

## *Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson Five: Solomon's Reign - 1 Kings 1-11; 1 Chronicles 22 – 2 Chronicles 9*

#### David's Temple Preparation; Solomon's Throne Established: 1 Chronicles 22-28, 1 Kings 1-2, and 1 Chronicles 29

- 1) Read 1 Chronicles 22 and skim 1 Chronicles 23-28, chapters that describe David's preparations for the building of a permanent temple that would occur Solomon's reign.
  - a) 1 Chronicles 22 says that David made "extensive preparations" (verse 5) and took "great pains" (verse 14) to do so. He received "all the details of the plan" from the Lord (28:19). After skimming 1 Chronicles 22-28 and examining any section titles given in your Bible, summarize the preparations David made. **David assembled the foreigners living in Israel and had them cut and dress stones. He gathered iron, bronze and cedar logs for the building (22:2-4), organized the Levites into supervisors, officials, judges, gatekeepers (guards), musicians (23:2-5), and treasurers (26:20-28) by casting lots for their duties (24:5-26:19). He wrote down the details the Lord gave him (28:12, 19), including priestly and Levitical instructions (28:13), instructions for all the articles to be used (28:13), and instructions designating the amount of precious metals to be used in constructing each article (28:14-18).**
  - b) Read David's words to his son in 1 Chronicles 22:11-13 and 28:10, 20. How do you think Solomon would have felt about being assigned such an important task? **Solomon had not yet received the gift of wisdom from the Lord (1 Kings 3). The idea of trying to follow in his father's footsteps (as king) and accomplishing a task to which his father had appointed him -- especially after David had gone to such great lengths to make the preparations -- must have been overwhelming and intimidating. He surely wondered how he could measure up to the expectations and task at hand.**
- 2) Read 1 Kings 1-2.
  - a) List the individuals (and related situations) that Solomon needed to handle after David's death, in order to ensure his throne was securely established. **Solomon had to deal with four men who were threats to his monarchy: his older brother Adonijah (who tried to steal the throne); Joab, the former commander of his father's army (who had sided with Adonijah and killed important men in cold blood); Shimei, who had cursed David; and Abiathar (whom he removed from the priesthood for siding with Adonijah).**
  - b) Which specific relationships, habits, or situations could threaten or are threatening your present walk with Christ? **Personal sharing**
- 3) In a word or short phrase, tell what events occupied David's final days, according to:
  - a) 1 Chronicles 22-28: **Planning for the future: primarily with regard to the Temple, but he also made arrangements for a few civil matters.**
  - b) 1 Chronicles 29:1-9: **Giving for the future building of the Temple**
  - c) 1 Chronicles 29:10-20: **Praise and prayer for the hearts of the next generation**
  - d) 1 Chronicles 29:21-24: **Celebration of Solomon's establishment as king**
  - e) How much time do you give to help prepare the next generation to successfully follow the Lord? **Personal sharing**

#### Solomon's Wisdom; Temple and Palace Construction: Read 1 Kings 3-4 with 2 Chronicles 1; then, skim 1 Kings 5-7 with 2 Chronicles 2-4.

- 4) Who helped plant the idea within Solomon's mind that he would need much wisdom to reign successfully (see 1 Chronicles 22:11-13)? **David told Solomon he was asking the Lord to give him discretion and understanding.**

- 5) According to 1 Kings 4:34, by endowing Solomon with wisdom, what special opportunity did the Lord grant him? How did this opportunity further God's ultimate goal for the nation of Israel (see Genesis 12:3b, 18:18; Exodus 19:6a; 1 Kings 8:43, 60, and Solomon's teachings in 1 Kings 4:29-34, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 and Proverbs 1:7, 2:6-8, 3:5-6, etc.)? **Solomon partially fulfilled the prophecy that Israel would bless all nations and be a kingdom of priests (leading men to God), in that "men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom." In describing creation, Solomon testified about God's world. Ecclesiastes and Proverbs give evidence that he also directly taught about God.**
- 6) According to 1 Kings 6:37 – 7:2, in addition to the Temple, what is Solomon famous for building? **The Palace of the Forest of Lebanon**
- 7) Review 1 Kings 3:10-14. The Lord did not indicate that Solomon would have necessarily been wrong to have asked for riches, honor, or long life, but rather, that his request for a discerning heart (wisdom) was far better. Is there some good or morally neutral thing you believe you need to set aside at this time in order to focus on something better? **Personal sharing**

#### Temple Dedication: Read 1 Kings 8:1-9:9 with 2 Chronicles 5-7.

- 8) According to 1 Kings 8:1-11, what event marked the climax of the work on the Temple? **The transfer of the Ark of the Lord into the Most Holy Place and the resulting filling of the Temple with the Lord's glory**
- 9) Which key words in Solomon's prayer (1 Kings 8:22-53) are repeated? Based on these repetitions, try to summarize Solomon's prayer in one sentence. **The repeated, key words in Solomon's prayer are "hear" and "forgive" ("confess," "plea," and "repent" are also repeated). Solomon asked the Lord to hear the prayers made in or toward His temple and to forgive the people's sins, whenever they repented and confessed His name.**
- 10) According to 1 Kings 9:1-9, what was the purpose of the Lord's second appearance to Solomon? **The Lord appeared to Solomon a second time to tell him that He had heard his prayer and that His eyes and heart would always be attentive to the people's prayers. He also issued a stern warning that Solomon and his sons needed to continue observing His laws and decrees, as David had, if they expected to remain on Israel's throne. (Since the Lord forgives the sin of the person who truly repents and does not count it against him, the Lord was speaking of a pattern of unrepentant sin. David had sinned; but David had also repented.)**
- 11) Today, God speaks to His children primarily through His written word, the Bible. How has the Lord recently used His word to answer a specific prayer you have prayed? **Personal sharing**

#### The Temple and Its Meaning

- 12) How did the idea of building a permanent Temple in Jerusalem come about (read Deuteronomy 12:1-5, 8-14; 1 Chronicles 21:27 – 22:1, 23:25-26; and Acts 7:44-50)? **Having a Temple as a permanent place of worship was not a new concept for the Israelites in David's day. In Moses' time, the Lord had instructed the Israelites not to worship wherever they chose (as the nations around them did) but according to God's prescribed manner and in the location He designated. He told them He would choose a permanent worship location for them once they entered Canaan. Until that location was revealed, the portable Tabernacle was the place where they were to worship.**
- 13) The furnishings and features in the Tabernacle held special, symbolic significance.
  - a) Which of the Tabernacle's furnishings and features, listed in Exodus 26:33-35, were also a part of the Temple, according to 1 Kings 6:16, 19 and 7:48-50? **Among other things, the Tabernacle and the Temple both had inner sanctuaries (the Most Holy Place) where the Ark of the Covenant was placed. Both also had a special table on which the Bread of Presence was placed, and special lampstands outside the curtain that partitioned off the Most Holy Place.**

b) The elements of the Tabernacle and Temple foreshadowed the person and work of Christ. Match the Temple feature from the verse in the left column with the New Testament verse in the right column that speaks of its fulfillment. Write a word or short phrase that indicates the meaning of each pair.

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|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1. 1 Kings 6:16          | → | Hebrews 10:1-10 <b>Jesus' sacrifice of Himself</b>                      |
| 2. 1 Kings 7:48c         | → | John 6:41, 48 <b>Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."</b>              |
| 3. 1 Kings 7:49          | → | Hebrews 4:14 <b>Jesus is our great High Priest</b>                      |
| 4. 1 Kings 8:11 (people) | → | John 1:4 & 9:5 <b>Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."</b>        |
| 5. 1 Kings 8:64b         | → | Hebrews 9:3, 8, 12, 24-25 <b>The Most Holy Place symbolized heaven.</b> |

14) Read 1 King 8:62-64 and 9:25. The system of sacrifices, central to Israel's worship, was formalized in the Law of Moses but practiced even earlier than that. How do Romans 6:23a, Hebrews 9:22 and 28 explain why God requires sacrifice? Since the time of Christ, what kind of sacrifice does the Lord require of us and specifically, how do you need to make this sacrifice today (see Romans 6:13, 16, 19, and 12:1)? **The shedding of blood (death) is the only way in which atonement for sin can be made. Jesus' death was the final sacrifice, the one that all previous sacrifices anticipated and the one that paid for the sins of all who trust in Him. The Lord asks those who belong to Him to offer their bodies as living sacrifices by putting away sin and leading holy lives. Personal sharing**

Solomon's Other Activities: Read 1 Kings 9:10 -11:43 and 2 Chronicles 8-9.

15) Solomon is remembered primarily for his wisdom and the Temple he built.

- a) For what additional exploits is Solomon known? **Solomon is also known for building up the towns in Israel, especially the store cities (9:17-19), conscripting all the Canaanite peoples who had not been exterminated from the land to forced labor (9:20-21), building supporting terraces to the palace (9:15, 24), building the wall of Jerusalem (9:15), building a fleet of ships that he used to import valuables (9:27-28; 10:22), and building shields and a great throne (10:16-18). He is known for his visit from the Queen of Sheba (chapter 10), his audience with people far and wide (10:23-25), his accumulation of chariots, horses, and wives (10:26-29; 11:1-3), and his idolatry later in life (11:4-8).**
- b) According to 1 Kings 10:26-11:43 and Deuteronomy 17:14-20, which of these activities were grave mistakes (sins) and what were the results? **Solomon accumulated weapons (chariots and horses were signs of military power), many wives (who turned his heart toward foreign gods), and wealth (large amounts of silver and gold). All three were forbidden to a king of Israel (Deuteronomy 17), since the king would be tempted to rely on them rather than on the Lord. Solomon's wives led him astray and his heart turned after other gods. 1 Kings 11 details the degree to which he fell into idolatry. After that, the Lord told Solomon He would tear the kingdom away from him and give it to others (11:11). For David's sake, the Lord allowed David and Solomon's descendants to continue ruling over one of Israel's twelve tribes. Solomon's idolatry also cost him the peace that he had formerly enjoyed. The Lord raised up two foreign adversaries to antagonize him and an Israelite (Jeroboam) who rebelled against him.**
- c) What do you want people to remember about you? **Personal sharing**