

## OT History for Juniors: Lesson 17, "KING SOLOMON"

### I. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

#### A. Do you remember God's Promise to send the Saviour, "the Seed of the Woman?"

1. Remember that God made that promise again to Noah, that the Seed would come thru Shem; then He made that promise to Abraham, that the Seed would come thru Isaac, and then He made that promise to Isaac that the Seed would come thru Jacob, and to Jacob thru David.
2. After Saul died and David became King, God repeated promise, the Seed will come thru Solomon.

#### B. We saw last week that David became King after Saul but only after some struggle.

1. We saw too that God blessed David as King: He made David victorious in his wars.
2. We saw too that David wanted to build the temple but God said that David's son would build
3. And we saw that David fell into terrible sins which had terrible consequences in his life.

### II. SOLOMON BECOMES KING

#### A. God promised to David that Solomon would be King, but Adonijah wanted to be King.

##### 1. Adonijah thought that he could make himself king because David was old and sick.

- a. Adonijah made a feast and invited the important men to it: Joab (the captain of the army), Abiathar (the high priest) and the princes. But he did not invite Solomon. It was easy for Adonijah to do this because David was old and weak. He needed a young lady Abishag to keep warm.
- b. When Bathsheba (Solomon's mother) and Nathan the prophet heard of it they complained to David who called on Zadok the priest and Benaiah (the captain of the army) to anoint Solomon king. This they did among trumpet blasts and rejoicing. When they did this, Adonijah was afraid (and fled to the altar) but Solomon spared him (if he does not do anything else wrong).
- c. If Adonijah had succeeded *what do you think would have happened?* (I Kings 1:21).

##### 2. But, when David died, Adonijah made another attempt to take the kingdom.

- a. This time he tried a sneaky way: he went to the Queen Mother, Bathsheba and asked her to get for him Abishag as his wife. Since Abishag belonged to David this was a claim on the throne. Solomon understood this and had Adonijah put to death.
- b. After this Solomon called for Abiathar the priest and sent him away. Because of his sin he could no longer be priest.
- c. When Joab heard what had happened to Adonijah and Abiathar he fled to the altar and Solomon had him put to death? Why? 1) David's command. 2) Joab was guilty of murder of Abner, Amasa and Absalom and of rebellion against Solomon and God. 3) Thus evil was put away.
- d. A fourth enemy was put to death. Shimei had cursed David and Solomon told him if he stayed at home he would be spared but he went after his servants and was punished (I Kings 2:36-46).

#### B. Solomon now began the difficult task of ruling over Israel. He understood his own weakness so he asked the LORD for a very special gift.

##### 1. Solomon came to Gibeon to worship the LORD and when he was there the LORD appeared to Him and said, "Ask what I shall give thee" (I Kings 3:5).

- a. Solomon was young and he could have asked for many things: riches, honor, or a long life, but instead he asked for wisdom. He asked for an understanding heart that he would know how to rule over God's people Israel.
- b. Why did he ask for *that*? This reveals that Solomon loved the LORD and he loved God's people and he desired their good.
- c. The LORD was pleased with this request and granted it and also gave him honor and riches.

##### 2. Solomon showed his wisdom very soon after his visit to Gibeon.

- a. When two women came to him with a problem he was able to find out which of the two women was the mother of the dead child (I Kings 3:16-28).
- b. Solomon also shows his wisdom by the Holy Spirit in his writings in the Bible.

### III. SOLOMON'S PROSPEROUS REIGN OVER ISRAEL

#### A. Under God's blessing Solomon became the most prosperous king in Israel's history.

##### 1. He had inherited David's mighty kingdom and he did not even have to fight wars for it. In Solomon's days there was peace.

- a. The enemies which David had battled were quiet and did not come against Solomon; in fact, he ruled from the river [Euphrates] to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt "and they brought presents and served Solomon all the days of his life" (I Kings 4:21).

- b. Solomon was able to send ships and they brought back all manner of riches: gold, precious stones and many other things, even apes and peacocks (written work Q&A 2). So rich that silver was worth nothing.
  - c. When the Queen of Sheba visited Solomon she was so amazed that she fainted (I Kings 10:5).
  - d. This is amazing for a people who had been slaves in Egypt several generations before this!
- 2. Solomon's kingdom is a picture of the blessings of the kingdom of Christ (Matt. 12:42; Ps. 72).**
- a. Just as David is a picture of King Jesus, who defeats our enemies, the devil and sin, so Solomon is a picture of King Jesus, who gives His people peace and prosperity.
  - b. *What is the prosperity that Jesus gives which Solomon's kingdom typifies?*
- B. But Solomon was not satisfied to enjoy the riches of his kingdom. Like David, his father, he loved the LORD and he had the great privilege of building the temple of the LORD. Remember, David had not been allowed to build it but God had said Solomon would build it.**
- 1. The building of the temple was a mammoth project.**
- a. It took about 4 years to gather the materials especially because the wood came from Lebanon where trees had to be cut down, and it took about 7 years to build it.
  - b. Solomon had 30,000 men working to build the temple.
  - c. Something unusual about the building was this: no tools were used on the temple site itself; the stones were brought ready so no hammers or saws were heard (I Kings 6:7).
  - d. The temple was a magnificent sight: it was made of stone and cedar overlaid with gold.
- 2. After the building of the temple, which replaced the tabernacle and was about double its size, Solomon called the people together for a worship service of dedication.**
- a. When the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant into the temple and put it in the Most Holy Place the glory of God filled the temple.
  - b. After Solomon's prayer fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice.
  - c. The people celebrated before the LORD for two weeks and Solomon offered 22,000 oxen, 120,000 sheep and the Levites played music.
  - d. In this Solomon is a picture of Christ who builds His Church. How does He do it?

#### **IV. SOLOMON'S FAILURE AS KING**

- A. But Solomon's kingdom only prospered under the blessing of God when he remained faithful to God's commandments. When Solomon fell into sin his kingdom began to suffer.**
- 1. Solomon's sin was marrying heathen women, many heathen women, 700 heathen women!**
- a. In those days it was common for a king to have many wives but God's word only permits one wife and a believer may only marry another believer.
  - b. The problem with a believer marrying an unbeliever is that the unbeliever will want to worship her gods. Solomon's wives wanted to worship their gods so Solomon built places where they could worship idols (I Kings 11:6-10).
- 2. Because of this sin, God stirred up trouble against Solomon.**
- a. Some of Solomon's enemies attacked him.
  - b. But worse than that was a prophecy which came from God through the prophet Ahijah. God would take the kingdom away from Solomon and give it to a man called Jeroboam.
  - c. Solomon tried to stop this prophecy by trying to kill Jeroboam but he fled to Egypt.
- B. If God had taken the kingdom away from Solomon what would that have meant for Christ?**
- 1. If Solomon's line does not sit on David's throne, Christ cannot come.**
- a. Such a judgment would have meant the end of salvation and of God's covenant.
  - b. God swore to David that he would sit on the throne forever.
- 2. God was merciful to Solomon. He did not cut off David's line as it deserved.**
- a. First, the judgment would not happen in his life but in the life of his son.
  - b. Second, God would give Solomon's son one tribe, Judah, and thus the promise would not fail.