4)

Solomon's end was far different than his beginning. In his later years he became corrupt and perverted, which resulted in the fall of his kingdom - the same reasons that, many years later, the temple which he built also fell. However, as H.H. Pope Shenoudah said in the Book "Many Years with the Problems of People", Solomon returned back to God at the end of his life and wrote the Books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes and was saved because of God's promise to David "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. **But My mercy shall not depart from him**, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you" (2 Samuel 7:12-15)

Conclusion

Solomon was the wisest man on Earth and his success was because of his initial adherence to God. His wisdom without God, however, was not sufficient in protecting him in the later part of his life.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. Divide into two groups: one group is to find and discuss points of strength of King Solomon and the second to discuss the points of weakness in his life.
2. Discuss the value of wisdom for each youth and how to attain it.