

“So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done.” – 1 Kings 11:6

“And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.” So Israel went to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah.” – 1 Kings 12: 16-17

1. Adonijah’s Attempt; Solomon’s Anointing (Chapter 1)

- a. David is now old and cold.
- b. Adonijah begins to set himself up as king.
 - i. Adonijah was the son born after Absalom so he probably thinks what he is doing is right.
 - ii. Adonijah begins a celebration and invites everyone except Nathan, Benaiah, the mighty men, or Solomon.
- c. Bathsheba and Nathan vie for Solomon’s kingship.
 - i. Note: we’re not told of this promise from David to Bathsheba that Solomon will be king elsewhere in 1 and 2 Samuel.
- d. David confirms Solomon as King.
- e. Adonijah is told of Solomon’s anointing.
 - i. Solomon agrees not to hurt him if he proves to be a worthy man, but if he acts in wickedness, he shall be killed.

2. The Establishment of Solomon’s Reign (Chapter 2)

- a. David’s calls on Solomon and tells him to follow the ways of the Lord.
 - i. “Keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as written in the Law of Moses...”
 - ii. Advises Solomon to act wisely with Joab, Barzillai, and Shimei.
- b. David dies (1Ki 2:10-12).
- c. We’re told that Solomon sat on the throne of David, his father, and that his kingdom was “firmly established.”
 - i. Solomon further establishes his kingdom.
 1. Has Adonijah, Joab, and Shimei killed, places Zadok in place of Abiathar.
 2. V46b: “So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon”
 - a. But we were told that it was already “*firmly* established” back in 2:12 (presumably by God).
 - b. Now we have Solomon, trying to further establish it.

3. Solomon Asks, Receives, and Demonstrates Wisdom (Chapter 3).

- a. Solomon makes a marriage alliance with Pharaoh King of Egypt.
 - i. Married a foreign woman!
- b. 3:3 – Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father...
 - i. Note, David had commanded him to walk in the statutes of the *Lord*, not of *David* (2:1-4).
- c. God appears to Solomon at Gibeon while he is there making sacrifices.
 - i. God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”
 - ii. Solomon admits his weakness – says “I am but a little child” – I don’t know what I’m doing, perhaps I’m in over my head.
 - iii. Asks for an understanding mind to govern God’s people.

- iv. Because of the unselfish request, God also gives him riches and honor.
- v. Tells Solomon, “**if** you will walk in *my* ways, keeping *my* statutes and *my* commandments, as your father David walked, **then** I will lengthen your days.”
- d. Solomon demonstrates his wisdom (3:16-28).

4. Officials, Wealth, and Wisdom (Chapter 4)

- a. 4:1-6 – King Solomon’s high officials.
- b. 4:7-19 – Solomon’s 12 officers (provided food for the king and his household – each was responsible for making provision for one month of the year).
- c. v20: Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy.
- d. 4:20-25 – wonderful time in history of Israel?
 - i. Chiasm structure:
 - 1. A – v20: Prosperity (domestic)
 - a. B – v21: Ruled over (foreign policy working)
 - i. C – v22-23: Solomon’s daily provisions – excess – royal luxury
 - b. B’ – v24: Ruled over (foreign policy working)
 - 2. A’ – v25: Prosperity (domestic)
- e. Accumulations:
 - i. 40,000 stalls of horses, 12,000 horsemen.
 - ii. V27: they let nothing be lacking.
- f. 4:29-34 – Focus on Solomon’s wisdom.
 - i. Wiser than anyone else.
 - ii. Wise in the areas of horticulture, animals.

5. Prep for Building the Temple (Chapter 5)

- a. Solomon makes a treaty with Hiram king of Tyre.
 - i. Hiram will supply workers for the building of the Temple.
 - ii. Solomon will provide food for the house of Hiram.
- b. 5:3-5 – Solomon acknowledges the Lord’s work in giving rest on every side (in contrast to the constant battling that David went through) and that the time is right to build a temple.
- c. 5:13-18 – Some details on the complexity of the project.
 - i. Solomon as CEO.
 - ii. 3300 chief officers overseeing the work.
 - iii. 30,000 men sent to Lebanon in 10k shifts – 1 month on, 2 months off.
 - iv. 70k burden-bearers
 - v. 80k stonecutters.

6. The Building of the Temple (Chapter 6).

- a. In the 480th year after the people of Israel came out of Egypt (in the 4th year of the reign of Solomon), he began to build the house of the Lord.
- b. 6:2-10 – details.
 - i. Including v7 – they did all of the stone cutting at the quarry so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was being built.
- c. 6:11-13 – The word of the Lord came to Solomon.
 - i. A reminder “concerning the house that you are building”.
 - ii. **If** you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, **then** I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel.
- d. 6:14-38 – details.
- e. 38b – It took seven years to build it.

- f. Solomon's Temple on YouTube:
 - i. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFnWTz-7I0E>

7. Solomon's Palace and the Temple Furnishings (Chapter 7).

- a. 7:1 – It took 13 years to build his palace.
 - i. Note that 6:38 and 7:1 would have been read without break (no chapter division).
 - ii. Solomon diverts his attention for 13 years to build his own palace instead of furnishing the Temple.
 - iii. Result is that the people were not able to worship there (see 3:3).
- b. 7:2-12 – details on the palace.
- c. 7:13-51 – Temple furnishings.
 - i. Hiram from Tyre did all the work (is this the King of Tyre himself – 5:1?)

8. Solomon's Great Prayer and Benediction (Chapter 8)

- a. 8:1-11 – They bring the Ark of the Covenant to the Temple.
- b. 8:12-21 – Solomon blesses the Lord, recounts what God told David.
 - i. Focus on the Lord fulfilling his promises.
- c. 8:22-53 – Solomon's prayer to God.
 - i. Note that he recounts a portion of the command from David in v25 "if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me..."
 - ii. 7 part prayer (very important passage) – praying for God's faithfulness:
 1. If/when this happens....then hear in heaven and forgive.
 2. If a man sins against his neighbor...
 3. When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you and if they turn again to you...
 4. When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, they pray...
 5. If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemy besieges them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness....
 6. When a foreigner who is not of your people Israel comes from a far for your names sake...
 7. If your people go out to battle against their enemy...
 8. If they sin against you – for there is no one who does not sin – and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near, yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land....
- d. 8:54-61 – Solomon's benediction.
 - i. An amazing prayer of benediction over the people of Israel.
 - ii. V56: not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant.
- e. 8:62-66 – Solomon's Sacrifices.

9. Second Appearance of God to Solomon (Chapter 9).

- a. God appears to Solomon a second time.
 - i. Provides a warning while Solomon is at the top of his game.
 - ii. If...then (v4-5)
 - iii. But if...then(v6-7)
- b. Solomon gives Hiram king of Tyre 20 cities; Hiram is not pleased with the 20 cities.

- c. All of the foreign peoples left in the land (Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites) were made to be slaves.
- d. Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings three times a year.
- e. Built a fleet of ships and armed them with the best seamen around.
 - i. And they went up to Ophir and brought 420 talents of gold from there.

10. Queen of Sheba Visits; Solomon Accumulates (Chapter 10).

- a. Queen of Sheba hears of Solomon and comes to test him with hard questions.
 - i. Solomon gave her “all that she desired.”
- b. Solomon’s great wealth (10:14ff)
 - i. 666 talents of gold per year.
 - ii. Made an ivory throne, overlaid with gold.
 - iii. Drinking vessels were all gold.
 - iv. Once every three years, another fleet of ships of Tarshish would bring gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.
 - v. Horses and chariots.

11. Solomon’s Apostasy, Adversaries, and Death (Chapter 11).

- a. Solomon’s love for foreign women.
 - i. We’re reminded of God’s prohibition (11:2).
 - ii. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines.
 - iii. And his wives turned away his *heart* after other gods.
 - 1. Recall: Exodus 34:10-16; Deut. 7:1-6; Joshua 23:6-13; Judges 3:5-6
 - iv. V6: So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done.”
- b. Adversaries
 - i. “For the sake of David” repeats many times in this chapter.
 - ii. The Lord was angry with Solomon.
 - 1. We’re reminded of the two appearances of God to Solomon (see chapters 3 and 9).
 - 2. God tells Solomon that because of all of this, he will tear the kingdom from him and give it to his servant.
 - iii. Hadad the Edomite is raised up – by God (v14) – as an adversary.
 - iv. God also raised up Rezon.
 - v. Jeroboam also lifted his hand against the king.
 - 1. Ahijah, a prophet, appears to Jeroboam and tells him that he will lead ten of the tribes of Israel and that Solomon’s son will be left with one.
 - 2. God’s promise to Jeroboam (37-39).
 - 3. Jeroboam flees and takes refuge in Egypt until Solomon dies.
- c. Solomon dies.
 - i. Reigned 40 years.
 - ii. Slept with his fathers and buried in the city of David his father.
- d. Solomon’s son, Rehoboam takes over as king.

12. Jeroboam’s Golden Calves and His Own Religion (Chapter 12).

- a. Rehoboam is made king; Jeroboam returns from Egypt.
- b. Jeroboam and the people of Israel ask Rehoboam to lighten the load that Solomon has put on them.
 - i. Rehoboam sends them away for three days and takes counsel.
 - ii. After three days, Jeroboam and all the people come back, and Jeroboam tells them that he will make their yoke heavier than Solomon did.
- c. The kingdom splits over this.

- i. Jeroboam over all of Israel except Judah.
 - ii. Rehoboam over Judah.
- d. Jeroboam's golden calves.
 - i. Jeroboam does not want the people of Israel to go up to Jerusalem for their worship b/c he is afraid they will turn and follow Rehoboam and kill him (Jeroboam).
 - ii. So he makes two calves of gold and calls them their gods.
 - 1. He puts one in Bethel and one in Dan.
 - iii. Made temples on high places and appointed priests from among "all the people" who were not Levites. (32a)
 - iv. Made up his own feasts (32b)
 - 1. V33 – in the month that he had devised from his own heart.
 - v. Jeroboam is basically making his own religion.

13. For Next Time:

- a. Next time, we'll talk at a very high level about the rest of 1 and 2 Kings and also touch on 1 and 2 Chronicles.
- b. Read as much as 1 and 2 Kings as you wish in order to contribute to the discussion.
- c. See also the relevant chapters in *Howard*.
- d. Our focus will be on:
 - i. The sustained Davidic line.
 - ii. The overlap of 1 and 2 Kings and the Prophets.
 - iii. The two exiles.

14. Class Handouts, etc Available Online:

- a. I'm making all of the handouts, etc available online at:
 - i. www.toddsmindblogger.wordpress.com