

1 Kings 5-16 & 2 Chronicles 1-16

Mark Swift – 11/8/2023

Solomon's sacrifice and theophany 1:1-13

Gibeon was the “most prominent high place”.

Solomon addressed all Israel, including those who commanded units of a thousand and a hundred, the judges, and all the leaders of all Israel who were heads of families. [3](#) Solomon and the entire assembly went to the worship center in Gibeon, for the tent where they met God was located there.

Chronicles:

[7](#) That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Tell me what I should give you.” [8](#) Solomon replied to God, “You demonstrated great loyalty to my father David and have made me king in his place. [9](#) Now, Lord God, may your promise to my father David be realized, for you have made me king over a great nation as numerous as the dust of the earth. [10](#) Now give me wisdom and discernment so I can effectively lead this nation. Otherwise no one is able to make judicial decisions for this great nation of yours.”

[11](#) God said to Solomon, “Because you desire this, and did not ask for riches, wealth, and honor, or for vengeance on your enemies, and because you did not ask for long life, but requested wisdom and discernment so you can make judicial decisions for my people over whom I have made you king, [12](#) you are granted wisdom and discernment. Furthermore I am giving you riches, wealth, and honor surpassing that of any king before or after you.”

Kings:

God said to him, “Because you asked for the ability to make wise judicial decisions, and not for long life, or riches, or vengeance on your enemies, [12](#) I grant your request, and give you a wise and discerning mind superior to that of anyone who has preceded or will succeed you. [13](#) Furthermore, I am giving you what you did not request – riches and honor so that you will be the greatest king of your generation.

Two Prostitutes story

When all Israel heard about the judicial decision which the king had rendered, they respected the king, for they realized that he possessed supernatural wisdom to make judicial decisions.

- a. The building of the temple 2:1—5:1 (7 years)
 - a. Preparations for building the temple ch. 2
 - i. Timber from Tyre in exchange for high quality food (wheat and olive oil)
 - ii. 153,600 resident foreigners (left over canaanites) conscripted as laborers and stone cutters.
 - b. The temple proper 3:1-9
 - i. 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high
 - ii. Outer temple, porch, inner temple, holy of holies
 - iii. Covered in gold throughout
 - iv. Decorated extensively with palm trees, flowers, and cherubim

- v. Cherubim word is borrowed from Assyrian and Babylonian
- c. The temple furnishings 3:10—5:1
 - i. Bronze basin - The Sea

He also made the big bronze basin called "The Sea." It measured 15 feet from rim to rim, was circular in shape, and stood seven and one-half feet high. Its circumference was 45 feet. Images of bulls were under it all the way around, ten every eighteen inches all the way around. The bulls were in two rows and had been cast with "The Sea." "The Sea" stood on top of twelve bulls. Three faced northward, three westward, three southward, and three eastward. "The Sea" was placed on top of them, and they all faced outward. It was four fingers thick and its rim was like that of a cup shaped like a lily blossom. It could hold 18,000 gallons.

- ii. 10 washing basins
- d. The temple furnishings 3:10—5:1
 - i. Bronze altar, 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 15 feet high
- b. The dedication of the temple 5:2—7:10
 - a. The installation of the ark 5:2-14
 - i. Moved from the City of David
 - ii. Temple filled with a cloud of glory so thick the priests couldn't do their work
 - c. The dedication of the temple 5:2—7:10
 - a. Solomon's address 6:1-11
 - i. Reminding the people about the dialog between Yahweh and David about the temple. Solomon gives the glory to God for fulfilling his promise that Solomon would build the temple.
 - b. Solomon's prayer 6:12-42
 - i. Reminder of the Davidic covenant
 - ii. Plea for Yahweh to be merciful and listen to prayers in various situations
 - c. Solomon's blessing and admonition
 - i. **56**"The Lord is worthy of praise because he has made Israel his people secure just as he promised! Not one of all the faithful promises he made through his servant Moses is left unfulfilled! **57**May the Lord our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors. May he not abandon us or leave us. **58**May he make us submissive, so we can follow all his instructions and obey the commandments, rules, and regulations he commanded our ancestors. **59**May the Lord our God be constantly aware of these requests of mine I have presented to him, so that he might vindicate his servant and his people Israel as the need arises. **60**Then all the nations of the earth will recognize that the Lord is the only genuine God. **61**May you demonstrate wholehearted devotion to the Lord our God by following his rules and obeying his commandments, as you are presently doing."
 - d. The celebration of the people 7:4-10
 - i. Peace offerings to the Lord of 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep
 - ii. Bronze altar was too small(!) so only the fat was burnt on it
 - iii. 2 weeks – people from the whole nation were invited
 - e. The Lord's promise and warning
 - i. "I have answered your prayer and your request for help that you made to me. I have consecrated this temple you built by making it my permanent home; I will

be constantly present there. **4**You must serve me with integrity and sincerity, just as your father David did. Do everything I commanded and obey my rules and regulations. **5**Then I will allow your dynasty to rule over Israel permanently, just as I promised your father David, 'You will not fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.'

- ii. **6**"But if you or your sons ever turn away from me, fail to obey the regulations and rules I instructed you to keep, and decide to serve and worship other gods, **7**then I will remove Israel from the land I have given them, I will abandon this temple I have consecrated with my presence, and Israel will be mocked and ridiculed among all the nations. **8**This temple will become a heap of ruins

d. Building of the Royal facilities (13 years)

- a. Palace of the Lebanon Forest - 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high
- b. Colonnade – 75 feet long, 45 feet wide
- c. Throne room – Hall of Judgment
- d. Solomon's personal palace
- e. Pharaoh's daughter's palace
- f. Great courtyard

e. The reign of Solomon chs. 1—9 (970-930 BC)

a. Solomon's wisdom and prosperity ch. 1

i. Solomon's power and wealth 1:14-17

- 1. Silver and gold as plentiful as stones (stones are everywhere in Israel).
- 2. Silver is so common it isn't valuable.
 - a. All of King Solomon's cups were made of gold, and all the household items in the Palace of the Lebanon Forest were made of pure gold. There were no silver items, for silver was not considered very valuable in Solomon's time.
- 3. Horse and chariot business
 - a. 1,400 chariots
 - b. 12,000 horses
 - c. Buying from Egypt
 - d. Selling to Hittites and Syrians
- 4. Taxes: 666 talents of Gold each year
 - a. 50,000 lbs
 - b. \$1.5 billion
- 5. Trading fleet bringing back gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks
- 6. Large throne
 - a. The throne was decorated with ivory and overlaid it with pure gold. **19**There were six steps leading up to the throne, and the back of it was rounded on top. The throne had two armrests with a statue of a lion standing on each side. **20**There were twelve statues of lions on the six steps, one lion at each end of each step. There was nothing like it in any other kingdom.
- 7. Tribute from lots of nations – silver, gold, clothes, perfume, spices, horses, and mules

8. Women

- a. Alliance with Egypt by marrying Pharaoh's daughter (his primary wife)
- b. 700 royal wives and 300 concubines
- c. King Solomon fell in love with many foreign women (besides Pharaoh's daughter), including Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites. 2They came from nations about which the Lord had warned the Israelites, "You must not establish friendly relations with them! If you do, they will surely shift your allegiance to their gods." But Solomon was irresistibly attracted to them.

1. Side note: Proverbs 31 (an oracle from his mother Bathsheba)

1The words of King Lemuel, an oracle that his mother taught him:

2O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows,

3Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which ruins kings.

4It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine,

or for rulers to crave strong drink,

5lest they drink and forget what is decreed, and remove from all the poor their legal rights.

6Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitterly distressed;

7let them drink and forget their poverty, and remember their misery no more.

8Open your mouth on behalf of those unable to speak, for the legal rights of all the dying.

9Open your mouth, judge in righteousness, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

2. His lifestyle was a direct violation of specific rules for kings in Deuteronomy

The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the Lord has told you, "You are not to go back that way again." He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. Deuteronomy 17:16-17

3. Idolatry

- i. "His wives had a powerful influence over him"
 - ii. Solomon worshiped the Sidonian goddess Astarte and the detestable Ammonite god Milcom
 - iii. On the hill east of Jerusalem Solomon built a high place for the detestable Moabite god Chemosh and for the detestable Ammonite god Milcom
 - iv. He built high places for all his foreign wives so they could burn incense and make sacrifices to their gods.
- ii. Jeroboam's rebellion
 - i. Mad about Solomon building a terrace and closing up a gap in the wall of the city of David
 - ii. Prophesied to take over most of the kingdom
 - iii. Ran away to Egypt after Solomon tried to kill him

The Chiasm in 2 Chronicles 1-9

A Solomon's wealth and wisdom 1:1-17

B Recognition by Gentiles/dealings with Hiram 2:1-16

C Temple construction/gentile labor 2:17—5:1

D Dedication of the temple 5:2—7:10

D' Divine response 7:11-22

C' Other construction/gentile labor 8:1-16

B' Recognition by Gentiles/dealings with Hiram 8:17—9:12

A' Solomon's wealth and wisdom 9:13-28

1. Judah: Rehoboam chs. 10—12 (930 BC)
 - a. The division of the nation ch. 10
 - a. Unwise oppression of the people
 - b. Were the people actually oppressed??
 - c. Tries to go to war, but God turns him back via the prophet Shemaiah
 - b. Marries Maacah grand/daughter of Absalom. Loved her more than all his other wives.
 - c. Judah increases idolatry
 - a. Shrines and Asherah poles. Asherah was the consort of Baal the main god of Canaan.
 - b. He did evil because he was not determined to follow the Lord.
 - d. The invasion by Egypt pharaoh Shishak ch. 12
 - a. Probably **Shoshenq I**
 - b. Besieged Jerusalem
 - c. Leaders and king humbled themselves, so the city wasn't sacked, but it was plundered.
2. Israel: Jeroboam (930 BC)
 - a. Shechem the new capital
 - b. Turned from God due to fear of losing the people to the religion controlled by Judah
 - a. All the levites left Israel and moved to Judah
 - c. Weird prophet story (1 kings 13) where one prophet is lying to another prophet

Judah: Abijah 13:1—14:1 (913 BC)

- Mother: Maacah, daughter of Abishalom
- Short, 3 year reign
- He followed all the sinful practices of his father before him. He was not wholeheartedly devoted to the Lord his God
- Judah: Asa 14:2—16:14 (911 - 870 BC)
 - Asa's wisdom 14:2-15
 - Asa's reform ch. 15
 - **3**He removed the pagan altars and the high places, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles. **4**He ordered Judah to seek the Lord God of their ancestors and to observe his law and commands. **5**He removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah.
 - Battle against the Cushites (relied on God – they were shattered before the Lord and his army)
 - Encouragement from God, redoubled his efforts to cleanse the nation of idolatry.
 - Judah takes oath to swear allegiance to Yahweh

- Removed grandmother Maacah from her position as queen mother due to idolatry. Maacah may be the instigator of idolatry with her husband Rehoboam's and son Abijah
 - Asa's failure ch. 16
 - 35 years later, King Baasha of Israel attacks
 - Asa empties the treasury and gives it to Ben Hadad of Syria to break treaty with Israel and attack them
 - God admonishes him through a prophet
- Israel: Nadab (910 BC)
 - Jeroboam's son
 - Did evil
 - Assassinated by Baasha along with all of Jeroboam's family
- Israel: Baasha (909 BC)
 - Given a chance, but does evil
 - Moved capital to Tirzah
- Israel: Elah (886 BC)
 - Did evil
 - Assassinated by Zimri along with all of Baasha's family
- Israel: Zimri (884 BC)
 - Did evil
 - Besieged by Omri
 - Burned himself up with his palace
- Israel: Omri (884 BC)
 - Did more evil
 - Moved capital to Samaria
- Israel: Ahab (871 BC)
 - Did even more evil – Promotes worship of Baal
 - Baal –Leader of the Canaanite gods (supplanting El). Symbolized by a bull.
 - Jericho rebuilt by Hiel. Oldest and youngest sons died as prophesied through Joshua when it was destroyed.