

The Life of King Solomon

School of Ministry

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Birth of Solomon

- Solomon is the son of David and Bathsheba.
→ [1 Chronicles 3:5](#)
- Born circa 1000 BC.
- Siblings; Nathan, Shammau, and Shobab.
→ Also detailed in [1 Chronicles 3:5](#)

Solomon's Ascension to the Throne.

- Successor of King David.
→ [1 Kings 1:32](#)
- Solomon's reign began circa 970 BC and ended 931 BC.
- David failed to publicly declare Solomon king; this created conflict in the family.
→ [1 Kings 1:5](#)
- Solomon inherits the throne and orders Benaiah to kill Adonijah.
→ [1 Kings 2:13-25](#)

1 Kings 1:1-53

10 But Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.

11 Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth it not?

12 Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon.

13 Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign?

14 Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.

15 And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king.

16 And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldst thou?

17 And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the Lord thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

- Solomon prayed for discernment and wisdom

→ [1 Kings 3:6](#)

- God grants King Solomon the wisdom he prayed for, but promised much more for the newfound king.

- Solomon's first show of the Lord's wisdom is with the two harlots.

→ [1 Kings 3:16-28](#)

1 Kings 3:6-9

6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7 And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

The Building of Solomon's Temple.

- King Solomon built the temple as a place meant for purposeful worship of God.
- Construction of the temple took seven years, and began in the fourth year of his reign.
→ [1 Kings 6:38](#)
- David prepared for the building of the temple.

1 Kings 6:1-2 and 38

1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord.

2 And the house which king Solomon built for the Lord, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

The construction of the temple is detailed in [1 Kings 6:1-38](#).

Solomon's Achievements.

- Consolidated the kingdom.
- Built the temple.
- Wrote a portion of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.
- **Israel's Golden Age.**

Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

14 When thou art come unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

15 Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

Solomon's Wives and Concubines.

Concubine (n): a woman who lives with a man, but has lower status than his wife or wives.
A mistress.

- Solomon had 700 wives and hundreds of concubines.
→ [1 Kings 11:1-11](#)
- Most notable of wives was pharaoh's daughter.

Why?

- Solomon married all of these women to form alliances and treaties with neighboring nations; it was a political move.
→ [1 Kings 11:1](#)

Solomon's Failures as King.

- Solomon had wisdom and discernment from God but allowed his flesh and power get in the way.
- Solomon allowed his wives to bring in false religions.
- Solomon married "strange women" which was against what God had commanded.
- **God brought the people out of Egypt and Solomon brought Egypt back into the kingdom.**

1 Kings 11:1-43 details his turning away from God's commandments.

1 Kings 11:1-6 and 9-10

1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites:

2 Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.

5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father.

9 And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded.

Timeline of Solomon's Life.

