

LESSON 15 – SOLOMON’S GLORIOUS KINGDOM

1 Kings 1 – 11 and 2 Chronicles 1 - 9

THEME: To give a preview of the 1,000 year Kingdom.

As a child did you ever play king or queen? If you did, it was probably fun to put a crown on your head and pretend that other people will do everything you tell them to do. Did you know that believers are going to reign with Christ one day in a position higher than any king or queen in the world today? In 2 Timothy 2:11,12 we read that believers in Christ, who desired to live godly in Christ Jesus and therefore suffered (2 Timothy 3:12), will reign with Christ.

King David had the intention to build a permanent house for the ark of the covenant of the Lord. But the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "... you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me. Behold, a son will be born to you, ...He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever." Therefore David called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build the house. 1 Chronicles 22:6-10. Now when David reached old age, he made his son Solomon king over Israel. 1 Chronicles 23:1.

Solomon began his reign as king over all Israel. He went to the high place which was at Gibeon, for God’s tent of meeting was there, which Moses the servant of the Lord had made in the wilderness. There he offered a thousand burnt offerings on the bronze altar. In that night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you." Solomon asked that God gave him wisdom and knowledge. Because of this humble request, God gave him also riches and wealth and honour. Solomon then returned to Jerusalem and reigned over Israel. 2 Chronicles 1:1-13. He showed his wisdom when he was asked to settle a dispute between two women, over who was the true mother of a baby. We read of this story in 1 Kings 3:16-28.

Solomon organized the kingdom. He had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen. He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005 songs. 1 Kings 4:26, 32. His great throne was made of ivory overlaid with refined gold, and all his drinking cups were made of gold. He became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. 1 Kings 10:18, 21, 23.

In 2 Chronicles 3 we read that Solomon began to build the Temple on Mount Moriah, where the Lord answered the offerings of his father David. 1 Chronicles 21:26. In 1 Kings 6:1 we read that this happened in the 480th year after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the 4th year of Solomon’s reign over Israel. However, in Acts 13:18 the apostle Paul tells us that for about 40 years God put up with Israel in the wilderness. Then in Acts 13:19,20 there is a period of about 450 years until Samuel the prophet. Saul and David reigned each for 40 years (Acts 13:21, 2 Samuel 5:4). So all this does not fit with the 480 years of 1 Kings 6:1.

How do we explain this difference? During the 450 years until Samuel the prophet, Israel was serving other nations instead of God. And so the 480 years of 1 Kings 6:1 do not include the years when Israel is out of favour.



Source: Sweet Publishing - for illustration purposes of 1 Kings 3:26 only

The Temple consisted of a house for the Lord (1 Kings 6:2), a porch in front it (1 Kings 6:3), an Inner Court (1 Kings 6:36) or Court of the Priests and the Great Court (2 Chronicles 4:9) where the people assembled to worship. The house for the Lord had an inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies, where the ark of the covenant of the Lord was placed (1 Kings 6:19).

The first altar was the Altar of Burnt Offering, also called the Brasen Altar. It stood before the house for the Lord (2 Kings 16:14) and upon it the animal and bird sacrifices were offered. The blood of the sacrifices was being thrown against the base of the altar. The animal to be offered in the burnt offering was always to be of the highest quality. The offerer laid his hands upon the animal, identifying his sins with it. Thus, when the animal was slain (by the hand of the offerer) it died for the sins of the offerer. It is not so much for the offerer's specific sins (which were dealt with by other sacrifices), but rather for the offerer's general state of sinfulness.

The second altar was the Altar of Incense, called also the Golden Altar, and stood inside the house for the Lord.

In 2 Chronicles 5,6 we read that all the work that Solomon performed for the house of the Lord was finished and how it was dedicated. Solomon saw in the future that days of trouble would come, and he prayed that God would hear Israel and help them in that day. After this, fire from heaven came down and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the Lord. 2 Chronicles 7:1-3.

Do you remember what we said about a *type* in the Bible? It is someone or something, pictured beforetime. Solomon's kingdom was a type of the great KINGDOM OF HEAVEN upon earth. God promised a kingdom to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David, a kingdom which would last forever. On our chart it is represented by HOLY KINGDOM MOUNTAIN, most probably located on the site where Solomon's Temple was built.

Solomon pictures our Lord Jesus Christ when He will reign as King of kings (Revelation 19:16), and all the nations will come and worship before Him. Revelation 15:4. Are you wondering where we, believers in Christ, will be then? We must look at GRACE AIRPORT where all who trust the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour from going to hell become passengers on SALVATION LINER. Before He comes to reign on the earth, we, the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27), will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air; to be joined with Him forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:17. While we, believers in Christ, are waiting to be caught up, He wants us to be *Ambassadors* for Him. That we implore others on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God. To trust Him as their own personal Saviour from going to hell. 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2.

We have seen the glory which came to Solomon because he obeyed God. Next lesson we will see the tragedy which came when Solomon disobeyed. It is a wonderful hope to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. But maybe you don't have this hope yet. It is not difficult to become His child. Trust Him as your personal Saviour from going to hell by believing that He died, buried and resurrected for you, taking upon Himself your sin. Then you will be a child of God and a fellow heir with Christ. Romans 8:16,17.

MEMORY VERSE: "and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*." Romans 8:17.

LESSON 15 – WORK SHEET

Look up the Scriptures and fill in the correct word to complete the following statements.

1. God refused to let David build the Temple because he had _____
_____ 1 Chronicles 22:8.
2. God said that David's son _____ would build it. 1 Chronicles 22:9,10.
3. God said that the throne of the kingdom of Solomon would be established over Israel
_____ 1 Chronicles 22:10.
4. Solomon asked that God would give him _____
2 Chronicles 1:10.
5. God showed that He was pleased with the offerings and the prayer of Solomon by
sending _____
_____ 2 Chronicles 7:1.
6. God told Solomon: "If you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments
which I have set before you, and go _____,
then I will _____
_____. 2 Chronicles 7:19,20.
7. Solomon's kingdom was a type/picture of the great time to come when Christ will reign
for 1,000 years (Millennium), and the earth will be full _____
_____ Isaiah 11:9.
8. If we, the members of the Body of Christ, endure, _____
_____. 2 Timothy 2:12.
9. While we are waiting to be caught up to be forever with the Lord, God wants us to be
_____ for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:20.
10. Write Romans 8:17: _____

_____.