

~SOLOMON (3293)

(Sol'o-mon) [from a root meaning, peace]

- Yehowah's Promise To David
- Adonijah's Attempt To Take The Throne
- Solomon Enthroned
- David's Charge To Solomon
- Adonijah's Seditious Request
- Abiathar Deposed, Joab Put To Death
- Shimei Executed
- Solomon's Wise Request
- Building Projects
- Inauguration Of The Temple
- Solomon's Prayer
- Government Buildings
- Nationwide Building
- His Riches And Glory
- His Household Food Supply
- Queen Of Sheba Visits Solomon
- Prosperity Of His Rule
- Solomon's Wisdom
- His Deviation From Righteousness
- Resisters Of Solomon
- Jesus, A Legal Heir Of Solomon
- Need To Guard The Heart
- Messianic Prophecies

• Son of King David of the line of Judah, king of Israel from **1037 to 998 B.C.E.** The Bible record, after reporting the death of the son born to David through his illicit relations with Bath-sheba, continues.

• And David began to comfort Bath-sheba his wife. Further, he came in to her and lay down with her. In time she bore a son, and his name came to be called **Solomon**. And Yehowah himself did love him. (**2 Samuel 12:24**)

• **Solomon** later had three full brothers, sons of David and Bath-sheba: Shimea, Shobab, and Nathan.

• And there were these born to him in Jerusalem, **Shimea** and **Shobab** and **Nathan** and **Solomon**, four of Bath-sheba the daughter of Ammiel. (**1 Chronicles 3:5**)

· Yehowah's Promise To David

- Yehowah had declared to David, before **Solomon's** birth, that a son would be born to him and that his name would be **Solomon**, and that this one would build a house to His name.
- The name Jedidiah, meaning, **Beloved of Yah**, seems to have been given as an indication to David that Yehowah had now blessed his marriage to Bath-sheba and that the fruitage thereby produced was approved by him.
- But this was not the name by which the child was commonly known. Undoubtedly the name **Solomon**, from a root meaning, **peace**, applied in connection with the covenant that Yehowah made with David, in which he said that David, being a man who had shed much blood in warfare, would not build the house for Yehowah, as David had it in his heart to do.
- Moreover, he called **Solomon** his son that he might command him to build a house to Yehowah the God of Israel. (**1 Chronicles 22:6**)
- And David went on to say to **Solomon** his son; As for myself, it became close to my heart to build a house to the name of Yehowah my God. (**1 Chronicles 22:7**)
- But Yehowah's word came against me, saying; Blood in great quantity you have spilled, and great wars you have waged. You will not build a house to my name, for a great deal of blood you have spilled on the earth before me. (**1 Chronicles 22:8**)
- Look! There is a son being born to you. He himself will prove to be a restful man, and I shall certainly give him rest from all his enemies all around, for **Solomon** is what his name will become, and peace and quietness I shall bestow upon Israel in his days. (**1 Chronicles 22:9**)
- It is he that will build a house to my name, and he himself will become a son to me, and I a father to him. And I shall certainly establish the throne of his kingship firmly over Israel to time indefinite. (**1 Chronicles 22:10**)
- Not that David's warfare was wrong. But Yehowah's typical kingdom was essentially of a peaceful nature and objective, its wars

were to clean out wickedness and those opposing Yehowah's sovereignty, to extend Israel's dominion to the boundaries that God had outlined, and to establish righteousness and peace.

- These objectives the wars of David accomplished for Israel. **Solomon's** rule was essentially a reign of peace.

• Adonijah's Attempt To Take The Throne

- After his birth **Solomon** next appears in the Scriptural record in the time of David's old age.
- David, doubtless on account of Yehowah's promise, had previously sworn to Bath-sheba that **Solomon** would succeed him on the throne. This was known to the prophet Nathan.
- Nathan now said to Bath-sheba, **Solomon's** mother; Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and our lord David does not know of it at all? ([1 Kings 1:11](#))
- So now come, let me, please, solemnly counsel you. And provide escape for your own soul and for the soul of your son **Solomon**. ([1 Kings 1:12](#))
- Go and enter in to King David, and you must say to him; Was it not you, my lord the king, that swore to your slave girl, saying; **Solomon** your son is the one that will become king after me, and he is the one that will sit upon my throne? So why has Adonijah become king? ([1 Kings 1:13](#))
- At this she said to him; My lord, it was you that swore by Yehowah your God to your slave girl, **Solomon** your son is the one that will become king after me, and he is the one that will sit upon my throne. ([1 Kings 1:17](#))
- Whether **Solomon's** half brother Adonijah knew of this oath or intent of David is not stated. In any case, Adonijah made an attempt to gain the throne in a manner similar to that employed by Absalom.
- Perhaps because of the king's feebleness and because Adonijah had the support of Joab the army chief and of Abiathar the priest, he had confidence that he would be successful. It was nonetheless a treasonable action, an effort to seize the throne while David was still alive and without the approval of David or of Yehowah.

- **Also, Adonijah revealed his underhandedness when he arranged for a sacrifice at En-rogel, where he intended to be acclaimed as king, but invited only the kings other sons and men of Judah, the kings servants, leaving out **Solomon**, Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest, and the mighty men who had fought closely with David, including Benaiah their leader.**
- **This indicates that Adonijah counted **Solomon** as a rival and an obstacle to his ambitions.**
- **All the while Adonijah the son of Haggith was lifting himself up, saying; I myself am going to rule as king! And he proceeded to have a chariot made for himself with horsemen and fifty men running before him. (1 Kings 1:5)**
- **And his father did not hurt his feelings at any time by saying; Why is this the way you have done? And he was also very good-looking in form, and his mother had borne him after Absalom. (1 Kings 1:6)**
- **And he came to have dealings with Joab the son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they began offering help as followers of Adonijah. (1 Kings 1:7)**
- **As for Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and the mighty men that belonged to David, they did not become involved with Adonijah. (1 Kings 1:8)**
- **Eventually Adonijah held a sacrifice of sheep and cattle and fatlings close by the stone of Zoheleth, which is beside En-rogel, and he proceeded to invite all his brothers the king's sons and all the men of Judah the kings servants. (1 Kings 1:9)**
- **And Nathan the prophet and Benaiah and the mighty men and **Solomon** his brother he did not invite. (1 Kings 1:10)**

·· **Solomon Enthroned**

- **The prophet Nathan, ever faithful to Yehowah and to David, was on the alert. First sending Bath-sheba with instructions to inform the king of the plot, he then came in himself, asking David if this proclaiming of Adonijah as king had been authorized by him.**

- David acted quickly and decisively, calling for Zadok the priest and Nathan to take **Solomon** to Gihon under the protection of Benaiah and his men. They were to put **Solomon** on the king's own she-mule, denoting a high honor to the one riding, in this case, that he was successor to the kingship.
- Let them bring royal apparel with which the king does clothe himself and a horse upon which the king does ride and on the head of which the royal headdress has been put. (**Esther 6:8**)
- And let there be a putting of the apparel and the horse into the charge of one of the king's noble princes, and they must clothe the man in whose honor the king himself has taken a delight, and they must make him ride on the horse in the public square of the city, and they must call out before him, This is how it is done to the man in whose honor the king himself has taken a delight. (**Esther 6:9**)
- David's instructions were followed out, and **Solomon** was anointed and acclaimed as king.
- Nathan now said to Bath-sheba, **Solomon's** mother; Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and our lord David does not know of it at all? (**1 Kings 1:11**)
- So now come, let me, please, solemnly counsel you. And provide escape for your own soul and for the soul of your son **Solomon**. (**1 Kings 1:12**)
- Go and enter in to King David, and you must say to him; Was it not you, my lord the king, that swore to your slave girl, saying; **Solomon** your son is the one that will become king after me, and he is the one that will sit upon my throne? So why has Adonijah become king? (**1 Kings 1:13**)
- Look! While you are yet speaking there with the king, then I myself shall come in after you, and I shall certainly confirm your words. (**1 Kings 1:14**)
- Accordingly Bath-sheba went in to the king in the interior room, and the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was waiting upon the king. (**1 Kings 1:15**)

- Then Bath-sheba bowed low and prostrated herself to the king, upon which the king said; What do you have to ask? (**1 Kings 1:16**)
- At this she said to him; My lord, it was you that swore by Yehowah your God to your slave girl, **Solomon** your son is the one that will become king after me, and he is the one that will sit upon my throne. (**1 Kings 1:17**)
- And now, look! Adonijah himself has become king, and now my lord the king himself does not know of it at all. (**1 Kings 1:18**)
- So he sacrificed bulls and fatlings and sheep in great quantity and invited all the sons of the king and Abiathar the priest and Joab the chief of the army, but **Solomon** your servant he has not invited. (**1 Kings 1:19**)
- And you my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are upon you, to tell them who is going to sit upon the throne of my lord the king after him. (**1 Kings 1:20**)
- And it will certainly occur that as soon as my lord the king lies down with his forefathers, I myself and also my son **Solomon** shall certainly become offenders. (**1 Kings 1:21**)
- And, look! while she was yet speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet himself came in. (**1 Kings 1:22**)
- At once they told the king, saying; Here is Nathan the prophet! After that he came in before the king and prostrated himself to the king with his face to the earth. (**1 Kings 1:23**)
- Then Nathan said; My lord the king, did you yourself say; Adonijah is the one that will become king after me, and he is the one that will sit upon my throne? (**1 Kings 1:24**)
- For he has today gone down that he might sacrifice bulls and fatlings and sheep in great quantity and might invite all the sons of the king and the chiefs of the army and Abiathar the priest, and there they are eating and drinking before him and they keep saying; Let King Adonijah live! (**1 Kings 1:25**)
- But as for me your servant, me and Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and **Solomon** your servant he has not invited.

(1 Kings 1:26)

- **If it is from my lord the king that this thing has been brought about, then you have not caused your servant to know who should sit upon the throne of my lord the king after him. (1 Kings 1:27)**
- **King David now answered and said; You men, call Bath-sheba for me. At that she came in before the king and stood before the king. (1 Kings 1:28)**
- **And the king proceeded to swear and say; As Yehowah is living who redeemed my soul out of all distress. (1 Kings 1:29)**
- **Just as I have sworn to you by Yehowah the God of Israel, saying; **Solomon** your son is the one that will become king after me, and he is the one that will sit upon my throne in place of me! that is the way I shall do this day. (1 Kings 1:30)**
- **Then Bath-sheba bowed low with her face to the earth and prostrated herself to the king and said; Let my lord King David live to time indefinite! (1 Kings 1:31)**
- **Immediately King David said; You men, call for me Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. So they came in before the king. (1 Kings 1:32)**
- **And the king went on to say to them; Take with you the servants of your lord, and you must make **Solomon** my son ride upon the she-mule that belongs to me and lead him down to Gihon. (1 Kings 1:33)**
- **And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet must anoint him there as king over Israel, and you must blow the horn and say; Let King **Solomon** live! (1 Kings 1:34)**
- **And you must come up following him, and he must come in and sit upon my throne, and he himself will be king in place of me, and him I shall have to commission to become leader over Israel and over Judah. (1 Kings 1:35)**
- **At once Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said; Amen! Thus may Yehowah the God of my lord the king say. (1 Kings 1:36)**

- **Just as Yehowah proved to be with my lord the king, so let him prove to be with **Solomon**, and may he make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David. (1 Kings 1:37)**
- **And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and the Pelethites proceeded to go down and make **Solomon** ride upon the she-mule of King David, and then brought him to Gihon. (1 Kings 1:38)**
- **Zadok the priest now took the horn of oil out of the tent and anointed **Solomon**, and they began to blow the horn, and all the people broke out saying; Let King Solomon live! (1 Kings 1:39)**
- **After that all the people came on up following him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by the noise of them. (1 Kings 1:40)**
- **On hearing the sound of the music at Gihon, not so very far away, and the shouting of the people; **Let King Solomon live**, Adonijah and his fellow conspirators fled in fear and confusion. **Solomon** gave a foregleam of the peace that would mark his rulership by refusing to mar his ascension to the throne by taking revenge.**
- **Had matters been reversed, **Solomon** would very likely have lost his life. Adonijah fled to the sanctuary for asylum, so **Solomon** sent word there and had Adonijah brought before him.**
- **Informing Adonijah that he would continue to live unless bad should be found in him, **Solomon** then dismissed him to his house.**
- **And Adonijah and all the ones invited that were with him got to hear it, when they themselves had finished eating. When Joab got to hear the sound of the horn, he at once said; What does the noise of the town in an uproar mean? (1 Kings 1:41)**
- **While he was yet speaking, why, here Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. Then Adonijah said; Come on in, for you are a valiant man, and you bring Good News. (1 Kings 1:42)**
- **But Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah; No! Our lord King David himself has made **Solomon** king. (1 Kings 1:43)**

- So the king sent with him Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and they made him ride upon the she-mule of the king. (**1 Kings 1:44**)
- Then Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed him as king in Gihon, after which they came up from there rejoicing, and the town is in an uproar. That was the noise that you men heard. (**1 Kings 1:45**)
- And, besides, **Solomon** has sat down upon the throne of the kingship. (**1 Kings 1:46**)
- And, another thing, the servants of the king have come in to wish our lord King David well, saying; May your God make **Solomon's** name more splendid than your name, and may he make his throne greater than your throne! At that the king bowed down upon the bed. (**1 Kings 1:47**)
- And too this is what the king said; Blessed be Yehowah the God of Israel, who has today given one to sit upon my throne, with my own eyes seeing it! (**1 Kings 1:48**)
- And all those invited that were with Adonijah began to tremble and rise up and go each one on his own way. (**1 Kings 1:49**)
- And Adonijah himself was afraid because of **Solomon**. So he rose up and went away and grabbed hold of the horns of the altar. (**1 Kings 1:50**)
- In time the report was made to **Solomon**, saying; Here Adonijah himself has become afraid of King Solomon, and here he has taken hold on the horns of the altar, saying; Let King Solomon first of all swear to me that he will not put his servant to death by the sword. (**1 Kings 1:51**)
- To this **Solomon** said; If he will become a valiant man, there will not fall a single hair of his to the earth, but if what is bad should be found in him, he will also have to die. (**1 Kings 1:52**)
- So King **Solomon** sent and they brought him down from off the altar. Then he came in and bowed down to King **Solomon**, after which Solomon said to him; Go to your own house. (**1 Kings 1:53**)

· David's Charge To Solomon

· David, before dying, gave **Solomon** the solemn charge to keep the obligation to Yehowah your God by walking in his ways, by keeping his statutes, his commandments and his judicial decisions and his testimonies.

· He further instructed him not to let Joab and Shimei go down into Sheol in peace, also to show loving-kindness toward the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite.

· And the days of David gradually drew near for him to die, and he proceeded to command **Solomon** his son, saying; (**1 Kings 2:1**)

· I am going in the way of all the earth, and you must be strong and prove yourself to be a man. (**1 Kings 2:2**)

· And you must keep the obligation to Yehowah your God by walking in his ways, by keeping his statutes, his commandments and his judicial decisions and his testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, in order, that you may act prudently in everything that you do and everywhere that you turn. (**1 Kings 2:3**)

· In order, that Yehowah may carry out his word that he spoke respecting me, saying; If your sons will take care of their way by walking before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there will not be cut off a man of yours from sitting upon the throne of Israel. (**1 Kings 2:4**)

· And you yourself also well know what Joab the son of Zeruah did to me in what he did to two chiefs of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, when he killed them and placed the blood of war in peacetime and put the blood of war on his belt that was about his hips and in his sandals that were on his feet. (**1 Kings 2:5**)

· And you must act according to your wisdom, and not let his gray hairs go down in peace to Sheol. (**1 Kings 2:6**)

· And toward the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite you should exercise loving-kindness, and they must prove to be among those eating at your table, for that was the way they drew near to me when I

ran away from before Absalom your brother. (1 Kings 2:7)

- And here there is with you Shimei the son of Gera the Benjaminite from Bahurim, and he it was that called down evil upon me with a painful malediction on the day that I was going to Mahanaim, and he it was that came down to meet me at the Jordan, so that I swore to him by Yehowah, saying; I shall not put you to death by the sword. (1 Kings 2:8)
- And now do not leave him unpunished, for you are a wise man and you well know what you ought to do to him, and you must bring his gray hairs down to Sheol with blood. (1 Kings 2:9)
- Probably it was prior to this that David had given instructions to **Solomon** regarding the building of the temple, passing on to him the architectural plan that had come to be with him by inspiration.
- And David proceeded to give **Solomon** his son the architectural plan of the porch and of its houses and its storerooms and its roof chambers and its dark inner rooms and the house of the propitiatory cover. (1 Chronicles 28:11)
- Even the architectural plan of everything that had come to be with him by inspiration for the courtyards of Yehowah's house and for all the dining rooms all around, for the treasures of the house of the true God and for the treasures of the things made holy. (1 Chronicles 28:12)
- He gave insight for the entire thing in writing from the hand of Yehowah upon me, even for all the works of the architectural plan. (1 Chronicles 28:19)
- David gave command to the princes of Israel there present to help **Solomon** his son and to join in building the sanctuary of Yehowah. On this occasion the people anointed **Solomon** again as king and Zadok as priest. (1 Chronicles Chapter 28)
- Moreover, he called **Solomon** his son that he might command him to build a house to Yehowah the God of Israel. (1 Chronicles 22:6)
- And David went on to say to **Solomon** his son; As for myself, it became close to my heart to build a house to the name of Yehowah my God. (1 Chronicles 22:7)

- **But Yehowah's word came against me, saying; Blood in great quantity you have spilled, and great wars you have waged. You will not build a house to my name, for a great deal of blood you have spilled on the earth before me. (1 Chronicles 22:8)**
- **Look! There is a son being born to you. He himself will prove to be a restful man, and I shall certainly give him rest from all his enemies all around, for **Solomon** is what his name will become, and peace and quietness I shall bestow upon Israel in his days. (1 Chronicles 22:9)**
- **It is he that will build a house to my name, and he himself will become a son to me, and I a father to him. And I shall certainly establish the throne of his kingship firmly over Israel to time indefinite. (1 Chronicles 22:10)**
- **Now, my son, may Yehowah prove to be with you, and you must prove successful and build the house of Yehowah your God, just as he has spoken concerning you. (1 Chronicles 22:11)**
- **Only may Yehowah give you discretion and understanding, and may he give you commandment concerning Israel even to keep the Law of Yehowah your God. (1 Chronicles 22:12)**
- **In that case you will prove successful if you take care to carry out the regulations and the judicial decisions that Yehowah commanded Moses respecting Israel. Be courageous and strong. Do not be afraid nor be terrified. (1 Chronicles 22:13)**
- **And here during my affliction I have prepared for Yehowah's house a hundred thousand talents of gold and a million talents of silver, and the copper and the iron there is no means of weighing because they have come to be in such quantity, and timbers and stones I have prepared, but to them you will make additions. (1 Chronicles 22:14)**
- **And with you there are in great number doers of work, stone hewers and workers in stone and wood and every one skillful in every sort of work. (1 Chronicles 22:15)**
- **The gold, the silver and the copper and the iron there is no means of numbering. Rise and act, and may Yehowah prove to be with you. (1 Chronicles 22:16)**

- **And David went on to command all the princes of Israel to help **Solomon** his son. (1 Chronicles 22:17)**
- **Is not Yehowah your God with you, and has he not given you rest all around? For he has given into my hand the inhabitants of the land, and the land has been subdued before Yehowah and before his people. (1 Chronicles 22:18)**
- **Now set your heart and your soul to inquire after Yehowah your God, and rise and build the sanctuary of Yehowah the true God, to bring the ark of the covenant of Yehowah and the holy utensils of the true God to the house built to the name of Yehowah. (1 Chronicles 22:19)**
- **David the king now said to all the congregation; **Solomon** my son, the one whom God has chosen, is young and delicate, but the work is great, for the castle is not for man, but for Yehowah God. (1 Chronicles 29:1)**
- **And according to all my power I have prepared for the house of my God the gold for the goldwork, and the silver for the silverwork, and the copper for the copperwork, the iron for the ironwork, and the timbers for the timberwork, onyx stones, and stones to be set with hard mortar, and mosaic pebbles, and every precious stone, and alabaster stones in great quantity. (1 Chronicles 29:2)**
- **And since I am taking pleasure in the house of my God, there is yet a special property of mine, gold and silver, I do give it to the house of my God over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house. (1 Chronicles 29:3)**
- **Three thousand talents of gold of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for coating the walls of the houses. (1 Chronicles 29:4)**
- **Of the gold for the goldwork, and of the silver for the silverwork and for all the work by the hand of the craftsmen. And who is there volunteering to fill his hand today with a gift for Yehowah? (1 Chronicles 29:5)**
- **And the princes of the paternal houses and the princes of the tribes of Israel and the chiefs of thousands and of hundreds and**

- the chiefs of the business of the king proceeded to volunteer. (1 Chronicles 29:6)**
- **Accordingly they gave to the service of the house of the true God gold worth five thousand talents and ten thousand darics and silver worth ten thousand talents and copper worth eighteen thousand talents and iron worth a hundred thousand talents. (1 Chronicles 29:7)**
 - **And what stones were found with any persons they gave to the treasure of the house of Yehowah under the control of Jehiel the Gershonite. (1 Chronicles 29:8)**
 - **And the people gave way to rejoicing over their making voluntary offerings, for it was with a complete heart that they made voluntary offerings to Yehowah, and even David the king himself rejoiced with great joy. (1 Chronicles 29:9)**
 - **Consequently David blessed Yehowah before the eyes of all the congregation and David said; Blessed may you be, O Yehowah the God of Israel our father, from time indefinite even to time indefinite. (1 Chronicles 29:10)**
 - **Yours, O Yehowah, are the greatness and the mightiness and the beauty and the excellency and the dignity, for everything in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Yehowah, the One also lifting yourself up as head over all. (1 Chronicles 29:11)**
 - **The riches and the glory are on account of you, and you are dominating everything, and in your hand there are power and mightiness, and in your hand is ability to make great and to give strength to all. (1 Chronicles 29:12)**
 - **And now, O our God, we are thanking you and praising your beauteous name. (1 Chronicles 29:13)**
 - **And yet, who am I and who are my people, that we should retain power to make voluntary offerings like this? For everything is from you, and out of your own hand we have given to you. (1 Chronicles 29:14)**
 - **For we are alien residents before you and settlers the same as all our forefathers. Like a shadow our days are upon the earth and**

- there is no hope. (**1 Chronicles 29:15**)
- **O Yehowah our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build for you a house for your holy name, from your hand it is, and to you it all belongs. (1 Chronicles 29:16)**
 - **And I well know, O my God, that you are an examiner of the heart, and that it is in rectitude that you take pleasure. I, for my part, in the uprightness of my heart have voluntarily offered all these things, and now your people who are on hand here I have enjoyed seeing make offerings voluntarily to you. (1 Chronicles 29:17)**
 - **O Yehowah the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel our forefathers, do keep this to time indefinite as the inclination of the thoughts of the heart of your people, and direct their heart to you. (1 Chronicles 29:18)**
 - **And to Solomon my son give a complete heart to keep your commandments, your testimonies and your regulations, and to do everything, and to build the castle for which I have made preparation. (1 Chronicles 29:19)**
 - **And David went on to say to all the congregation; Bless, now, Yehowah your God. And all the congregation proceeded to bless Yehowah the God of their forefathers and bow low and prostrate themselves to Yehowah and to the king. (1 Chronicles 29:20)**
 - **And they continued to sacrifice sacrifices to Yehowah and offer up burnt offerings to Yehowah on the day following that day, a thousand young bulls, a thousand rams, a thousand male lambs and their drink offerings, even sacrifices in great number for all Israel. (1 Chronicles 29:21)**
 - **And they continued eating and drinking before Yehowah on that day with great rejoicing, and they proceeded a second time to make Solomon the son of David king and to anoint him to Yehowah as leader and also Zadok as priest. (1 Chronicles 29:22)**
 - **God's blessing on Solomon is shown early in his reign, as he began to sit upon Yehowah's throne as king in place of David his father and to make a success of the kingship and to develop strength in it.**
 - **And Solomon began to sit upon Yehowah's throne as king in**

place of David his father and to make a success of it, and all the Israelites were obedient to him. (1 Chronicles 29:23)

- And **Solomon** the son of David continued to get strength in his kingship, and Yehowah his God was with him and kept making him surpassingly great. (2 Chronicles 1:1)

•• Adonijah's Seditious Request

- It was not long until **Solomon** had to act to carry out David's instructions concerning Joab. This was prompted by the action of Adonijah, who still manifested ambition despite the mercy that **Solomon** had shown him.
- Adonijah approached **Solomon's** mother with the words; You yourself well know that the kingship was to have become mine, and it was toward me that all Israel had set their face for me to become king, but the kingship turned and came to be my brothers, for it was from Yehowah that it became his.
- Here Adonijah acknowledged that Yehowah was behind the enthroning of **Solomon**, yet his request that followed these words was a further crafty bid for usurpation of the kingship. He said to Bathsheba; Please, say to **Solomon** the king that he should give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife.
- Adonijah may have felt that he had a strong enough following, together with the support of Joab and Abiathar, that, by taking David's nurse, considered to have been David's concubine, though David had had no relations with her, he could start an uprising that might overthrow **Solomon**.
- By custom the wives and concubines of a king could only become those of his legal successor, so the taking of such wives was considered a claim to the throne.
- Then Ahithophel said to Absalom; Have relations with the concubines of your father, whom he left behind to take care of the house. And all Israel will certainly hear that you have made yourself foul-smelling to your father, and the hands of all those who are with you will certainly become strong. (2 Samuel 16:21)
- Accordingly they pitched a tent for Absalom upon the roof, and Absalom began to have relations with the concubines of his

father under the eyes of all Israel. (2 Samuel 16:22)

- When Bath-sheba, not discerning Adonijah's duplicity, transmitted his request to **Solomon**, **Solomon** interpreted it immediately as a bid for the kingship and forthwith sent Benaiah to put Adonijah to death.
- In time Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bath-sheba, **Solomon's** mother. At this she said; Is your coming peaceable? to which he said; It is peaceable. (1 Kings 2:13)
- And he went on to say; There is a matter I have for you. So she said; Speak. (1 Kings 2:14)
- And he continued; You yourself well know that the kingship was to have become mine, and it was toward me that all Israel had set their face for me to become king, but the kingship turned and came to be my brothers, for it was from Yehowah that it became his. (1 Kings 2:15)
- And now there is one request that I am making of you. Do not turn my face away. Accordingly she said to him; Speak. (1 Kings 2:16)
- And he went on to say; Please, say to **Solomon** the king, for he will not turn your face away, that he should give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife. (1 Kings 2:17)
- To this Bath-sheba said; Good! I myself shall speak for you to the king. (1 Kings 2:18)
- So Bath-sheba came in to King **Solomon** to speak to him for Adonijah. At once the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat down upon his throne and had a throne set for the mother of the king, that she might sit at his right. (1 Kings 2:19)
- And she proceeded to say; There is one little request that I am making of you. Do not turn my face away. So the king said to her; Make it, my mother, for I shall not turn your face away. (1 Kings 2:20)
- And she went on to say; Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as a wife. (1 Kings 2:21)

- At this King **Solomon** answered and said to his mother; And why are you requesting Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Request also for him the kingship, because he is my brother older than I am, even for him and for Abiathar the priest and for Joab the son of Zeruah. (**1 Kings 2:22**)
- With that King **Solomon** swore by Yehowah, saying; So may God do to me, and so may he add to it, if it was not against his own soul that Adonijah spoke this thing. (**1 Kings 2:23**)
- And now, as Yehowah is living who has firmly established me and keeps me seated upon the throne of David my father and who made a house for me just as he has spoken, today Adonijah will be put to death. (**1 Kings 2:24**)
- Immediately King **Solomon** sent by means of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he proceeded to fall upon him, so that he died. (**1 Kings 2:25**)

·· **Abiathar Deposed, Joab Put To Death**

- Then **Solomon** gave attention to those who had conspired with Adonijah. Abiathar was dismissed from the priesthood in fulfillment of Yehowah's word spoken against the house of Eli.
- That is why the utterance of Yehowah the God of Israel is; I did indeed say; As for your house and the house of your forefather, they will walk before me to time indefinite. But now the utterance of Yehowah is; It is unthinkable, on my part, because those honoring me I shall honor, and those despising me will be of little account. (**1 Samuel 2:30**)
- Look! Days are coming when I shall certainly chop off your arm and the arm of the house of your forefather, so that there will not come to be an old man in your house. (**1 Samuel 2:31**)
- And you will actually look upon an adversary in my dwelling amid all the good that is done to Israel, and never will there come to be an old man in your house. (**1 Samuel 2:32**)
- And yet there is a man of yours that I shall not cut off from being at my altar so as to cause your eyes to fail and to make your soul pine away, but the greater number of your house will all die by

the sword of men. (1 Samuel 2:33)

- And this is the sign for you that will come to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. On one day both of them will die. (1 Samuel 2:34)
- And I shall certainly raise up for myself a faithful priest. In harmony with what is in my heart and in my soul he will do, and I shall certainly build for him a lasting house, and he will certainly walk before my anointed one always. (1 Samuel 2:35)
- And it must occur that anyone left over in your house will come and bow down to him for the payment of money and a round loaf of bread, and will certainly say; Attach me, please, to one of the priestly offices to eat a piece of bread. (1 Samuel 2:36)
- But he was not killed, because he had carried the Ark before David and had suffered affliction with him. Zadok replaced Abiathar. In the meantime, Joab, having heard of Solomon's action, fled to grab hold of the horns of the altar, but there he was slain by Benaiah at Solomon's order.
- And to Abiathar the priest the king said; Go to Anathoth to your fields! For you are deserving of death, but on this day I shall not put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah before David my father, and because you suffered affliction during all the time that my father suffered affliction. (1 Kings 2:26)
- So Solomon drove out Abiathar from serving as a priest of Yehowah, to fulfill Yehowah's word that he had spoken against the house of Eli in Shiloh. (1 Kings 2:27)
- And the report itself came clear to Joab, for Joab himself had inclined to follow Adonijah, although Absalom he had not inclined to follow, and Joab went fleeing to the tent of Yehowah and began to hold fast to the horns of the altar. (1 Kings 2:28)
- Then King Solomon was told; Joab has fled to the tent of Yehowah, and there he is beside the altar. So Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying; Go, fall upon him! (1 Kings 2:29)
- Accordingly Benaiah came to the tent of Yehowah and said to

him; This is what the king has said; Come on out! But he said, No! For here is where I shall die. At that Benaiah brought word back to the king, saying; This is what Joab spoke, and this is what he answered me. (1 Kings 2:30)

- Then the king said to him; Do just as he has spoken and fall upon him, and you must bury him and remove from off me and from off the house of my father the blood undeservedly shed that Joab spilled. (1 Kings 2:31)
- And Yehowah will certainly bring back his blood upon his own head, because he fell upon two men more righteous and better than he was, and he proceeded to kill them with the sword, when my father David himself had not known of it, namely, Abner the son of Ner the chief of the army of Israel and Amasa the son of Jether the chief of the army of Judah. (1 Kings 2:32)
- And their blood must come back upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his offspring to time indefinite, but for David and for his offspring and for his house and for his throne there will come to be peace to time indefinite from Yehowah. (1 Kings 2:33)
- Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went on up and fell upon him and put him to death, and he got to be buried at his own house in the wilderness. (1 Kings 2:34)
- Upon that the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in place of him over the army, and Zadok the priest the king put in the place of Abiathar. (1 Kings 2:35)

•• Shimei Executed

- **Solomon** also placed Shimei on oath to observe certain restrictions, for this man had called down evil on his father David. When Shimei, about three years later, violated this restriction, Solomon had him put to death. Thus David's injunction to **Solomon** was fully carried out.
- Finally the king sent and called Shimei and said to him; Build yourself a house in Jerusalem, and you must dwell there and not go out from there to this place and that. (1 Kings 2:36)
- And it must occur that on the day of your going out and when you do pass over the torrent valley of Kidron, you should

unmistakably know that you will positively die. Bloodguilt for you will itself come to be upon your own head. (**1 Kings 2:37**)

- At this Shimei said to the king; The word is good. Just as my lord the king has spoken is the way that your servant will do. And Shimei kept dwelling in Jerusalem many days. (**1 Kings 2:38**)
- And it came about at the end of three years that two slaves of Shimei went running away to Achish the son of Maacah the king of Gath, and people came telling Shimei, saying; Look! Your slaves are at Gath. (**1 Kings 2:39**)
- Immediately Shimei got up and saddled his ass and went to Gath to Achish to look for his slaves, after which Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath. (**1 Kings 2:40**)
- Then **Solomon** was told; Shimei has gone out of Jerusalem to Gath and is back. (**1 Kings 2:41**)
- At that the king sent and called Shimei and said to him; Did I not put you under oath by Yehowah that I might warn you, saying; On the day of your going outside and when you do go here and there you should unmistakably know that you will positively die, and so did you not say to me, Good is the word that I have heard? (**1 Kings 2:42**)
- Why, then, did you not keep the oath of Yehowah and the commandment that I solemnly laid upon you? (**1 Kings 2:43**)
- And the king went on to say to Shimei; You yourself certainly know all the injury which your heart well knows that you did to David my father, and Yehowah will certainly return the injury by you upon your own head. (**1 Kings 2:44**)
- But King **Solomon** will be blessed, and the throne of David itself will prove to be firmly established before Yehowah forever. (**1 Kings 2:45**)
- With that the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, who then went out and fell upon him, so that he died. And the kingdom was firmly established in the hand of **Solomon**. (**1 Kings 2:46**)

·· **Solomon's Wise Request**

- In the early part of **Solomon's** reign the people were sacrificing on many **high places**, because there was no house of Yehowah, though the tabernacle was at Gibeon and the ark of the covenant was in a tent on Zion. Although Yehowah had said that his name was to be placed upon Jerusalem, he evidently tolerated this practice until the temple should be built.
- Only the people were sacrificing on the high places, for a house had not been built to the name of Yehowah down to those days. (**1 Kings 3:2**)
- And **Solomon** continued to love Yehowah by walking in the statutes of David his father. Only it was on the high places that he was regularly sacrificing and making offerings smoke. (**1 Kings 3:3**)
- At Gibeon, known as **the great high place**, **Solomon** offered a thousand burnt sacrifices. Here Yehowah appeared to him in a dream, saying; Request what I should give you. Instead of asking for riches, glory, and victory, **Solomon** requested a wise, understanding, and obedient heart in order to be able to judge Israel.
- Solomon's** humble request so pleased Yehowah that he gave him not only what he had asked for but also riches and glory so that there will not have happened to be any among the kings like you, all your days. Yehowah, however, added the admonition.
- Accordingly the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. A thousand burnt sacrifices **Solomon** proceeded to offer upon that altar. (**1 Kings 3:4**)
- In Gibeon Yehowah appeared to **Solomon** in a dream by night, and God proceeded to say; Request what I should give you. (**1 Kings 3:5**)
- At this **Solomon** said; You yourself have exercised great loving-kindness toward your servant David my father according as he walked before you in truth and in righteousness and in uprightness of heart with you, and you continued keeping toward him this great loving-kindness, so that you gave him a son to sit upon his throne as at this day. (**1 Kings 3:6**)
- And now, Yehowah my God, you yourself have made your servant

king in the place of David my father, and I am but a little boy. I do not know how to go out and how to come in. (1 Kings 3:7)

- And your servant is in the middle of your people whom you have chosen, a multitudinous people that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. (1 Kings 3:8)
- And you must give to your servant an obedient heart to judge your people, to discern between good and bad, for who is able to judge this difficult people of yours? (1 Kings 3:9)
- And the thing was pleasing in the eyes of Yehowah, because **Solomon** had requested this thing. (1 Kings 3:10)
- And God went on to say to him; For the reason that you have requested this thing and have not requested for yourself many days nor requested for yourself riches nor requested the soul of your enemies, and you have requested for yourself understanding to hear judicial cases. (1 Kings 3:11)
- Look! I shall certainly do according to your words. Look! I shall certainly give you a wise and understanding heart, so that one like you there has not happened to be before you, and after you there will not rise up one like you. (1 Kings 3:12)
- And also what you have not requested I will give you, both riches and glory, so that there will not have happened to be any among the kings like you, all your days. (1 Kings 3:13)
- And if you will walk in my ways by keeping my regulations and my commandments, just as David your father walked, I will also lengthen your days. (1 Kings 3:14)
- Shortly afterward, when two prostitutes presented a difficult problem of parental identity, **Solomon** demonstrated that God had indeed endowed him with judicial wisdom. This greatly strengthened **Solomon's** authority in the eyes of the people.
- At that time two women, prostitutes, got to come in to the king and stand before him. (1 Kings 3:16)
- Then the one woman said; Excuse me, my lord, I and this woman are dwelling in one house, so that I gave birth close by her in the house. (1 Kings 3:17)

- **And it came about on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also proceeded to give birth. And we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, no one but the two of us in the house. (1 Kings 3:18)**
- **Later the son of this woman died at night, because she lay upon him. (1 Kings 3:19)**
- **So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your slave girl herself was asleep and laid him in her own bosom, and her dead son she laid in my bosom. (1 Kings 3:20)**
- **When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, why, there he was dead. So I examined him closely in the morning, and, look! He did not prove to be my son that I had borne. (1 Kings 3:21)**
- **But the other woman said; No, but my son is the living one and your son is the dead one! All the while this woman was saying; No, but your son is the dead one and my son is the living one. And they kept on speaking before the king. (1 Kings 3:22)**
- **Finally the king said; This one is saying; This is my son, the living one, and your son is the dead one! and that one is saying; No, but your son is the dead one and my son is the living one! (1 Kings 3:23)**
- **And the king went on to say; You men, get me a sword. So they brought the sword before the king. (1 Kings 3:24)**
- **And the king proceeded to say; You men, sever the living child in two and give the one half to the one woman and the other half to the other. (1 Kings 3:25)**
- **At once the woman whose son was the living one said to the king, for her inward emotions were excited toward her son, so that she said; Excuse me, my lord! you men, give her the living child. Do not by any means put him to death. All the while this other woman was saying; Neither mine nor yours will he become. You men, do the severing! (1 Kings 3:26)**
- **At that the king answered and said; You men, give her the living child, and you must by no means put him to death. She is his**

mother. (**1 Kings 3:27**)

- And all Israel got to hear of the judicial decision that the king had handed down, and they became fearful because of the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was within him to execute judicial decision. (**1 Kings 3:28**)

· Building Projects

- In the fourth year of his reign, in the second month of the year [the month Ziv, **April-May**, in **1034 B.C.E**, **Solomon** began to build the house of Yehowah on Mount Moriah.
- And it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out from the land of Egypt, in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv, that is, the second month, after **Solomon** became king over Israel, that he proceeded to build the house to Yehowah. (**1 Kings 6:1**)
- The building of the temple was peacefully quiet, the stones were fitted before being brought to the site, so that no sound of hammers or axes or of any tools of iron was heard.
- As for the house, while it was being built, it was of quarry stone already completed that it was built, and as for hammers and axes or any tools of iron, they were not heard in the house while it was being built. (**1 Kings 6:7**)
- King Hiram of Tyre cooperated in supplying timbers of cedar and juniper trees in exchange for wheat and oil.
- So Hiram became a giver of timbers of cedar trees and timbers of juniper trees to **Solomon** according to all his delight. (**1 Kings 5:10**)
- And **Solomon**, for his part, gave Hiram twenty thousand cor measures of wheat as food supplies for his household and twenty cor measures of beaten-out oil. That was what Solomon kept giving Hiram year by year. (**1 Kings 5:11**)
- And Yehowah, for his part, gave **Solomon** wisdom, just as he had promised him, and there came to be peace between Hiram and **Solomon**, and both of them proceeded to conclude a covenant. (**1 Kings 5:12**)

- **At that Hiram the king of Tyre said the word in writing and sent it to **Solomon**; Because Yehowah loved his people he has constituted you king over them. (2 Chronicles 2:11)**
- **And Hiram went on to say; Blessed be Yehowah the God of Israel, who made the heavens and the earth, because he has given to David the king a wise son, experienced in discretion and understanding, who will build a house to Yehowah and a house for his kingship. (2 Chronicles 2:12)**
- **And now I do send a skillful man, experienced in understanding, belonging to Hiram-abi. (2 Chronicles 2:13)**
- **The son of a woman of the sons of Dan but whose father was a man of Tyre, experienced, to work in gold and in silver, in copper, in iron, in stones and in timbers, in wool dyed reddish purple, in blue thread and in fine fabric and in crimson and at cutting every sort of engraving and at designing every sort of device that may be given to him along with your own skillful men and the skillful men of my lord David your father. (2 Chronicles 2:14)**
- **And now the wheat and the barley, the oil and the wine that my lord has promised, let him send to his servants. (2 Chronicles 2:15)**
- **As for ourselves, we shall cut down trees from Lebanon according to all your need, and we shall bring them to you as rafts by sea to Joppa, and you, for your part, will take them up to Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 2:16)**
- **He also furnished workmen, including an expert craftsman named Hiram, the son of a Tyrian man and a Hebrew woman.**
- **And King **Solomon** proceeded to send and fetch Hiram out of Tyre. (1 Kings 7:13)**
- **He was the son of a widowed woman from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a Tyrian man, a worker in copper, and he was full of the wisdom and the understanding and the knowledge for doing every sort of work in copper. Accordingly he came to King **Solomon** and began to do all his work. (1 Kings 7:14)**

- **Solomon** conscripted for forced labor 30,000 men, sending them to Lebanon in shifts of 10,000 a month. Each group returned to their homes for two-month periods.
- Besides these, there were 70,000 burden bearers and 80,000 cutters. These last-named groups were non-Israelites.
- And King **Solomon** kept bringing up those conscripted for forced labor out of all Israel, and those conscripted for forced labor amounted to thirty thousand men. (1 Kings 5:13)
- And he would send them to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month. For a month they would continue in Lebanon, for two months at their homes, and Adoniram was over those conscripted for forced labor. (1 Kings 5:14)
- And **Solomon** came to have seventy thousand burden bearers and eighty thousand cutters in the mountain. (1 Kings 5:15)
- Besides **Solomon's** princely deputies who were over the work, three thousand three hundred foremen over the people who were active in the work. (1 Kings 5:16)
- Accordingly the king commanded that they should quarry great stones, expensive stones, to lay the foundation of the house with hewn stones. (1 Kings 5:17)
- So **Solomon's** builders and Hiram's builders and the Gebalites did the cutting, and they kept preparing the timbers and the stones to build the house. (1 Kings 5:18)
- Then **Solomon** took a count of all the men that were alien residents, who were in the land of Israel, after the census that David his father had taken of them, and there came to be found a hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred. (2 Chronicles 2:17)
- So he made seventy thousand of them burden bearers and eighty thousand cutters in the mountain and three thousand six hundred overseers for keeping the people in service. (2 Chronicles 2:18)

· Inauguration Of The Temple

- The tremendous building project occupied seven and a half years, being concluded in the eighth month, Bul, in **1027 B.C.E.**
- In the fourth year the house of Yehowah had its foundation laid, in the lunar month of Ziv. (**1 Kings 6:37**)
- And in the eleventh year, in the lunar month of Bul, that is, the eighth month, the house was finished as regards all its details and all its plan, so that he was seven years at building it. (**1 Kings 6:38**)
- It appears that it took some time afterward to bring in the utensils and to get everything arranged, for it was in the seventh month, Ethanin, at the time of the Festival of Booths, that the sanctification and inauguration of the temple were carried out by **Solomon**.
- So all the men of Israel congregated themselves to King **Solomon** in the lunar month of Ethanin in the festival, that is, the seventh month. (**1 Kings 8:2**)
- And **Solomon** proceeded to hold the festival at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation from the entering in of Hamath down to the torrent valley of Egypt. (**2 Chronicles 7:8**)
- But on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, because the inauguration of the altar they had held for seven days and the festival for seven days. (**2 Chronicles 7:9**)
- And on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their homes, joyful and feeling good at heart over the goodness that Yehowah had performed toward David and toward **Solomon** and toward Israel his people. (**2 Chronicles 7:10**)
- Therefore it must have taken place in the seventh month of **1026 B.C.E**, 11 months after completing the building, rather than a month before the structure was completed in **1027 B.C.E**, as some have thought.
- Another view adopted by some is that the inauguration services were in **Solomon's** 24th year, **1014 B.C.E**, after he had also built his own house and other government buildings, which occupied 13 more

years, or 20 years of building work in all. This view is supported by the **Greek Septuagint**, which interpolates certain words not found in the **Masoretic text**, at;

- At that time **Solomon** proceeded to congregate the older men of Israel, all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the fathers, of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of Yehowah out of the City of David, that is to say, Zion. (**1 Kings 8:1**)
- In **LXX, Bagster (3 Kings 8:1)** reading; And it came to pass when **Solomon** had finished building the house of the Lord and his own house after twenty years, then king **Solomon** assembled all the elders of Israel in Sion, to bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, this is Sion, in the month of Athanin.
- However, a comparison of the accounts in Kings and Chronicles indicates that this is an incorrect conclusion.
- The record in (**1 Kings Chapters 6,8**) describes the temple construction and its completion, next it mentions **Solomon's** 13-year government building program, and then, after speaking again at length of the temple construction and the bringing in of the things made holy by David his father, the account proceeds to describe the inauguration. This seems to indicate that the description of the government building program
- And his own house **Solomon** built in thirteen years, so that he finished all his own house. (**1 Kings 7:1**)
- And he proceeded to build the House of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits in its length, and fifty cubits in its width, and thirty cubits in its height, upon four rows of pillars of cedarwood, and there were beams of cedarwood upon the pillars. (**1 Kings 7:2**)
- And it was paneled in with cedarwood above upon the girders that were upon the forty-five pillars. There were fifteen to a row. (**1 Kings 7:3**)
- As for framed windows, there were three rows, and there was an illumination opening opposite an illumination opening in three tiers. (**1 Kings 7:4**)

- **And all the entrances and the doorposts were squared with the frame, and also the forefront of the illumination opening opposite an illumination opening in three tiers. (1 Kings 7:5)**
- **And the Porch of Pillars he made fifty cubits in its length, and thirty cubits in its width, and another porch was in front of them with pillars and a canopy in front of them. (1 Kings 7:6)**
- **As for the Porch of the Throne where he would do judging, he made the porch of judgment, and they covered it in with cedarwood from the floor to the rafters. (1 Kings 7:7)**
- **As regards the house of his where he was to dwell, at the other courtyard, it was away from the house belonging to the Porch. It proved to be like this in workmanship. And there was a house like this Porch that he proceeded to build for Pharaoh's daughter, whom **Solomon** had taken. (1 Kings 7:8)**
- **Was inserted parenthetically, as it were, to round out and complete the discussion about the building operations. But the record at;**
- **Finally all the work that **Solomon** had to do for the house of Yehowah was at its completion, and **Solomon** began to bring in the things made holy by David his father, and the silver and the gold and all the utensils he put in the treasures of the house of the true God. (2 Chronicles 5:1)**
- **It was then that **Solomon** proceeded to congregate the older men of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the paternal houses of the sons of Israel, to Jerusalem, to bring the ark of the covenant of Yehowah up from the City of David, that is to say, Zion. (2 Chronicles 5:2)**
- **So all the men of Israel congregated themselves to the king at the festival, that of the seventh month. (2 Chronicles 5:3)**
- **Appears to indicate more directly that the inauguration took place as soon as the temple and its furnishings were ready, for it reads,**
- **Finally all the work that **Solomon** had to do for the house of Yehowah was at its completion, and **Solomon** began to bring in the things made holy by David his father, and the silver and the gold and all the utensils he put in the treasures of the house of the true God. It**

was then that **Solomon** proceeded to congregate the older men of Israel and all the heads of the tribes.

- After detailing the installation of the ark of the covenant in the temple by the priests, who carried it from the City of David up to the temple hill, the account then goes on to describe the inauguration.
- So all the older men of Israel came, and the Levites began to carry the Ark. (**2 Chronicles 5:4**)
- And they came bringing up the Ark and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent. The priests the Levites brought them up. (**2 Chronicles 5:5**)
- And King **Solomon** and all the assembly of Israelites that were keeping their appointment with him before the Ark were sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. (**2 Chronicles 5:6**)
- Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of Yehowah into its place, into the innermost room of the house, into the Most Holy, to underneath the wings of the cherubs. (**2 Chronicles 5:7**)
- Thus the cherubs were continually spreading out their wings over the place of the Ark, so that the cherubs covered over the Ark and its poles from above. (**2 Chronicles 5:8**)
- But the poles were long, so that the tips of the poles were visible at the Holy in front of the innermost room, but they were not visible outside, and they continue there down to this day. (**2 Chronicles 5:9**)
- There was nothing in the Ark but the two tablets that Moses had given at Horeb, when Yehowah covenanted with the sons of Israel while they were coming out from Egypt. (**2 Chronicles 5:10**)
- And it came about when the priests came out from the holy place, for all the priests that were to be found had, for their part, sanctified themselves, there was no need to observe the divisions. (**2 Chronicles 5:11**)
- And the Levites that were singers belonging to all of them, namely, to Asaph, to Heman, to Jeduthun and to their sons and

- to their brothers clothed in fine fabric with cymbals and with stringed instruments and harps, were standing to the east of the altar and along with them priests to the number of a hundred and twenty sounding the trumpets. (2 Chronicles 5:12)
- And it came about that as soon as the trumpeters and the singers were as one in causing one sound to be heard in praising and thanking Yehowah, and as soon as they lifted up the sound with the trumpets and with the cymbals and with the instruments of song and with praising Yehowah, for he is good, for to time indefinite is his loving-kindness, the house itself was filled with a cloud, the very house of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 5:13)
 - And the priests were not able to stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of Yehowah filled the house of the true God. (2 Chronicles 5:14)
 - Some have questioned the view just mentioned that the inauguration took place in the year after the temple was completed, because of;
 - And it came about that, as soon as **Solomon** had finished building the house of Yehowah and the house of the king and every desirable thing of **Solomon** that he took delight in making. (1 Kings 9:1)
 - Then Yehowah appeared to **Solomon** the second time, the same as he had appeared to him in Gibeon. (1 Kings 9:2)
 - And Yehowah went on to say to him; I have heard your prayer and your request for favor with which you requested favor before me. I have sanctified this house that you have built by putting my name there to time indefinite, and my eyes and my heart will certainly prove to be there always. (1 Kings 9:3)
 - And you, if you will walk before me, just as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and with uprightness by doing according to all that I have commanded you, and you will keep my regulations and my judicial decisions. (1 Kings 9:4)
 - I also shall indeed establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel to time indefinite, just as I promised David your father, saying; Not a man of yours will be cut off from sitting upon the throne of Israel. (1 Kings 9:5)

- **If you yourselves and your sons should definitely turn back from following me and not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have put before you men, and you actually go and serve other gods and bow down to them. (1 Kings 9:6)**
- **I will also cut Israel off from upon the surface of the ground that I have given to them, and the house that I have sanctified to my name I shall throw away from before me, and Israel will indeed become a proverbial saying and a taunt among all the peoples. (1 Kings 9:7)**
- **And this house itself will become heaps of ruins. Everyone passing by it will stare in amazement and will certainly whistle and say; For what reason did Yehowah do like that to this land and this house? (1 Kings 9:8)**
- **And they will have to say; For the reason that they left Yehowah their God who had brought their forefathers out from the land of Egypt, and they proceeded to take hold of other gods and bow down to them and serve them. That is why Yehowah brought upon them all this calamity. (1 Kings 9:9)**
- **Which speaks of Yehowah as appearing to Solomon after the house of the king was constructed, saying that he had heard Solomon's prayer.**

This was in his 24th year, after his 20-year building work. Was God 12 years in answering Solomon's prayer given at the inauguration of the temple?

- **No, for at that inauguration, at the close of Solomon's prayer, the fire itself came down from the heavens and proceeded to consume the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and Yehowah's glory itself filled the house.**
- **This was a powerful manifestation of Yehowah's hearing of the prayer, an answer by action, and was acknowledged as such by the people.**
- **Now as soon as Solomon finished praying, the fire itself came down from the heavens and proceeded to consume the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and Yehowah's glory itself filled the house. (2 Chronicles 7:1)**

- And the priests were unable to enter into the house of Yehowah because Yehowah's glory had filled the house of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 7:2)
- And all the sons of Israel were spectators when the fire came down and the glory of Yehowah was upon the house, and they immediately bowed low with their faces to the earth upon the pavement and prostrated themselves and thanked Yehowah, for he is good, for his loving-kindness is to time indefinite. (2 Chronicles 7:3)
- God's later appearance to **Solomon** showed that he had not forgotten that prayer offered 12 years previously, and now he was answering it **verbally** by assuring **Solomon** of his response to it. God, at this second appearance, also gave **Solomon** added admonition to continue faithful as had David his father.

•• **Solomon's Prayer**

- In **Solomon's** prayer at the temple inauguration he referred to Yehowah as the God above all, a God of loving-kindness and loyalty, the Fulfiller of his promises.
- Though the temple was a house for Yehowah, **Solomon** realized that the heavens, yes, the heaven of the heavens, themselves could not contain Him.
- He is the Hearer and Answerer of prayer, the God of justice, rewarding the righteous and repaying the wicked, but forgiving the sinner who repents and returns to Him.
- He is not a **nature god**, but does exercise control over the elements, over animal life, even over the nations of earth. He is not a mere national God of the Hebrews but is the God of all men who seek him. In his prayer **Solomon** manifested the desire to see Yehowah's name made great in all the earth, **Solomon** expressed his own love for righteousness and justice, love for God's people Israel and for the foreigner who would seek Yehowah.
- And **Solomon** began standing before the altar of Yehowah in front of all the congregation of Israel, and he now spread his palms out to the heavens. (1 Kings 8:22)

- **And he went on to say; O Yehowah the God of Israel, there is no God like you in the heavens above or on the earth beneath, keeping the covenant and the loving-kindness toward your servants who are walking before you with all their heart. (1 Kings 8:23)**
- **You who have kept toward your servant David my father that which you promised him, so that you made the promise with your own mouth, and with your own hand you have made the fulfillment, as at this day. (1 Kings 8:24)**
- **And now, O Yehowah the God of Israel, keep toward your servant David my father that which you promised him, saying; There will not be cut off a man of yours from before me to sit upon the throne of Israel, if only your sons will take care of their way by walking before me just as you have walked before me. (1 Kings 8:25)**
- **And now, O God of Israel, let your promise that you have promised to your servant David my father prove trustworthy, please. (1 Kings 8:26)**
- **But will God truly dwell upon the earth? Look! The heavens, yes, the heaven of the heavens, themselves cannot contain you, how much less, then, this house that I have built! (1 Kings 8:27)**
- **And you must turn toward the prayer of your servant and to his request for favor, O Yehowah my God, to listen to the entreating cry and to the prayer with which your servant is praying before you today. (1 Kings 8:28)**
- **That your eyes may prove to be opened toward this house night and day, toward the place of which you said; My name will prove to be there, to listen to the prayer with which your servant prays toward this place. (1 Kings 8:29)**
- **And you must listen to the request for favor on the part of your servant and of your people Israel with which they pray toward this place, and may you yourself hear at the place of your dwelling, in the heavens, and you must hear and forgive. (1 Kings 8:30)**
- **When a man sins against his fellowman, and he actually lays a cursing upon him to bring him under liability to the curse, and he**

actually comes within the curse before your altar in this house.
(1 Kings 8:31)

- Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, and you must act and judge your servants by pronouncing the wicked one wicked by putting his way upon his own head, and by pronouncing the righteous one righteous by giving to him according to his own righteousness. (1 Kings 8:32)
- When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy, because they kept sinning against you, and they indeed return to you and laud your name and pray and make request for favor toward you in this house. (1 Kings 8:33)
- Then may you yourself hear from heaven, and you must forgive the sin of your people Israel and you must bring them back to the ground that you gave to their forefathers. (1 Kings 8:34)
- When heaven is shut up so that no rain occurs, because they kept sinning against you, and they actually pray toward this place and laud your name, and from their sin they turn back, because you kept afflicting them. (1 Kings 8:35)
- Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, and you must forgive the sin of your servants, even of your people Israel, because you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and you must give rain upon your land that you have given to your people as a hereditary possession. (1 Kings 8:36)
- In case a famine occurs in the land, in case a pestilence occurs, in case scorching, mildew, locusts, cockroaches occur, in case their enemy besieges them in the land of their gates, any sort of plague, any sort of malady. (1 Kings 8:37)
- Whatever prayer, whatever request for favor there may occur on the part of any man or of all your people Israel, because they know each one the plague of his own heart, and they actually spread out their palms to this house. (1 Kings 8:38)
- Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, your established place of dwelling, and you must forgive and act and give to each one according to all his ways, because you know his heart, for you yourself alone well know the heart of all the sons of mankind. (1 Kings 8:39)

- **To the end that they may fear you all the days that they are alive upon the surface of the ground that you gave to our forefathers. (1 Kings 8:40)**
- **And also to the foreigner, who is no part of your people Israel and who actually comes from a distant land by reason of your name. (1 Kings 8:41)**
- **For they shall hear of your great name and of your strong hand and of your stretched-out arm, and he actually comes and prays toward this house. (1 Kings 8:42)**
- **May you yourself listen from the heavens, your established place of dwelling, and you must do according to all that for which the foreigner calls to you, in order, that all the peoples of the earth may get to know your name so as to fear you the same as your people Israel do, and so as to know that your name itself has been called upon this house that I have built. (1 Kings 8:43)**
- **In case your people go out to the war against their enemy in the way that you send them, and they indeed pray to Yehowah in the direction of the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built to your name. (1 Kings 8:44)**
- **You must also hear from the heavens their prayer and their request for favor, and you must execute judgment for them. (1 Kings 8:45)**
- **In case they sin against you, for there is no man that does not sin, and you have to be incensed at them and abandon them to the enemy, and their captors actually carry them off captive to the land of the enemy distant or nearby. (1 Kings 8:46)**
- **And they indeed come to their senses in the land where they have been carried off captive, and they actually return and make request to you for favor in the land of their captors, saying; We have sinned and erred, we have acted wickedly. (1 Kings 8:47)**
- **And they indeed return to you with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who carried them off captive, and they indeed pray to you in the direction of their land that you gave to their forefathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built to your name.(1 Kings 8:48)**

- You must also hear from the heavens, your established place of dwelling, their prayer and their request for favor, and you must execute judgment for them. (1 Kings 8:49)
- And you must forgive your people who had sinned against you and all their transgressions with which they transgressed against you, and you must make them objects of pity before their captors and they must pity them. (1 Kings 8:50)
- For they are your people and your inheritance, whom you brought out from Egypt, from inside the iron furnace. (1 Kings 8:51)
- That your eyes may prove to be opened to the request for favor of your servant and to the request for favor of your people Israel, by listening to them in all for which they call to you. (1 Kings 8:52)
- For you yourself separated them as your inheritance out of all the peoples of the earth, just as you have spoken by means of Moses your servant when you were bringing our forefathers out from Egypt, O Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (1 Kings 8:53)
- And he began standing before the altar of Yehowah in front of all the congregation of Israel, and he now spread out his palms. (2 Chronicles 6:12)
- For **Solomon** had made a platform of copper and then put it in the middle of the enclosure. Its length was five cubits, and its width five cubits, and its height three cubits, and he kept standing upon it. And he proceeded to kneel upon his knees in front of all the congregation of Israel and to spread his palms out to the heavens. (2 Chronicles 6:13)
- And he went on to say; O Yehowah the God of Israel, there is no God like you in the heavens or on the earth, keeping the covenant and the loving-kindness toward your servants who are walking before you with all their heart. (2 Chronicles 6:14)
- You who have kept toward your servant David my father what you promised him, so that you made the promise with your mouth, and with your own hand you have made fulfillment as at this day. (2 Chronicles 6:15)

- **And now, O Yehowah the God of Israel, keep toward your servant David my father what you promised him, saying; There will not be cut off a man of yours from before me to sit upon the throne of Israel, if only your sons will take care of their way by walking in my law, just as you have walked before me. (2 Chronicles 6:16)**
- **And now, O Yehowah the God of Israel, let your promise that you have promised to your servant David prove trustworthy. (2 Chronicles 6:17)**
- **But will God truly dwell with mankind upon the earth? Look! Heaven, yes, the heaven of the heavens themselves, cannot contain you, how much less, then, this house that I have built? (2 Chronicles 6:18)**
- **And you must turn toward the prayer of your servant and to his request for favor, O Yehowah my God, by listening to the entreating cry and to the prayer with which your servant is praying before you. (2 Chronicles 6:19)**
- **That your eyes may prove to be opened toward this house day and night, toward the place where you said you would put your name, by listening to the prayer with which your servant prays toward this place. (2 Chronicles 6:20)**
- **And you must listen to the entreaties of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place, that you yourself may hear from the place of your dwelling, from the heavens, and you must hear and forgive. (2 Chronicles 6:21)**
- **If a man sins against his fellowman and he actually lays a cursing upon him to bring him under liability to the curse, and he actually comes within the curse before your altar in this house. (2 Chronicles 6:22)**
- **Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, and you must act and judge your servants so as to pay back the wicked by putting his course upon his own head and by pronouncing the righteous one righteous by giving to him according to his own righteousness. (2 Chronicles 6:23)**
- **And if your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because**

- they kept sinning against you, and they indeed return and laud your name and pray and make request for favor before you in this house. (2 Chronicles 6:24)
- Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, and you must forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the ground that you gave to them and their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 6:25)
 - When the heavens are shut up so that no rain occurs because they kept sinning against you, and they actually pray toward this place and laud your name and from their sin they turn back because you kept afflicting them. (2 Chronicles 6:26)
 - Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, and you must forgive the sin of your servants, even of your people Israel, because you instruct them regarding the good way in which they should walk, and you must give rain upon your land that you have given to your people as a hereditary possession. (2 Chronicles 6:27)
 - In case a famine occurs in the land, in case a pestilence occurs, in case scorching and mildew, locusts and cockroaches occur, in case their enemies besiege them in the land of their gates, any sort of plague and any sort of malady. (2 Chronicles 6:28)
 - Whatever prayer, whatever request for favor there may occur on the part of any man or of all your people Israel, because they know each one his own plague and his own pain, when he actually spreads out his palms toward this house. (2 Chronicles 6:29)
 - Then may you yourself hear from the heavens, the place of your dwelling, and you must forgive and give to each one according to all his ways, because you know his heart, for you yourself alone well know the heart of the sons of mankind. (2 Chronicles 6:30)
 - To the end that they may fear you by walking in your ways all the days that they are alive upon the surface of the ground that you gave to our forefathers. (2 Chronicles 6:31)
 - And also to the foreigner who is no part of your people Israel and who actually comes from a distant land by reason of your great name and your strong hand and your stretched-out arm, and

they actually come and pray toward this house. (2 Chronicles 6:32)

- Then may you yourself listen from the heavens, from your established place of dwelling, and you must do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order, that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and may fear you the same as your people Israel do, and may know that your name has been called upon this house that I have built. (2 Chronicles 6:33)
- In case your people go out to the war against their enemies in the way that you send them, and they indeed pray to you in the direction of this city that you have chosen and the house that I have built to your name. (2 Chronicles 6:34)
- You must also hear from the heavens their prayer and their request for favor, and you must execute judgment for them. (2 Chronicles 6:35)
- In case they sin against you, for there is no man that does not sin, and you have to be incensed at them and abandon them to an enemy, and their captors actually carry them off captive to a land distant or nearby. (2 Chronicles 6:36)
- And they indeed come to their senses in the land where they have been carried off captive, and they actually return and make request to you for favor in the land where they are captives, saying; We have sinned, we have erred and we have acted wickedly. (2 Chronicles 6:37)
- And they indeed return to you with all their heart and with all their soul in the land where they are captives of those who carried them off captive, and they indeed pray in the direction of their land that you gave to their forefathers and the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built to your name. (2 Chronicles 6:38)
- You must also hear from the heavens, from your established place of dwelling, their prayer and their requests for favor, and you must execute judgment for them and forgive your people who have sinned against you. (2 Chronicles 6:39)
- Now, O my God, please, let your eyes prove to be opened and your ears attentive to the prayer respecting this place. (2

Chronicles 6:40)

- **And now do rise up, O Yehowah God, into your rest, you and the Ark of your strength. Let your priests themselves, O Yehowah God, be clothed with salvation, and let your loyal ones themselves rejoice in goodness. (2 Chronicles 6:41)**
- **O Yehowah God, do not turn back the face of your anointed one. O do remember the loving-kindnesses to David your servant. (2 Chronicles 6:42)**
- **At the inauguration all the priests officiated, on this occasion there was no need to observe the divisions that David had arranged.**
- **And it came about when the priests came out from the holy place, for all the priests that were to be found had, for their part, sanctified themselves, there was no need to observe the divisions. (2 Chronicles 5:11)**
- **The need for the services of all can be seen in that, besides the grain offerings presented, 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep were offered as burnt offerings and communion sacrifices during that festal seven-day period, which was concluded by a solemn assembly on the eighth day.**
- **So large was the number of sacrifices that the great copper altar proved too small, to accommodate them, Solomon had to sanctify a portion of the courtyard for this purpose.**
- **And Solomon proceeded to offer the communion sacrifices that he had to offer to Yehowah, twenty-two thousand cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep, that the king and all the sons of Israel might inaugurate the house of Yehowah. (1 Kings 8:63)**
- **On that day the king had to sanctify the middle of the courtyard that is before the house of Yehowah, because there he had to render up the burnt sacrifice and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the communion sacrifices, for the copper altar that is before Yehowah was too small to contain the burnt sacrifice and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the communion sacrifices. (1 Kings 8:64)**
- **And King Solomon went on offering the sacrifice of twenty-two**

thousand cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep. Thus the king and all the people inaugurated the house of the true God. (2 Chronicles 7:5)

- Then **Solomon** sanctified the middle of the courtyard that was before the house of Yehowah, because there he rendered up the burnt offerings and the fat pieces of the communion sacrifices, for the copper altar that **Solomon** had made was itself not able to contain the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces. (2 Chronicles 7:7)
- **Solomon** later set the divisions of the priests over their services and the Levites in their posts of duty as these had been outlined by David. The temple now became the place where all the Israelites were to gather for their seasonal festivals and their sacrifices to Yehowah.

•• Government Buildings

- During the 13 years after completing the temple, **Solomon** built a new royal palace on Mount Moriah, immediately to the South of the temple, so that it was near the temple's outer courtyard, but on lower ground.
- Near this he built the Porch of the Throne, the Porch of Pillars, and the House of the Forest of Lebanon. All these buildings were on the descending terrain between the summit of the temple hill and the low spur of the City of David.
- He also built a house for his Egyptian wife, she was not allowed to dwell in the house of David the king of Israel, for, as **Solomon** said; the places to which the ark of Yehowah has come are something holy.
- And his own house **Solomon** built in thirteen years, so that he finished all his own house. (1 Kings 7:1)
- And he proceeded to build the House of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits in its length, and fifty cubits in its width, and thirty cubits in its height, upon four rows of pillars of cedarwood, and there were beams of cedarwood upon the pillars. (1 Kings 7:2)
- And it was paneled in with cedarwood above upon the girders that were upon the forty-five pillars. There were fifteen to a row. (1 Kings 7:3)

- **As for framed windows, there were three rows, and there was an illumination opening opposite an illumination opening in three tiers. (1 Kings 7:4)**
- **And all the entrances and the doorposts were squared with the frame, and also the forefront of the illumination opening opposite an illumination opening in three tiers. (1 Kings 7:5)**
- **And the Porch of Pillars he made fifty cubits in its length, and thirty cubits in its width, and another porch was in front of them with pillars and a canopy in front of them. (1 Kings 7:6)**
- **As for the Porch of the Throne where he would do judging, he made the porch of judgment, and they covered it in with cedarwood from the floor to the rafters. (1 Kings 7:7)**
- **As regards the house of his where he was to dwell, at the other courtyard, it was away from the house belonging to the Porch. It proved to be like this in workmanship. And there was a house like this Porch that he proceeded to build for Pharaoh's daughter, whom **Solomon** had taken. (1 Kings 7:8)**
- **And **Solomon** proceeded to form a marriage alliance with Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to take Pharaoh's daughter and bring her to the City of David, until he finished building his own house and the house of Yehowah and Jerusalem's wall all around. (1 Kings 3:1)**
- **However, Pharaoh's daughter herself came up out of the City of David to her own house that he had built for her. It was then that he built the Mound. (1 Kings 9:24)**
- **And King **Solomon** himself loved many foreign wives along with the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian and Hittite women. (1 Kings 11:1)**
- **And Pharaoh's daughter **Solomon** brought up out of the City of David to the house that he had built for her, for he said; Although a wife of mine, she should not dwell in the house of David the king of Israel, for the places to which the ark of Yehowah has come are something holy. (2 Chronicles 8:11)**

· **Nationwide Building**

- After completing his governmental building projects, **Solomon** set out on a nationwide construction program. He used as forced labor the offspring of Canaanites whom Israel had not devoted to destruction in their conquest of Canaan, but he did not reduce any Israelite to this slave status.
- As for all the people remaining over from the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, who were no part of the sons of Israel. (**1 Kings 9:20**)
- Their sons who had been left over after them in the land whom the sons of Israel had been unable to devote to destruction, **Solomon** kept levying them for slavish forced labor until this day. (**1 Kings 9:21**)
- And there were none of the sons of Israel that **Solomon** constituted slaves, for they were the warriors and his servants and his princes and his adjutants and chiefs of his charioteers and of his horsemen. (**1 Kings 9:22**)
- As for all the people that were left over of the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, who were no part of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 8:7**)
- From their sons that had been left behind them in the land, whom the sons of Israel had not exterminated, **Solomon** kept levying men for forced labor until this day. (**2 Chronicles 8:8**)
- But there were none out of the sons of Israel that **Solomon** constituted slaves for his work, for they were warriors and chiefs of his adjutants and chiefs of his charioteers and of his horsemen. (**2 Chronicles 8:9**)
- These were the chiefs of the deputies that belonged to King **Solomon**, two hundred and fifty, the foremen over the people. (**2 Chronicles 8:10**)
- He built up and fortified Gezer, which Pharaoh had taken from the Canaanites and presented as a gift to his daughter, **Solomon's** wife, as well as Upper and Lower Beth-horon, Baalath, and Tamar, he also constructed storage cities, chariot cities, and cities for horsemen. The entire realm, including the territory East of the Jordan, benefited from

his building works. He further fortified the Mound, which David had built. He closed up the gap of the City of David.

- And this is the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king; **Solomon** himself had built the Mound. He had closed up the gap of the City of David his father. (**1 Kings 11:27**)
- This may have reference to his building or extending Jerusalem's wall all around.
- And **Solomon** proceeded to form a marriage alliance with Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to take Pharaoh's daughter and bring her to the City of David, until he finished building his own house and the house of Yehowah and Jerusalem's wall all around. (**1 Kings 3:1**)
- He strongly fortified Hazor and Megiddo, archaeologists have discovered portions of strong walls and fortified gates that they believe to be the remains of **Solomon's** works in these cities, now in ruins.
- Now this is the account of those conscripted for forced labor that King **Solomon** levied to build the house of Yehowah and his own house and the Mound and the wall of Jerusalem and Hazor and Megiddo and Gezer. (**1 Kings 9:15**)
- Pharaoh the king of Egypt himself had come up and then captured Gezer and burned it with fire, and the Canaanites dwelling in the city he had killed. So he gave it as a parting gift to his daughter, the wife of **Solomon**. (**1 Kings 9:16**)
- And **Solomon** went on to build Gezer and Lower Beth-horon. (**1 Kings 9:17**)
- And Baalath and Tamar in the wilderness, in the land. (**1 Kings 9:18**)
- And all the storage cities that became **Solomon's** and the chariot cities and the cities for the horsemen, and the desirable things of **Solomon** that he had desired to build in Jerusalem and in Lebanon and in all the land of his dominion. (**1 Kings 9:19**)
- And it came about at the end of twenty years, in which **Solomon** had built the house of Yehowah and his own house. (**2 Chronicles 8:1**)

- That the cities that Hiram had given to **Solomon**, **Solomon** rebuilt them and then caused the sons of Israel to dwell there. (**2 Chronicles 8:2**)
- Furthermore, **Solomon** went to Hamath-zobah and prevailed over it. (**2 Chronicles 8:3**)
- Then he rebuilt Tadmor in the wilderness and all the storage cities that he had built in Hamath. (**2 Chronicles 8:4**)
- And he went on to build Upper Beth-horon and Lower Beth-horon, fortified cities with walls, doors and bars. (**2 Chronicles 8:5**)
- And Baalath and all the storage cities that had become **Solomon's** and all the chariot cities and the cities for the horsemen and every desirable thing of **Solomon** that he had desired to build in Jerusalem and in Lebanon and in all the land of his dominion. (**2 Chronicles 8:6**)

· His Riches And Glory

- **Solomon** engaged extensively in trade. His fleet, in cooperation with Hiram's, brought in great quantities of gold from Ophir, as well as algarum timbers and precious stones.
- And there was a fleet of ships that King **Solomon** made in Ezion-geber, which is by Eloth, upon the shore of the Red Sea in the land of Edom. (**1 Kings 9:26**)
- And Hiram kept sending in the fleet of ships his own servants, seamen, having a knowledge of the sea, along with the servants of **Solomon**. (**1 Kings 9:27**)
- And they proceeded to go to Ophir and take from there four hundred and twenty talents of gold and bring it in to King **Solomon**. (**1 Kings 9:28**)
- And Hiram's fleet of ships that carried gold from Ophir also brought from Ophir timbers of algarum trees in very great amount and precious stones. (**1 Kings 10:11**)
- It was then that **Solomon** went to Ezion-geber and to Eloth upon

- the shore of the sea in the land of Edom. ([2 Chronicles 8:17](#))
- And Hiram regularly sent to him by means of his servants ships and servants having a knowledge of the sea, and they would come with **Solomon's** servants to Ophir and take from there four hundred and fifty talents of gold and bring it to King Solomon. ([2 Chronicles 8:18](#))
 - And, besides, the servants of Hiram and the servants of **Solomon** who brought gold from Ophir brought timbers of algum trees and precious stones. ([2 Chronicles 9:10](#))
 - And the king proceeded to make out of the timbers of the algum trees stairs for the house of Yehowah and for the king's house and also harps and stringed instruments for the singers, and the like of them had never been seen before in the land of Judah. ([2 Chronicles 9:11](#))
 - Horses and chariots were imported from Egypt, and traders from all over the world of that time brought their goods in abundance. **Solomon's** annual revenue of gold came to be 666 talents (currently \$256,643,000), aside from silver and gold and other items brought in by merchants.
 - And the weight of the gold that came to **Solomon** in one year amounted up to six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold. ([1 Kings 10:14](#))
 - Apart from the men of travel and the profit from the traders and all the kings of the Arabs and the governor's of the land. ([1 Kings 10:15](#))
 - And the weight of the gold that came to **Solomon** in one year amounted to six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold. ([2 Chronicles 9:13](#))
 - Aside from the men of travel and the merchants who were bringing in and all the kings of the Arabs and the governor's of the land who were bringing in gold and silver to **Solomon**. ([2 Chronicles 9:14](#))
 - Additionally, all the kings of the earth brought gifts yearly from their lands, gold and silver articles, balsam oil, armor, horses, mules, and other riches.

- **And all the people of the earth were seeking the face of **Solomon** to hear his wisdom that God had put in his heart. (1 Kings 10:24)**
- **And they were bringing each his gift, articles of silver and articles of gold and garments and armor and balsam oil, horses and mules, as a yearly matter of course. (1 Kings 10:25)**
- **And there was the export of the horses that **Solomon** had from Egypt, and the company of the kings merchants would themselves take the horse drove for a price. (1 Kings 10:28)**
- **And a chariot customarily came up and was exported from Egypt for six hundred silver pieces, and a horse for a hundred and fifty, and that was the way it was for all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria. It was by means of them that they did the exporting. (1 Kings 10:29)**
- **And all the kings of the earth were seeking the face of **Solomon** to hear his wisdom, which the true God had put in his heart. (2 Chronicles 9:23)**
- **And they were bringing each his gift, articles of silver and articles of gold and garments, armor and balsam oil, horses and mules as a yearly matter of course. (2 Chronicles 9:24)**
- **And **Solomon** came to have four thousand stalls of horses and chariots and twelve thousand steeds, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 9:25)**
- **And he came to be ruler over all the kings from the River down to the land of the Philistines and down to the boundary of Egypt. (2 Chronicles 9:26)**
- **Furthermore, the king made the silver in Jerusalem like the stones, and cedarwood he made like the sycamore trees that are in the Shephelah for abundance. (2 Chronicles 9:27)**
- **And there were those bringing out horses to **Solomon** from Egypt and from all the other lands. (2 Chronicles 9:28)**
- **Even apes and peacocks were imported in ships of Tarshish.**

- For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish on the sea along with Hiram's fleet of ships. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish would come carrying gold and silver, ivory, and apes and peacocks. ([1 Kings 10:22](#))
- For ships belonging to the king were going to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years ships of Tarshish would come in, carrying gold and silver, ivory, and apes and peacocks. ([2 Chronicles 9:21](#))
- **Solomon** came to have 4,000 stalls of horses and chariots.
- For ships belonging to the king were going to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years ships of Tarshish would come in, carrying gold and silver, ivory, and apes and peacocks. ([2 Chronicles 9:21](#))
- Says 1,400 chariots and 12,000 steeds, or, possibly, horsemen.
- And **Solomon** came to have four thousand stalls of horses and chariots and twelve thousand steeds, and he kept them stationed in the chariot cities and close by the king in Jerusalem. ([2 Chronicles 9:25](#))
- There was no king in all the earth who possessed the riches of **Solomon**.
- So King **Solomon** was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. ([1 Kings 10:23](#))
- So King **Solomon** was greater than all the other kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. ([2 Chronicles 9:22](#))
- The approach to his throne exceeded in magnificence anything in other kingdoms. The throne itself was of ivory overlaid with fine gold. It had a round canopy behind it, six steps led up to it, with six lions on each side, and two lions stood beside the thrones armrests.
- Further, the king made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with refined gold. ([1 Kings 10:18](#))
- There were six steps to the throne, and the throne had a round canopy behind it, and there were armrests on this side and on that side by the place of sitting, and two lions were standing

beside the armrests. (1 Kings 10:19)

- And there were twelve lions standing there upon the six steps, on this side and on that side. No other kingdom had any made just like it. (1 Kings 10:20)
- Further, the king made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with pure gold. (2 Chronicles 9:17)
- And there were six steps to the throne, and there was a footstool in gold to the throne, they were attached, and there were armrests on this side and on that side by the place of sitting, and two lions were standing beside the armrests. (2 Chronicles 9:18)
- And there were twelve lions standing there upon the six steps on this side and on that side. No other kingdom had any made just like it. (2 Chronicles 9:19)
- For his drinking vessels only gold was used, it is specifically stated that there was nothing of silver, it was considered as nothing at all in the days of **Solomon**.
- And all the drinking vessels of King **Solomon** were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. There was nothing of silver, it was considered as nothing at all in the days of **Solomon**. (2 Chronicles 9:20)
- There were harps and stringed instruments in **Solomon's** house and in the temple that were made from algum timbers such as had never been seen before in Judah.
- And the king proceeded to make out of the timbers of the algum trees supports for the house of Yehowah and for the house of the king, and also harps and stringed instruments for the singers. Timbers of algum trees like this have not come in nor have they been seen down to this day. (1 Kings 10:12)
- And the king proceeded to make out of the timbers of the algum trees stairs for the house of Yehowah and for the king's house and also harps and stringed instruments for the singers, and the like of them had never been seen before in the land of Judah. (2 Chronicles 9:11)

•• His Household Food Supply

- The daily food for **Solomon's** royal household amounted to thirty cor measures 6,600 liters, to thirty cor measures, 188 bushels of fine flour and sixty cor measures, 13,200 liters, and sixty cor measures, 375 bushels of flour, ten fat cattle and twenty pastured cattle and a hundred sheep, besides some stags and gazelles and roebucks and fattened cuckoos.
- And **Solomon's** food for each day regularly proved to be thirty cor measures of fine flour and sixty cor measures of flour. (**1 Kings 4:22**)
- Ten fat cattle and twenty pastured cattle and a hundred sheep, besides some stags and gazelles and roebucks and fattened cuckoos. (**1 Kings 4:23**)
- Twelve deputies supervised the supplying of food, one deputy for each month of the year. They each had supervision of a portion of the land, for this purpose it was not divided according to the tribal boundaries but according to agricultural growing regions. Included in the supplies was provender for **Solomon's** many horses.
- And King **Solomon** continued king over all Israel. (**1 Kings 4:1**)
- And these are the princes that he had, Azariah the son of Zadok, the priest. (**1 Kings 4:2**)
- Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, secretaries, Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder. (**1 Kings 4:3**)
- And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the army, and Zadok and Abiathar were priests. (**1 Kings 4:4**)
- And Azariah the son of Nathan was over the deputies, and Zabud the son of Nathan was a priest, the friend of the king. (**1 Kings 4:5**)
- And Ahishar was over the household, and Adoniram the son of Abda, over those conscripted for forced labor. (**1 Kings 4:6**)
- And **Solomon** had twelve deputies over all Israel, and they provided the king and his household with food. It would devolve upon each one to provide the food one month in the year. (**1 Kings 4:7**)

- **And these were their names, the son of Hur, in the mountainous region of Ephraim. (1 Kings 4:8)**
- **The son of Deker, in Makaz and in Shaalbim and Beth-shemesh and Elon-beth-hanan. (1 Kings 4:9)**
- **The son of Hesed, in Arubboth, he had Socoh and all the land of Hopher. (1 Kings 4:10)**
- **The son of Abinadab, all the mountain ridge of Dor Taphath, Solomon's daughter, herself became his wife. (1 Kings 4:11)**
- **Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach and Megiddo and all Beth-shean, which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah to the region of Jokmeam. (1 Kings 4:12)**
- **The son of Geber, in Ramoth-gilead, he had the tent villages of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, he had the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, sixty large cities with wall and copper bar. (1 Kings 4:13)**
- **Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim. (1 Kings 4:14)**
- **Ahimaaz, in Naphtali, he, too, took Basemath, Solomon's daughter, as a wife. (1 Kings 4:15)**
- **Baana the son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth. (1 Kings 4:16)**
- **Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar. (1 Kings 4:17)**
- **Shimei the son of Ela, in Benjamin. (1 Kings 4:18)**
- **Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the land of Sihon the king of the Amorites, and of Og the king of Bashan, and there was one deputy over all the other deputies that were in the land. (1 Kings 4:19)**
- **And these deputies supplied food to King Solomon and everyone approaching the table of King Solomon, each one in his month. They left nothing lacking. (1 Kings 4:27)**
- **And the barley and the straw for the horses and for the teams of horses they kept bringing to wherever the place might prove to**

be, each one according to his commission. (1 Kings 4:28)

• Queen Of Sheba Visits Solomon

- One of the most distinguished visitors that came from a foreign land to view the glory and riches of **Solomon** was the queen of Sheba. **Solomon's** fame had reached all the people of the earth so that she made the trip from her faraway domain to test him with perplexing questions.
- She spoke to him all that happened to be close to her heart, and there proved to be no matter hidden from the king that he did not tell her.
- Now the queen of Sheba was hearing the report about **Solomon** in connection with the name of Yehowah. So she came to test him with perplexing questions. (1 Kings 10:1)
- Finally she arrived at Jerusalem with a very impressive train, camels carrying balsam oil and very much gold and precious stones, and she came on in to **Solomon** and began to speak to him all that happened to be close to her heart. (1 Kings 10:2)
- **Solomon**, in turn, went on to tell her all her matters. There proved to be no matter hidden from the king that he did not tell her. (1 Kings 10:3)
- And all the people of the earth were seeking the face of **Solomon** to hear his wisdom that God had put in his heart. (1 Kings 10:24)
- And the queen of Sheba herself heard the report about **Solomon**, and she proceeded to come to test Solomon with perplexing questions at Jerusalem, along with a very impressive train and camels carrying balsam oil, and gold in great quantity, and precious stones. At length she came in to **Solomon** and spoke with him about everything that happened to be close to her heart. (2 Chronicles 9:1)
- **Solomon**, in turn, went on to tell her all her matters, and no matter was hidden from **Solomon** that he did not tell her. (2 Chronicles 9:2)
- After the queen also observed the splendor of the temple and of **Solomon's** house, his table and drinking service along with the attire of

his waiters, and the regular burnt sacrifices at the temple, there proved to be no more spirit in her, so she exclaimed; **Look! I had not been told the half.**

- **You have surpassed in wisdom and prosperity the things heard to which I listened. Then she proceeded to pronounce happy the servants who served such a king.**

- **By all this she was led to give praise to Yehowah, to bless Yehowah God, who expressed his love to Israel by appointing Solomon as king to render judicial decision and righteousness.**

- **When the queen of Sheba got to see all the wisdom of **Solomon** and the house that he had built. (1 Kings 10:4)**

- **And the food of his table and the sitting of his servants and the table service of his waiters and their attire and his drinks and his burnt sacrifices that he regularly offered up at the house of Yehowah, then there proved to be no more spirit in her. (1 Kings 10:5)**

- **So she said to the king; True has the word proved to be that I heard in my own land about your matters and about your wisdom. (1 Kings 10:6)**

- **And I did not put faith in the words until I had come that my own eyes might see, and, look! I had not been told the half. You have surpassed in wisdom and prosperity the things heard to which I listened. (1 Kings 10:7)**

- **Happy are your men. Happy are these servants of yours who are standing before you constantly, listening to your wisdom! (1 Kings 10:8)**

- **May Yehowah your God come to be blessed, who has taken delight in you by putting you upon the throne of Israel, because Yehowah loves Israel to time indefinite, so that he appointed you as king to render judicial decision and righteousness. (1 Kings 10:9)**

- **When the queen of Sheba got to see **Solomon's** wisdom and the house that he had built. (2 Chronicles 9:3)**

- **And the food of his table and the sitting of his servants and the**

- table service of his waiters and their attire and his drinking service and their attire, and his burnt sacrifices that he regularly offered up at the house of Yehowah, then there proved to be no more spirit in her. (2 Chronicles 9:4)
- So she said to the king; True was the word that I heard in my own land about your matters and about your wisdom. (2 Chronicles 9:5)
 - And I did not put faith in their words until I had come that my own eyes might see, and, look! There has not been told me the half of the abundance of your wisdom. You have surpassed the report that I have heard. (2 Chronicles 9:6)
 - Happy are your men, and happy are these servants of yours who are standing before you constantly and listening to your wisdom. (2 Chronicles 9:7)
 - May Yehowah your God come to be blessed, who has taken delight in you by putting you upon his throne as king for Yehowah your God, because your God loved Israel, to make it stand to time indefinite, so that he put you over them as king to execute judicial decision and righteousness. (2 Chronicles 9:8)
 - Then she bestowed upon **Solomon** the magnificent gift of 120 talents of gold (\$46,242,000) and a great number of precious stones and balsam oil in unusually great quantity. **Solomon**, in turn, gave the queen whatever she asked, apart from his own generous-hearted bounty, possibly more than she had brought to him.
 - Then she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold and a very great deal of balsam oil and precious stones. There never came anymore the like of that balsam oil for quantity such as the queen of Sheba gave to King **Solomon**. (1 Kings 10:10)
 - And King **Solomon** himself gave the queen of Sheba all her delight for which she asked, apart from what he gave her according to the openhandedness of King **Solomon**. After that she turned about and went to her own land, she together with her servants. (1 Kings 10:13)
 - Then she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and balsam oil in very great quantity, and precious stones, and there had not come to be the like of that balsam oil which the

queen of Sheba gave to King **Solomon**. (2 Chronicles 9:9)

- And King **Solomon** himself gave the queen of Sheba all her delight for which she had asked, besides the value of what she brought to the king. So she turned about and went to her own land, she together with her servants. (2 Chronicles 9:12)

• Prosperity Of His Rule

- Yehowah blessed **Solomon** with wisdom, glory, and riches as long as he remained firm for true worship, and the nation of Israel likewise enjoyed God's favor.

- David had been used to subdue Israel's enemies and to establish the kingdom firmly to its outer boundaries. The account reports.

- As for **Solomon**, he proved to be ruler over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines and to the boundary of Egypt. They were bringing gifts and serving **Solomon** all the days of his life. (1 Kings 4:21)

- During **Solomon's** reign there was peace, and Judah and Israel were many, like the grains of sand that are by the sea for multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing. And Judah and Israel continued to dwell in security, everyone under his own vine and under his own fig tree, from Dan to Beer-sheba, all the days of **Solomon**.

- Judah and Israel were many, like the grains of sand that are by the sea for multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing. (1 Kings 4:20)

- And Judah and Israel continued to dwell in security, everyone under his own vine and under his own fig tree, from Dan to Beer-sheba, all the days of **Solomon**. (1 Kings 4:25)

• Solomon's Wisdom

- And God continued giving **Solomon** wisdom and understanding in very great measure and a broadness of heart, like the sand that is upon the seashore. And **Solomon's** wisdom was vaster than the wisdom of all the Orientals and than all the wisdom of Egypt.

- Then other men of unusual wisdom are named, Ethan the Ezrahite, apparently a singer of David's time and the writer of (Psalms

Chapter 89) and three other wise men of Israel. **Solomon** was wiser than these, in fact, his fame came to be in all the nations all around.

- **And he could speak three thousand proverbs, and his songs came to be a thousand and five. The range of his knowledge covered the plants and animals of earth, and his proverbs, along with his writings in the books of Ecclesiastes and The Song of Solomon, reveal that he had a deep knowledge of human nature.**

- **And God continued giving **Solomon** wisdom and understanding in very great measure and a broadness of heart, like the sand that is upon the seashore. (1 Kings 4:29)**

- **And **Solomon's** wisdom was vaster than the wisdom of all the Orientals and than all the wisdom of Egypt. (1 Kings 4:30)**

- **And he was wiser than any other man, than Ethan the Ezrahite and Heman and Calcol and Darda the sons of Mahol, and his fame came to be in all the nations all around. (1 Kings 4:31)**

- **And he could speak three thousand proverbs, and his songs came to be a thousand and five. (1 Kings 4:32)**

- **And he would speak about the trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that is coming forth on the wall, and he would speak about the beasts and about the flying creatures and about the moving things and about the fishes. (1 Kings 4:33)**

- **And they kept coming from all the peoples to hear **Solomon's** wisdom, even from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom. (1 Kings 4:34)**

- **From Ecclesiastes we learn that he did much meditation in order to find the delightful words and the writing of correct words of truth.**

- **The congregator sought to find the delightful words and the writing of correct words of truth. (Ecclesiastes 12:10)**

- **He experienced many things, going out among the lowly and the high ones, keenly observant of their life, their work, their hopes and aims, and the vicissitudes of mankind.**

- **He exalted the knowledge of God and his law, and he emphasized above all things that the fear of Yehowah is the beginning of**

knowledge and wisdom and that the whole obligation of man is **to fear the true God and keep his commandments.**

- The fear of Yehowah is the beginning of knowledge. Wisdom and discipline are what mere fools have despised. (**Proverbs 1:7**)
- The fear of Yehowah is the start of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Most Holy One is what understanding is. (**Proverbs 9:10**)
- The conclusion of the matter, everything having been heard, is: Fear the true God and keep his commandments. For this is the whole obligation of man. (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**)

See Also ECCLESIASTES

•• His Deviation From Righteousness

- As long as **Solomon** remained true to the worship of Yehowah, he prospered. Evidently his proverbs were uttered, and the books of Ecclesiastes and The Song of Solomon, as well as at least one of the Psalms, (**Psalms Chapter 127**), were written during his period of faithful service to God. However, **Solomon** began to disregard God's Law.
- We read. And King **Solomon** himself loved many foreign wives along with the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian and Hittite women, from the nations of whom Yehowah had said to the sons of Israel.
- You must not go in among them, and they themselves should not come in among you, truly they will incline your heart to follow their gods. It was to them that **Solomon** clung to love them. And he came to have seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives gradually inclined his heart.
- And it came about in the time of **Solomon's** growing old that his wives themselves had inclined his heart to follow other gods, and his heart did not prove to be complete with Yehowah his God like the heart of David his father.
- And **Solomon** began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the disgusting thing of the Ammonites. And Solomon began to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and he did not follow Yehowah fully like David his father.

- It was then that **Solomon** proceeded to build a high place to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to Molech the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. And that was the way he did for all his foreign wives who were making sacrificial smoke and sacrificing to their gods.
- And King **Solomon** himself loved many foreign wives along with the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian and Hittite women. (**1 Kings 11:1**)
- From the nations of whom Yehowah had said to the sons of Israel; You must not go in among them, and they themselves should not come in among you, truly they will incline your heart to follow their gods. It was to them that **Solomon** clung to love them. (**1 Kings 11:2**)
- And he came to have seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives gradually inclined his heart. (**1 Kings 11:3**)
- And it came about in the time of **Solomon's** growing old that his wives themselves had inclined his heart to follow other gods, and his heart did not prove to be complete with Yehowah his God like the heart of David his father. (**1 Kings 11:4**)
- And **Solomon** began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the disgusting thing of the Ammonites. (**1 Kings 11:5**)
- And **Solomon** began to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and he did not follow Yehowah fully like David his father. (**1 Kings 11:6**)
- It was then that **Solomon** proceeded to build a high place to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to Molech the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. (**1 Kings 11:7**)
- And that was the way he did for all his foreign wives who were making sacrificial smoke and sacrificing to their gods. (**1 Kings 11:8**)

- While this took place in the time of **Solomon's** growing old, we need not assume that his deviation was because of senility, for Solomon was relatively young when taking the throne, and the length of his reign was 40 years.
- David the king now said to all the congregation; **Solomon** my son, the one whom God has chosen, is young and delicate, but the work is great, for the castle is not for man, but for Yehowah God. (**1 Chronicles 29:1**)
- And **Solomon** continued to reign in Jerusalem over all Israel for forty years. (**2 Chronicles 9:30**)
- The account does not say that **Solomon** completely forsook the worship at the temple and the offering of sacrifices there. He apparently attempted to practice a sort of interfaith, in order to please his foreign wives.
- For this, Yehowah came to be incensed at **Solomon**, because his heart had inclined away from Yehowah the God of Israel, the one appearing to him twice.
- Yehowah informed **Solomon** that, as a consequence, He would rip part of the kingdom away from him, but not in **Solomon's** day, out of respect for David and for the sake of Jerusalem. But he would do it in the days of **Solomon's** son, leaving that son with only one tribe besides Judah, which tribe proved to be Benjamin.
- And Yehowah came to be incensed at **Solomon**, because his heart had inclined away from Yehowah the God of Israel, the one appearing to him twice. (**1 Kings 11:9**)
- And respecting this thing he commanded him not to go after other gods, but he had not kept that which Yehowah had commanded. (**1 Kings 11:10**)
- Yehowah now said to **Solomon**; For the reason that this has taken place with you and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I laid in command upon you, I shall without fail rip the kingdom away from off you, and I shall certainly give it to your servant. (**1 Kings 11:11**)
- However, in your days I shall not do it, for the sake of David your father. Out of the hand of your son I shall rip it away. (**1 Kings**

11:12)

- Only it will not be all the kingdom that I shall rip away. One tribe I shall give to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen. (**1 Kings 11:13**)

·· **Resisters Of Solomon**

- From that time on, Yehowah began to raise up resisters to **Solomon**, primarily Jeroboam of the tribe of Ephraim, who finally pulled ten tribes away from being loyal to the throne in Rehoboam's time, and who established the northern kingdom that came to be called Israel.
- As a young man, Jeroboam, because of his industriousness, had been placed by **Solomon** over all the compulsory service of the house of Joseph Also giving trouble to **Solomon** were Hadad the Edomite and Rezon, an enemy of David who became king of Syria.
- And Yehowah began to raise up a resister to **Solomon**, namely, Hadad the Edomite of the offspring of the king. He was in Edom. (**1 Kings 11:14**)
- And it came about when David struck down Edom, when Joab the chief of the army came up to bury those slain, that he tried to strike down every male in Edom. (**1 Kings 11:15**)
- For it was six months that Joab and all Israel dwelt there until he had cut off every male in Edom. (**1 Kings 11:16**)
- And Hadad went running away, he and some Edomite men of the servants of his father with him, to come into Egypt, while Hadad was a young boy. (**1 Kings 11:17**)
- So they rose up out of Midian and came into Paran and took men with them from Paran and came into Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt, who then gave him a house. Also, bread he assigned to him, and land he gave him. (**1 Kings 11:18**)
- And Hadad continued to find favor in the eyes of Pharaoh, so much that he gave him a wife, the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the lady. (**1 Kings 11:19**)
- In time the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, and Tahpenes got to wean him right inside the house of Pharaoh, and

Genubath continued at the house of Pharaoh right among the sons of Pharaoh. (**1 Kings 11:20**)

- And Hadad himself heard in Egypt that David had lain down with his forefathers and that Joab the chief of the army had died. So Hadad said to Pharaoh; Send me away, that I may go to my own land. (**1 Kings 11:21**)
- But Pharaoh said to him; What are you in need of while with me that here you are seeking to go to your own land? To this he said; Nothing, but you ought to send me away without fail. (**1 Kings 11:22**)
- And God proceeded to raise up to him another resister, namely, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had run away from Hadadezer the king of Zobah his lord. (**1 Kings 11:23**)
- And he kept collecting men to his side and came to be chief of a marauder band, when David killed them. So they went to Damascus and took up dwelling in it and began reigning in Damascus. (**1 Kings 11:24**)
- And he came to be a resister of Israel all the days of **Solomon**, and that along with the injury that Hadad did, and he had an abhorrence of Israel while he continued reigning over Syria. (**1 Kings 11:25**)
- And there was Jeroboam the son of Nebat an Ephraimite from Zeredah, a servant of **Solomon**, and his mother's name was Zeruah, a widowed woman. He too began to lift up his hand against the king. (**1 Kings 11:26**)
- And this is the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king: **Solomon** himself had built the Mound. He had closed up the gap of the City of David his father. (**1 Kings 11:27**)
- Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant, mighty man. When **Solomon** got to see that the young man was a hard worker, he proceeded to make him overseer over all the compulsory service of the house of Joseph. (**1 Kings 11:28**)
- And it came about at that particular time that Jeroboam himself went out from Jerusalem, and Ahijah the Shilonite the prophet got to find him on the road, and Ahijah was covering himself with

- a new garment, and the two of them were by themselves in the field. (1 Kings 11:29)
- Ahijah now took hold of the new garment that was on him and ripped it into twelve pieces. (1 Kings 11:30)
 - And he went on to say to Jeroboam; Take for yourself ten pieces, for this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Here I am ripping the kingdom out of the hand of **Solomon**, and I shall certainly give you ten tribes. (1 Kings 11:31)
 - And the one tribe is what will continue his for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel. (1 Kings 11:32)
 - The reason why is that they have left me and begun to bow down to Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, to Chemosh the god of Moab and to Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon, and they have not walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes and my statutes and my judicial decisions like David his father. (1 Kings 11:33)
 - But I shall not take the entire kingdom out of his hand, because a chieftain I shall set him for all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes. (1 Kings 11:34)
 - And I shall certainly take the kingship out of the hand of his son and give it to you, even ten tribes. (1 Kings 11:35)
 - And to his son I shall give one tribe, in order, that David my servant may continue having a lamp always before me in Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen for myself to put my name there. (1 Kings 11:36)
 - And you are the one that I shall take, and you will indeed reign over all that your soul craves, and you will certainly become king over Israel. (1 Kings 11:37)
 - And it must occur that, if you obey all that I shall command you, and you do walk in my ways and actually do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, just as David my servant did, I will also prove to be with you, and I will build you a lasting house, just as I have built for David, and I will

- give you Israel. (1 Kings 11:38)
- And I shall humiliate the offspring of David on account of this, only not always. (1 Kings 11:39)
 - And **Solomon** began seeking to put Jeroboam to death. So Jeroboam got up and went running off to Egypt to Shishak the king of Egypt, and he continued in Egypt until Solomon's death. (1 Kings 11:40)
 - And Jeroboam and all the people proceeded to come to Rehoboam on the third day, just as the king had spoken, saying, Return to me on the third day. (1 Kings 12:12)
 - And the king began to answer the people harshly, and to leave the counsel of the older men who had counseled him. (1 Kings 12:13)
 - And he went on to speak to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying; My father, for his part, made your yoke heavy, but I, for my part, shall add to your yoke. My father, for his part, chastised you with whips, but I, for my part, shall chastise you with scourges. (1 Kings 12:14)
 - And the king did not listen to the people, because the turn of affairs took place at the instance of Yehowah, in order, that he might indeed carry out his word that Yehowah had spoken by means of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. (1 Kings 12:15)
 - King **Solomon's** drawing away from God had its bad effect on **Solomon's** rule. It became oppressive, doubtless due to the drain on the economy because of the high cost of his government, which must have been increasing to excess.
 - There was also discontent among those he had conscripted for forced labor and, no doubt, also among their Israelite overseers. Having turned away from following God with a complete heart, **Solomon** would no longer receive Yehowah's blessing and prosperity or the continued wisdom to govern in righteousness and justice and to solve the problems arising.
 - As **Solomon** himself had stated;

- When the righteous become many, the people rejoice, but when anyone wicked bears rule, the people sigh. (**Proverbs 29:2**)
- That this situation came about is made clear by the record of what took place shortly after **Solomon's** death, when Rehoboam ruled. Through the prophet Ahijah, God had sent a message to Jeroboam, telling Jeroboam that God would give him ten tribes and that if he would keep His statutes, God would build him a lasting house, just as he had done for David.
- After this, **Solomon** sought to kill Jeroboam, who fled to Egypt, where a successor of the father of **Solomon's** Egyptian wife now ruled. Jeroboam remained there until **Solomon's** death. Then he led the people in a complaint to Rehoboam and finally in rebellion.
- And there was Jeroboam the son of Nebat an Ephraimite from Zeredah, a servant of **Solomon**, and his mother's name was Zeruah, a widowed woman. He too began to lift up his hand against the king. (**1 Kings 11:26**)
- And this is the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king: **Solomon** himself had built the Mound. He had closed up the gap of the City of David his father. (**1 Kings 11:27**)
- Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant, mighty man. When **Solomon** got to see that the young man was a hard worker, he proceeded to make him overseer over all the compulsory service of the house of Joseph. (**1 Kings 11:28**)
- And it came about at that particular time that Jeroboam himself went out from Jerusalem, and Ahijah the Shilonite the prophet got to find him on the road, and Ahijah was covering himself with a new garment, and the two of them were by themselves in the field. (**1 Kings 11:29**)
- Ahijah now took hold of the new garment that was on him and ripped it into twelve pieces. (**1 Kings 11:30**)
- And he went on to say to Jeroboam; Take for yourself ten pieces, for this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Here I am ripping the kingdom out of the hand of **Solomon**, and I shall certainly give you ten tribes. (**1 Kings 11:31**)
- And the one tribe is what will continue his for the sake of my

- servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel. (1 Kings 11:32)
- The reason why is that they have left me and begun to bow down to Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, to Chemosh the god of Moab and to Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon, and they have not walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes and my statutes and my judicial decisions like David his father. (1 Kings 11:33)
 - But I shall not take the entire kingdom out of his hand, because a chieftain I shall set him for all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes. (1 Kings 11:34)
 - And I shall certainly take the kingship out of the hand of his son and give it to you, even ten tribes. (1 Kings 11:35)
 - And to his son I shall give one tribe, in order, that David my servant may continue having a lamp always before me in Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen for myself to put my name there. (1 Kings 11:36)
 - And you are the one that I shall take, and you will indeed reign over all that your soul craves, and you will certainly become king over Israel. (1 Kings 11:37)
 - And it must occur that, if you obey all that I shall command you, and you do walk in my ways and actually do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, just as David my servant did, I will also prove to be with you, and I will build you a lasting house, just as I have built for David, and I will give you Israel. (1 Kings 11:38)
 - And I shall humiliate the offspring of David on account of this, only not always. (1 Kings 11:39)
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- **When all Israel got to see that the king had not listened to them, then the people replied to the king, saying; What share do we have in David? And there is no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your gods, O Israel. Now see to your own house, O David! With that Israel began to go to their tents. (1 Kings 12:16)**
- **As for the sons of Israel that were dwelling in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam continued to reign over them. (1 Kings 12:17)**
- **Subsequently King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over those conscripted for forced labor, but all Israel pelted him with stones, so that he died. And King Rehoboam himself managed to get up into the chariot to flee to Jerusalem. (1 Kings 12:18)**
- **And the Israelites kept up their revolt against the house of David down to this day. (1 Kings 12:19)**
- **And it came about that as soon as all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they at once sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. None became a follower of the house of David except the tribe of Judah by itself. (1 Kings 12:20)**
- **Though Solomon had inclined his heart away from Yehowah, he lay down with his forefathers, and was buried in the City of David his father.**

- Then **Solomon** lay down with his forefathers, and was buried in the City of David his father, and Rehoboam his son began to reign in place of him. (**1 Kings 11:43**)
- Finally **Solomon** lay down with his forefathers. So they buried him in the City of David his father, and Rehoboam his son began to reign in place of him. (**2 Chronicles 9:31**)

•• **Jesus, A Legal Heir Of Solomon**

- **Matthew traces the descendants of Solomon down to Joseph, the adoptive father of Jesus, thus demonstrating that Jesus had the legal right to the throne of David through the kingly line.**
- **Solomon** became father to Rehoboam. Rehoboam became father to Abijah. Abijah became father to Asa. (**Matthew 1:7**)
- **Jacob became father to Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. (Matthew 1:16)**
- **Luke traces Jesus lineage to Heli, apparently the father of Mary, through Nathan, who was another son of David and Bath-sheba and therefore Solomon's full brother.**
- **Furthermore, Jesus himself, when he commenced his work, was about thirty years old, being the son, as the opinion was, of Joseph, son of Heli. (Luke 3:23)**
- **Son of Melea, son of Menna, son of Mattatha, son of Nathan, son of David. (Luke 3:31)**
- **Both lines of descent merge in Zerubbabel and Shealtiel and again branch out into two lines of descent.**
- **Zerubbabel became father to Abiud. Abiud became father to Eliakim. Eliakim became father to Azor. (Matthew 1:13)**
- **Son of Joanan, son of Rhesa, son of Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, son of Neri. (Luke 3:27)**
- **Mary the mother of Jesus was a descendant through Nathan, and Joseph his adoptive father descended through Solomon, so that Jesus**

was both the natural and legal descendant of David, with full right to the throne.

See Also GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST

.. Need To Guard The Heart

- As long as **Solomon** maintained an obedient heart, with which he was concerned at the beginning, he had Yehowah's favor and he prospered. But his bad outcome demonstrates that knowledge, great ability, or power, riches, and fame are not the most important things, and that to turn away from Yehowah is to forsake wisdom. **Solomon's** own counsel proved true;
- And you must give to your servant an obedient heart to judge your people, to discern between good and bad, for who is able to judge this difficult people of yours? (**1 Kings 3:9**)
- More than all else that is to be guarded, safeguard your heart, for out of it are the sources of life. (**Proverbs 4:23**)
- His case illustrates the treacherousness and desperateness of the heart of sinful man, but more, it shows that the best of hearts can be enticed if constant vigilance is not kept. Loving what Yehowah loves and hating what he hates, constantly seeking his guidance and the doing of what pleases him, are a sure protection.
- The heart is more treacherous than anything else and is desperate. Who can know it? (**Jeremiah 17:9**)
- The fear of Yehowah means the hating of bad. Self-exaltation and pride and the bad way and the perverse mouth I have hated. (**Proverbs 8:13**)
- You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness. That is why God, your God, anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your partners. (**Hebrews 1:9**)
- And he that sent me is with me, he did not abandon me to myself, because I always do the things pleasing to him. (**John 8:29**)

.. Messianic Prophecies

- There are many similarities between the reign of **Solomon** and that of the great King Jesus Christ, as prophesied in the Scriptures. In many respects **Solomon's** rule, as long as he was obedient to Yehowah, is a small-scale pattern of the Messianic Kingdom.
- Jesus Christ, **something more than Solomon**, came as a man of peace, and he appears to have carried out a spiritual building work especially related to the restoration of true worship among his anointed followers in Yehowah's great spiritual temple.
- The queen of the south will be raised up in the judgment with this generation and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of **Solomon**, but, look! **Something more than Solomon** is here. (**Matthew 12:42**)
- And what agreement does God's temple have with idols? For we are a temple of a living God, just as God said; I shall reside among them and walk among them, and I shall be their God, and they will be my people. (**2 Corinthians 6:16**)
- I leave you peace, I give you my peace. I do not give it to you the way that the world gives it. Do not let your hearts be troubled nor let them shrink for fear. (**John 14:27**)
- I have said these things to you that by means of me you may have peace. In the world you are having tribulation, but take courage! I have conquered the world. (**John 16:33**)
- For the kingdom of God does not mean eating and drinking, but means righteousness and peace and joy with Holy Spirit. (**Romans 14:17**)
- Moreover, the fruit of righteousness has its seed sown under peaceful conditions for those who are making peace. (**James 3:18**)
- **Solomon** was of the line of David, as was Jesus. Solomon's name, from a root meaning, **peace**, fits the glorified Jesus Christ as the **Prince of Peace**.
- For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us, and the princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace**. (**Isaiah 9:6**)

- His name **Jedidiah**, meaning, **Beloved of Yah**, harmonizes with God's own statement about his Son at the time of Jesus baptism; This is my Son, **the beloved**, whom I have approved.
- Look! Also, there was a voice from the heavens that said; **This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved.** (**Matthew 3:17**)
- (**Psalms Chapter 72**) is a prayerful expression in behalf of the rule of **Solomon**; Let the mountains carry peace to the people. In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abundance of peace until the moon is no more. And he will have subjects from sea to sea apparently the Mediterranean and the Red Sea
- And I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines and from the wilderness to the River, because I shall give into your hand the inhabitants of the land, and you will certainly drive them out from before yourself. (**Exodus 23:31**)
- **And from the River Euphrates to the ends of the earth.**
- Let the mountains carry peace to the people, also the hills, through righteousness. (**Psalms 72:3**)
- Let him judge the afflicted ones of the people, let him save the sons of the poor one, and let him crush the defrauder. (**Psalms 72:4**)
- They will fear you as long as there is a sun, and before the moon for generation after generation. (**Psalms 72:5**)
- He will descend like the rain upon the mown grass, like copious showers that wet the earth. (**Psalms 72:6**)
- In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abundance of peace until the moon is no more. (**Psalms 72:7**)
- And he will have subjects from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. (**Psalms 72:8**)
- In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abundance of peace until the moon is no more. (**Psalms 72:7**)

- **Until the moon is no more, Cook's Commentary says: This passage is important as shewing that the idea of a King whose reign should last to the end of time was distinctly present to the Psalmists mind. It determines the Messianic character of the whole composition. And on**

- **And he will have subjects from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. (Psalms 72:8)**

- **He remarks: The kingdom was to be universal, extending to the ends of the earth. The extension of the Israelitish realm under David and Solomon was sufficient to suggest the hope, and might be regarded by the Psalmist as a pledge of its realization, but taken in connection with the preceding verses this declaration is strictly Messianic.**

- **The prophet Micah, in a prophecy almost universally accepted as Messianic, drew on the circumstance described in Solomon's reign, that**

- **And Judah and Israel continued to dwell in security, everyone under his own vine and under his own fig tree, from Dan to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon. (1 Kings 4:25)**

- **And they will actually sit, each one under his vine and under his fig tree, and there will be no one making them tremble, for the very mouth of Yehowah of armies has spoken it. (Micah 4:4)**

- **Zechariah's prophecy**

- **Be very joyful, O daughter of Zion. Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem. Look! Your king himself comes to you. He is righteous, yes, saved, humble, and riding upon an ass, even upon a full-grown animal the son of a she-ass. (Zechariah 9:9)**

- **And I shall certainly cut off the war chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. And the battle bow must be cut off. And he will actually speak peace to the nations, and his rulership will be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. (Zechariah 9:10)**

- **And he will have subjects from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. (Psalms 72:8)**

- **And Matthew applies Zechariah's prophecy to Jesus Christ.**

- **This actually took place that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet, saying; ([Matthew 21:4](#))**
- **Tell the daughter of Zion, Look! Your King is coming to you, mild-tempered, and mounted upon an ass, yes, upon a colt, the offspring of a beast of burden. ([Matthew 21:5](#))**