

## Plan and Purpose Bible Lesson #III-36—I Kings 1-8; II Chron. 1-7

In our last lesson we saw that King David was commanded by God to build an altar on the site of the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. David purchased the floor, the land, the threshing instruments and the oxen for the burnt offering. This was to become the site of the temple that Solomon was to build. As I said in the last lesson, it is a little difficult to get all of the events into chronological order, but I believe the next Scripture that we need to look at is I Chron. 22. (Read)

So while Solomon did the building, David made a great deal of the preparation not only gathering materials, but as we will see, in drawing up at least part of the plans as well. I Chron. 23 starts off, **“So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel.”** For this and the events that led up to it, we need to go to I Kings 1.

(Read I Kings 1:1-4) I’m not sure why one of his wives could not have done this for David, unless they were too old to both minister unto him and to keep him warm at night. Though Abishag did this for David, the point is made that David never took her as a wife or concubine.

(Read I Kings 1:5-10) We have another son of David, brother of Absalom attempting to usurp the throne of David. Joab and Abiathar, the priest, sided with Adonijah, but the rest of David’s mighty men and Nathan the prophet remained loyal to King David. As a result when Adonijah set forth a great feast, these men did not get invited. This is going to contribute to the downfall of both Joab and Abiathar.

(Read I Kings 1:11-27) David had promised Bathsheba that her son Solomon would be the one to reign after David. However, David was old and had let things slip to the point that he was not paying a lot of attention to what was going on around him. Nathan apparently was aware of the promise to Bathsheba, so he went to her and convinced her to go to the king and remind him of the promise concerning Solomon and to call his attention to what Adonijah was doing, which she did. Nathan followed up himself by witnessing to David what was happening. David then took care of the situation that same day. (Read I Kings 1:28-40) Solomon is now king over all Israel.

(Read I Kings 1:41-53) One thing that might be hard to understand, even in David’s own house, is the jealousy between brothers concerning the throne. We have already seen two of David’s sons attempt to take the throne somewhat by force as they seemed to think that this would be the only way that they would be able to rise to the throne. Adonijah, when he learned that Solomon had been anointed king, became very fearful for his life knowing it was within the power of Solomon to kill him. However, for the moment, Solomon appears satisfied to let Adonijah live.

(Read I Kings 2:1-11) Among the charges that David gave to Solomon are a couple that I find interesting. The first concerned Joab. He reminds Solomon that Joab had killed both Abner and Amasa without cause. He then tells Solomon to do with him according to his wisdom, but to not let him die an old man. The second concerned Shimei, the Benjamite, that had cursed him when he fled from Absalom. He had promised Shimei, when he returned to Jerusalem and his throne, that he would not kill him with the sword. However, he told Solomon to not hold him guiltless. He told Solomon that in his wisdom he knew what he needed to do, but again, to not let him go to his grave as an old man. He also asked Solomon to always be kind to the sons of Barzillai who had brought provisions and supplies to David as he fled from Absalom.

To complete our study of King David, we need to again turn to I Chronicles. Chapters 23-27 outline the order of the people who served David from the priesthood to the military to the officers to his closest advisors. Chapters 28 and 29 tells us of the preparation that David made for the temple and the charges he gave Solomon and the people concerning the temple. (Read I Chron. 28-29)

With this, David died after reigning for 40 years, 7 years over Judah and then 33 years over both Judah and Israel.

(Read I Kings 2:12-25) If you recall back when Nathan, the prophet, told David the story of the rich man who had taken the poor man's only ewe lamb to serve a traveler as his way to accuse David of both adultery and murder in the death of Uriah when David had him killed and then took Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, to be his wife, David pronounced a sentence on the rich man not realizing that he was the rich man in Nathan's story. He said that the rich man should die and that he was to restore 4 fold the lamb he had taken. We know at the time that David's son by Bathsheba died instead of David. Now, we see the fullness of the sentence that David pronounced on himself. The 4-fold restoration turned out to be that four of David's sons have died before their time.

(Read I Kings 2:26-27) Because Abiathar had sided with Adonijah, Solomon thrust him from the position of high priest that he shared with Zadok. This is fulfillment of the prophecy of un-named prophet that came to Eli and prophesied against him because of the wickedness of his sons whom Eli had appointed as priests. We read of this in I Sam. 2. In verses 34-36, we read, <sup>34</sup>**And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.**

<sup>35</sup>**And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.**

<sup>36</sup>**And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.**

Abiathar was a descendant of Eli who was descended through Ithamar, the younger of Aaron's two surviving sons. Zadok was descended through Eleazar and it is Zadok's descendants that were the high priests from then on. No longer were Eli's descendants high priest.

(Read I Kings 2:28-34) This left Solomon with still one more piece of unfinished business to take care of concerning the charges that David gave him. (Read I Kings 2:35-46) This took care of Shimei.

As we begin our study of the life of Solomon read I Kings 3:1-4. To understand why Solomon went to Gibeon read II Chron. 1:1-6. It is here at Gibeon that God spoke to Solomon in a dream asking what He could give Solomon. (Read I Kings 3:5-15) II Chron. 1:7-12 gives us the same story. By Solomon asking for wisdom to govern the people of Israel, God was pleased with Solomon's request and gave him not only wisdom, but great riches and honor as well. Solomon was told that never had there been a king as wise as Solomon nor would there ever be one again.

We get a sample of this wisdom in I Kings 3:16-28. (Read) Chapter 4 gives us a list of Solomon's princes, his cabinet or heads of the various departments of his government. It also tells us that he had

twelve men who provided for the king's provisions, one man for each month. They were each from a different part of the kingdom, so I assume that it was their job to gather provisions from their part of the country and bring it to the king's household during their particular month. We're told that this amounted to thirty measures of flour, sixty measures of meal, ten fat oxen and twenty grassfed oxen, one hundred sheep besides the fatted fowls and wild animals each day.

Solomon ruled all of the land from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean and from Egypt to Tyre with the exception of Philistia. He had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots and 12 thousand horsemen which he had stationed at different points throughout his kingdom. So not only did the men in charge of providing provisions for the king's household have to provide food for humans, he had to furnish food for the horses, camels and other animals as well.

Solomon was not only a philosopher, but a dedicated scientist as well dealing with all types of animal life. People from all kingdoms of the earth came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

I Kings 5-6 and II Chron. 3-4 details the building of the temple. It is interesting to me that King Hiram of Tyre brought the timber for the building by floats on the Mediterranean Sea. We're not told how they moved the floats. It took 7 years to build the temple. I am not enough of an architect to understand the description as given. The original building was 60 cubits long and 20 cubits wide. The most holy house where the Ark of the Covenant was to be placed was an additional 20 cubits square. Then porches and other rooms were added until this became a very large building. It was made of stone that was prepared before it was brought to the building site so that there was no sound of hammer or axe or any tool heard in the house as it was being built. The inside of the main house and the most holy house was then covered with carved cedar inside and that was then covered with gold. Another man by the name of Hiram, who had a Zidonian father and an Israelite mother, and who was very cunning in metals, was hired to look to the casting of the brass, gold and silver items that were part of the temple and instruments used in the temple. Some of what he did would be difficult to duplicate today. The altar was made of brass and was 20 cubits square and 10 cubits high. The molten sea was 10 cubits from brim to brim and 5 cubits high, 30 cubits in circumference. We're told that it held 3000 baths which would be about 24,000 gallons. Then there was the oxen that the sea rested on, the foundation that they stood on all of brass. The sea was for the priests to wash in and there were 10 lavers to wash the things offered for the burnt offerings. Then there was the more delicate work of covering the inside walls with gold and the making of the candle sticks and all of the decorative work that went with all of this. I think we can see that God had to have inspired this man to be able to accomplish all of this.

When Solomon had completed the temple he then spent another 13 years building his own house. I Kings 7 details this building and a lot of the work that Hiram did with the brass, silver and gold.

I Kings 8 and II Chron. 5 tell us of the placing of the Ark of the Covenant in the new temple. (Read II Chron. 5)

(Read II Chron. 6) Though the intent of Solomon's prayer was to acknowledge God in every way and to recognize God's presence among them symbolized by God establishing His name and presence in the temple that they had just completed, I think we can see how the temple itself came to be an object of worship by the people later on. (Read II Chron. 7) This was God's response to Solomon's prayer and that of the people. However, note the consequences of disobedience. As we study further, we need to remember this as we will see that the people were disobedient and verses 20-22 came to pass just as God promised.

We'll take a look at Solomon's life and reign in our next lesson. JRL