THE LIFE OF SOLOMON
STUDY #1

A. II Samuel 12:24,25 -

v. 24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him;

v. 25 and because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

B. I Chronicles 22:1-19 -

v. 2 So David gave orders to assemble the aliens living in Israel, and from among them he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God.

v. 3 He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed.

v. 4 He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.

v. 5 David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it." So David made extensive preparations before his death.

v. 6 Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel.

v. 7 David said to Solomon: "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the Lord my God.

v. 8 But this word of the Lord came to me: You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight.

v. 9 But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign.

v. 10 He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.

v. 11 "Now my son, the Lord be with you and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as he said would.

v. 12 May the Lord give you discernment and understanding when he puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God.

v. 13 Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

v. 14 "I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them.

v. 15 You have many wise men, stonecutters, masons and carpenters, as well as men skilled in every kind of work.

v. 16 in gold and silver, bronze and iron, craftsmen beyond number. Now begin the work, and the Lord be with you.

v. 17 Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon.

v. 18 He said to them, "Is not the Lord your God with you? And has he not granted you rest on every side? For he has handed the inhabitants of the land over to me, and the land is subject to the Lord and to his people.

v. 19 Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God. Begin to build the sanctuary of the Lord God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the Lord."
C. 1 Chronicles 28:1-21

v. 1 David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem; the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the brave warriors.

v. 2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it.

v. 3 But God said to me: 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.'

v. 4 Yet the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the house of Judah he chose my family and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel.

v. 5 Of all my sons, and the Lord has given me many—he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.

v. 6 He said to me: 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son and I will be his father.

v. 7 I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unwavering in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.'

v. 8 "So now, I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to follow all the commands of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

v. 9 "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by your heart. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

v. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary.

For Sons of David

3 These were the sons of David born to him in Hebron:

The firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel;
the second, Daniel the son of Abigail of Carmel;
the third, Absalom the son of Maacah daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;
the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggit;
the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;
and the sixth, Ithream by his wife Elah.

These six were born to David in Hebron, where he reigned seven years and six months.

David reigned in Jerusalem thirty-three years, and these were the children born to him there:
Shammua, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon. These four were by Bathshua daughter of Ammiel.
They were also Shobai, Elhanan, Ezrel, Mishael, Herzl, Hashabiah, Eliada and Eliphelet—nine in all. All these were the sons of David, besides his sons by his concubines. And Tamar was their sister.
v. 11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple. Its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms, and the place of atonement.

v. 12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the Lord and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things.

v. 13 He gave him instructions for the divisions of the priests and Levites, and for all the work of serving in the temple of the Lord, as well as for all the articles to be used in its service.

v. 14 He designated the weight of gold for all the gold articles to be used in various kinds of service, and the weight of silver for all the silver articles to be used in various kinds of service.

v. 15 The weight of gold for the gold lampstands and their lamps, with the weight for each lampstand and its lamps, and the weight of silver for each silver lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand;

v. 16 The weight of gold for each table for consecrated bread; the weight of silver for the silver tables;

v. 17 The weight of pure gold for the forks, sprinkling bowls, and pitchers; the weight of gold for each gold dish; the weight of silver for each silver dish;

v. 18 And the weight of the refined gold for the altar of incense. He also gave him the plan for the chariot, that is, the cherubim of gold that spread their wings and shelter the ark of the covenant of the Lord.

v. 19 "All this," David said, "I have in writing from the hand of the Lord upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan.

v. 20 David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.

v. 21 The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing man skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command."

**Conclusion — Matt. 12:42**
SOLOMON BECOMES KING
STUDY #2

1 Kings 1:1-53:
v. 1 When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him.
v. 2 So his servants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to attend the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm." Before the days of heating pads and electric blankets.
v. 3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.
v. 4 The girl was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no intimate relations with her.
v. 5 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him.
v. 6 (His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)
v. 7 Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support.
v. 8 But Zadok the priest, Benaijah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei and David's special guard did not join Adonijah.
v. 9 Adonijah then sacrificed sheep, cattle and fattened calves at the stone of Zoheleth near En Rogel. He invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah who were royal officials.
v. 10 But he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaijah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.
v. 11 Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king without our lord David's knowing it?"
v. 12 Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.
v. 13 Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne." Why then has Adonijah become king?"
v. 14 While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and confirm what you have said."
v. 15 So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him.
v. 16 Bathsheba bowed low and knelt before the king. "What is it you want the king asked.
v. 17 She said to him, 'My lord, you yourself swore to me your servant by the Lord your God: "Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne.'"
v. 18 But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it.
v. 19 He has sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the king's sons. Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant.

v. 20 My lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to learn from you who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

v. 21 Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals. "

v. 22 While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived.

v. 23 And they told the king, "Nathan the prophet is here." So he went before the king and bowed with his face to the ground.

v. 24 Nathan said, "Harken, my lord the king. Declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne."

v. 25 Today he has gone down and sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep. He has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. Right now they are eating and drinking with him and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

v. 26 Zadok the priest and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he did not invite.

v. 27 Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

v. 28 Then King David said, "Call in Bathsheba." So she came into the king's presence and stood before him.

v. 29 The king then took an oath: "As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble.

v. 30 I will surely carry out today what I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place."

v. 31 Then Bathsheba bowed low with her face to the ground and kneeling before the king, said, "May my lord King David live forever!"

v. 32 King David said, "Call in Zadok the priest. Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." When they came before the king,

v. 33 he said to them, "Take your lord's servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon.

v. 34 There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, 'Long live King Solomon!'

v. 35 Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah"

v. 36 Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, so declare it.

v. 37 As the Lord was with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon to make his throne even greater than the throne of my lord King David!"

v. 38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites, and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David's mule and escorted him to Gihon.
v. 39 Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon!"

v. 40 And all the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.

v. 41 Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they were finishing their feast. On hearing the sound of the trumpet, Joab asked, "What's the meaning of all the noise in the city?"

v. 42 Even as he was speaking, Jonathan son of Abiathar the priest arrived. Adonijah said, "Come in. A worthy man like you must be bringing good news."

v. 43 "Not at all!" Jonathan answered. "Our lord King David has made Solomon king.

v. 44 The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites, and they have put him on the king's mule.

v. 45 And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon. From there they have gone up cheering and the city resounds with it. That's the noise you hear.

v. 46 Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the royal throne.

v. 47 Also, the royal officials have come to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make Solomon's name more famous than yours and his throne greater than yours!' And the king bowed in worship on his bed.

v. 48 and said, 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today.'"

v. 49 At this, all Adonijah's guests rose in alarm and dispersed.

v. 50 But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

v. 51 Then Solomon was told, "Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon and is clinging to the horns of the altar. He says, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'"

v. 52 Solomon replied, 'If he shows himself to be a worthy man, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground but if evil is found in him, he will die.'

v. 53 Then King Solomon sent men, and they brought him down from the altar. And Adonijah came and bowed down to King Solomon, and Solomon said, "Go to your home."
DAVID'S PLAN FOR THE TEMPLE
STUDY #3

1 Kings 2: 1-12

v. 1 "When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.

v. 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said, "So be strong, show yourself a man,

v. 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go.

v. 4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me. If your descendants watch how they live and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.

v. 5 "Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—what he did to the two commanders of Israel's armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.

v. 6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

v. 7 But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

v. 8 'And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord: 'I will not put you to death by the sword.'

v. 9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood.'

v. 10 Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David.

v. 11 He had reigned forty years over Israel—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem.

v. 12 So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.
SOLOMON’S THRONE ESTABLISHED
STUDY #4

1 Kings 2:13-46

v. 14 Then he added, “I have something to say to you.” You may say it,” she replied.

v. 15 “As you know,” he said, “the kingdom was mine. All Israel looked to me as their king. But things changed, and the kingdom has gone to my brother. For it has come to him from the Lord.”

v. 16 Now I have one request to make of you. Do not refuse me.” “You may make it,” she said.

v. 17 So he continued, “Please ask King Solomon—he will not refuse you—to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife.”

v. 18 Very well,” Bathsheba replied, “I will speak to the king for you.”

v. 19 When Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, the king stood up to meet her; bowed down to her and sat down on his throne. He had a throne brought for the king’s mother and she sat down at his right hand.

v. 20 “I have one small request to make of you,” she said. “Do not refuse me.” “The king replied, “Make it, my mother; I will not refuse you.”

v. 21 So she said, “Let Abishag the Shunammite be given in marriage to your brother Adonijah.”

v. 22 King Solomon answered his mother, “Why do you request Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? You might as well request the kingdom for him; after all, he is my older brother—yes, for him, and for Abiathar the priest and Joab son of Zeruiah!”

v. 23 Then King Solomon swore by the Lord: “May God deal with me if I do not execute Adonijah’s death today!

v. 24 And now, as surely as the Lord lives—he who has established me securely on the throne of my father David and has founded a dynasty for me as he promised—Adonijah shall be put to death today!”

v. 25 So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he struck down Adonijah; and he died.

v. 26 To Abiathar the priest the king said, “Go back to your fields in Anathoth. You deserve to die, but I will not put you to death now, because you carried the ark of the Sovereign Lord before my father David and shared all my father’s hardships.”

v. 27 So Solomon removed Abiathar from the priesthood of the Lord, fulfilling the word the Lord had spoken at Shiloh about the house of Eli.

v. 28 When the news reached Joab, who had conspired with Adonijah though not with Absalom, he fled to the tent of the Lord and took hold of the horns of the altar.

v. 29 King Solomon was told that Joab had fled to the tent of the Lord and was beside the altar. Then Solomon ordered Benaiah son of Jehoiada. “Go, strike him down!”
v. 30 So Benaijah entered the tent of the Lord and said to Joab, "The king says, 'Come out!'" But he answered, "No, I will not come here." Benaijah reported to the king, "This is how Joab answered me."

v. 31 Then the king commanded Benaijah, "Do as he says. Strike him down and bury him, and also clear me and my father's house of the guilt of the innocent blood that Joab shed.

v. 32 The Lord will repay him for the blood he shed, because without the knowledge of my father David he attacked two men and killed them with the sword. Both of them—Abner, son of Ner, commander of Israel's army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of Judah's army—were better men and more upright than he.

v. 33 May the guilt of their blood rest on the head of Joab and his descendants forever! But on David and his descendants, his house and his throne, may there be the Lord's peace forever.

v. 34 So Benaijah son of Jehoiada went up and struck down Joab and killed him, and he was buried on his own land in the desert.

v. 35 The king put Benaijah son of Jehoiada over the army in Joab's position and replaced Abiaathar with Zadok the priest.

v. 36 Then the king sent for Shimei and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there, but do not go anywhere else.

v. 37 The day you leave and cross the Kidron Valley, you can be sure you will die. Your blood will be on your own head."

v. 38 Shimei answered the king, "What you say is good. Your servant will do as my lord the king has said." And Shimei stayed in Jerusalem for a long time.

v. 39 But three years later, two of Shimei's slaves ran off to Achish son of Maacah, king of Gath, and Shimei was told, "Your slaves are in Gath."

v. 40 At this, he saddled his donkey and went to Achish at Gath in search of his slaves. So Shimei went away and brought the slaves back from Gath.

v. 41 When Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had returned,

v. 42 the king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the Lord and warn you, 'On the day you leave to go anywhere else, you can be sure you will die?' At that time you said to me, 'What you say is good. I will obey.'"

v. 43 Why then did you not keep your oath to the Lord and obey the command I gave you?"

v. 44 The king also said to Shimei, "You know in your heart all the wrong you did to my father David. Now the Lord will repay you for your wrongdoing.

v. 45 But King Solomon will be blessed, and David's throne will remain secure before the Lord forever.

v. 46 Then the king gave the order to Benaijah son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck Shimei down and killed him. The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon's hands.

There's a lot of stuff that must be dealt with in our lives before the Father's Kingdom is Secure in our hearts?
SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM
STUDY #5

2 Chronicles 1:1-12

v. 1 Solomon son of David established himself firmly over his kingdom, because the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

v. 2 Then Solomon spoke to all Israel—to the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, to the judges and to all the leaders in Israel, the heads of families—

v. 3 and Solomon and the whole assembly went to the high place at Gibeon, for God's Tent of Meeting was there, which Moses the Lord's servant had made in the desert.

v. 4 Now David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared for it, because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.

v. 5 But the bronze altar that Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made was in Gibeon in front of the tabernacle of the Lord; so Solomon and the assembly inquired of him there.

v. 6 Solomon went up to the bronze altar before the Lord in the Tent of Meeting and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

v. 7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you.

v. 8 Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to my father and have made me king in his place.

v. 9 Now, Lord God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed: for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth.

v. 10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?

v. 11 God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches or honor nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life, but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king,

v. 12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."

"It is a characteristic of wisdom not to despise things."
Henry David Thoreau

"The brain is a wonderful organ; it begins working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get to the office."
Robert Frost
PROVERBS 2:1-15
STUDY #6

V. 1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,

V. 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,

V. 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,

V. 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,

V. 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

V. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

V. 7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless.

V. 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

V. 9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair, every good path.

V. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

V. 11 Discretion will protect you and understanding will guard you.

V. 12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,

V. 13 who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways.

V. 14 who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil.

V. 15 whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.

Read: Peterson
Contemporary
SONG OF SOLOMON 3:1-11
STUDY #7

v. 1 How love so deeply could not wait to see him.

v. 2 I thought to myself, "I must get up and find him. I will get up now and look around the streets and squares of the city for him. Surely I'll be able to find this one I love so much." But I could not find him.

v. 3 When the night watchmen of the city found me, I immediately asked them if they had seen this one I loved so deeply.

v. 4 But they had not. Yet no sooner did I pass from them than I found my beloved. I held on and on and would not let him go until I could bring him to my home. I still held on until my fearful anxieties left me and I felt peaceful once again.

How hard it is to be patient!

v. 5 You women of the court, we must promise ourselves, by the gazelles and deer of the field, not to awaken love until love is pleased to awaken itself.

v. 6 What can this be coming from the outskirts of the city like columns of smoke, perfumed clouds of myrrh and frankincense, clouds of the scented powders of the merchant? Question!
v. 7 **Look!** It is the royal procession with Solomon carried upon his lavish couch by his strongest servants. And take a look at all those soldiers around it! That is the imperial guard, the sixty mightiest warriors in the entire kingdom.

v. 8 Each one is an expert with his weapon and valiant in battle. Yet now each one has a sword at his side only for the protection of the King and his bride.

v. 9 **Look at the luxurious couch Solomon is carried on.** He has had it made especially for this day. He made its frame from the best timber of Lebanon.

v. 10 Its posts are made of silver, its back of gold, and its seat of royal purple cloth. And do you see its delicate craftsmanship! It reflects the skill of the women of the court who gave their best work out of love for the king and his bride.

v. 11 Let us all go out and look upon King Solomon wearing his elegant wedding crown. Let us go out and see him on the most joyful day of his life.
1 Kings 4:20-34

v.20 The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore; they ate, they drank and they were happy.

v.21 And Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. These countries brought tribute and were Solomon’s subjects all his life.

v.22 Solomon’s daily provisions were thirty cors of fine flour and sixty cors of meal,

v.23 ten head of stall-fed cattle, twenty of pasture-fed cattle and a hundred sheep and goats, as well as deer, gazelles, roebucks and choice fowl.

v.24 For he ruled over all the kingdoms west of the River, from Tiphshah to Gaza, and had peace on all sides.

v.25 During Solomon’s lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree.

v.26 Solomon had four thousand stalls for chariot horses, and twelve thousand horses.

v.27 The district officers, each in his month, supplied provisions for King Solomon and all who came to the king’s table. They saw to it that nothing was lacking.

v.28 They also brought to the proper place their quotas of barley and straw for the chariot horses and the other horses.
v.29 God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

v.30 Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.

v.31 He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations.

v.32 He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five.

v.33 He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish.

v.34 Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.
PREPARATIONS FOR BUILDING THE TEMPLE

STUDY #9

1 Kings 5:1-18

v. 1 When Hiram, king of Tyre, heard that Solomon had been anointed king to succeed his father David, he sent his envoys to Solomon, because he had always been on friendly terms with David.

v. 2 Solomon sent back this message to Hiram:

v. 3 "You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the Lord his God until the Lord put his enemies under his feet.

v. 4 But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster.

v. 5 I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God, as the Lord told my father David, when he said, 'Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for My Name.'

v. 6 "So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the Sidonians."

v. 7 When Hiram heard Solomon's message, he was greatly pleased and said, "Praise be to the Lord today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation."

v. 8 So Hiram sent word to Solomon: "I have received the message you sent me and will do all you want in providing the cedar and pine logs.

v. 9 My men will haul them down from Lebanon to the sea and I will float them in rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will separate them and you can take them away. And you are to grant my wish by providing food for my royal household."

v. 10 In this way Hiram kept Solomon supplied with all the cedar and pine logs he wanted.

v. 11 And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand cors of wheat as food for his household, in addition to twenty thousand baths of pressed olive oil.

v. 12 The Lord gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him. There were peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon and the two of them made a treaty.

v. 13 King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israel—thirty thousand men.

v. 14 He sent them off to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month, so that they spent one month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor.
v.15 **Solomon** had seventy thousand carriers and eighty thousand stonemasons in the hills.

v.16 as well as thirty-three hundred foremen who supervised the project and directed the workmen.

v.17 At the king's command they removed from the quarry large blocks of quality stone to provide a foundation of dressed stone for the temple.

v.18 The craftsmen of **Solomon** and **Hiram** and the men of Gebal cut and prepared the timber and stone for the building of the temple.

**2 Chronicles 2:1-18**

v. 1 **Solomon** gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the Lord and a royal palace for himself.

v. 2 He conscripted seventy thousand men as carriers and eighty thousand as stonemasons in the hills and thirty-six hundred as foremen over them.

v. 3 **Solomon** sent this message to **Hiram** king of Tyre: "Send me cedar logs as you did for my father David when you sent him cedar to build a palace to live in.

v. 4 Now I am about to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God and to dedicate it to him for burning fragrant incense before him, for setting out the consecrated bread regularly, and for making burnt offerings every morning and evening and on Sabbaths and New Moons and at the appointed feasts of the Lord our God. This is a lasting ordinance for Israel.

v. 5 "The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods,

v. 6 But who is able to build a temple for him, since the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain him? Who then am I to build a temple for him, except as a place to burn sacrifices before him?"

v. 7 "Send me, therefore, a man skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, and in purple, crimson and blue yarn, experienced in the art of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem with my skilled craftsmen, whom my father David provided.

v. 8 "Send me also cedar, pine and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your men are skilled in cutting timber there. My men will work with yours

v. 9 to provide me with plenty of lumber, because the temple I build must be large and magnificent.

v. 10 I will give your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, twenty thousand cors of ground wheat, twenty thousand cors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine and twenty thousand baths of olive oil.

v. 11 **Hiram** king of Tyre replied by letter to **Solomon:** "Because the Lord loves his people, he has made you their king."
v.12 And Hiram added: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, endowed with intelligence and discernment, who will build a temple for the Lord and a palace for himself.

v.13 "I am sending you Huram-Abi, a man of great skill.

v.14 whose mother was from Dan and whose father was from Tyre. He is trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, and with purple and blue and crimson yarn and fine linen. He is experienced in all kinds of engraving and can execute any design given to him. He will work with your craftsmen and with those of my lord, David your father.

v.15 "Now let my lord send his servants the wheat and barley and the olive oil and wine he promised.

v.16 and we will cut all the logs from Lebanon that you need and will float them in rafts by sea down to Joppa. You can then take them up to Jerusalem."

v.17 Solomon took a census of all the aliens who were in Israel, after the census his father David had taken; and they were found to be 153,600.

v.18 He assigned 70,000 of them to be carriers and 80,000 to be stonecutters in the hills, with 3,600 foremen over them to keep the people working.
BUILDING THE TEMPLE
STUDY #10

1 Kings 6:1-38

v. 1 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the Lord.

v. 2 The temple that King Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits long, twenty wide and thirty high.

v. 3 The portico at the front of the main hall of the temple extended the width of the temple, that is twenty cubits, and projected ten cubits from the front of the temple.

v. 4 He made narrow clerestory windows in the temple.

v. 5 Against the walls of the main hall and inner sanctuary he built a structure around the building, in which there were side rooms.

v. 6 The lowest floor was five cubits wide, the middle floor six cubits and the third floor seven. He made offset ledges around the outside of the temple so that nothing would be inserted into the temple walls.

v. 7 In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built.

v. 8 The entrance to the lowest floor was on the south side of the temple; a stairway led up to the middle level and from there to the third.

v. 9 So he built the temple and completed it, roofing it with beams and cedar planks.

v. 10 And he built the side rooms all along the temple. The height of each was five cubits, and they were attached to the temple by beams of cedar.

v. 11 The word of the Lord came to Solomon:

v. 12 "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father.

v. 13 And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel.”

v. 14 So Solomon built the temple and completed it.
v.15 He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, paneling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and covered the floor of the temple with planks of pine.
v.16 He partitioned off twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.
v.17 The main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long.
v.18 The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar; no stone was to be seen.
v.19 He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the Lord there.
v.20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide, and twenty high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar.
v.21 Solomon covered the inside of the temple with pure gold, and he extended gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, which was overlaid with gold.
v.22 So he overlaid the whole interior with gold. He also overlaid with gold the altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary.
v.23 In the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.
v.24 One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits--ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip.
v.25 The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape.
v.26 The height of each cherub was ten cubits.
v.27 He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room.
v.28 He overlaid the cherubim with gold.
v.29 On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers.
v.30 He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold.
v.31 For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood with five-sided jambs.
v.32 And on the two olive wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with beaten gold.

v.33 In the same way he made four-sided jambs of olive wood for the entrance to the main hall.

v.34 He also made two pine doors, each having two leaves that turned in sockets.

v.35 He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.

v.36 And he built the inner courtyard of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams.

v.37 The foundation of the temple of the Lord was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv.

v.38 In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it.
SOLOMON BUILDS HIS PALACE
STUDY #11

1 Kings 7:1-12

v. 1 It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace.

v. 2 He built the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits long, fifty wide and thirty high, with four rows of cedar columns supporting trimmed cedar beams.

v. 3 It was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the columns—forty-five beams, fifteen to a row.

v. 4 Its windows were placed high in sets of three, facing each other.

v. 5 All the doorways had rectangular frames; they were in the front part in sets of three, facing each other.

v. 6 He made a colonnade fifty cubits long and thirty wide. In front of it was a portico, and in front of that were pillars and an overhanging roof.

v. 7 He built the throne hall, the Hall of Justice, where he was to judge, and he covered it with cedar from floor to ceiling.
v. 8 And the palace in which he was to live, set farther back, was similar in design. Solomon also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh’s daughter, whom he had married.

v. 9 All these structures, from the outside to the great courtyard, and from foundation to eaves, were made of blocks of high-grade stone cut to size and trimmed with a saw on their inner and outer faces.

v. 10 The foundations were laid with large stones of good quality, some measuring ten cubits and some eight.

v. 11 Above were high-grade stones, cut to size, and cedar beams.

v. 12 The great courtyard was surrounded by a wall of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams, as was the inner courtyard of the temple of the Lord with its portico.
1 Kings 8:1-21

v. 1 Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes, and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David.

v. 2 All the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month.

v. 3 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark.

v. 4 and they brought up the ark of the Lord and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests and Levites carried them up.

v. 5 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

v. 6 The priests brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

v. 7 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles.

v. 8 These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

v. 9 There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

v. 10 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord.

v. 11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.

v. 12 Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud;

v. 13 I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever.

v. 14 While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them.
2 Chronicles 5:1-14

v. 1 When all the work of Solomon had been completed for the temple of the Lord, he brought in all the things his father David had dedicated—the silver, gold and all the furnishings—and placed them in the temple of God’s temple.

v. 2 Then Solomon summoned the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chief officers of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord’s covenant from Zion, the City of David.

v. 3 And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the feast in the seventh month.

v. 4 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark.

v. 5 And they brought up the ark, and the Tent of Meeting and all the furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up:

v. 6 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.
v. 7 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

v. 8 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its carrying poles.

v. 9 These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the ark, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place, and they are still there today.

v.10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

v.11 The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions.

v.12 All the Levites who were musicians—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets.

v.13 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud.

v.14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.
SOLOMON'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION
STUDY #13

1 Kings 8:22-61

v.22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven.

v.23 and said: "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.

v.24 You have kept your promise to your servant David my father. With your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today.

v.25 "Now Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel if only your sons are careful in all they do to walk before me as you have done.'

v.26 And now, O God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true.

v.27 "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

v.28 Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy. O Lord my God, Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.

v.29 May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place.

v.30 Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

v.31 When a man wrongs his neighbor and is required to take an oath and he comes and swears the oath before your altar in this temple,

v.32 Then hear from heaven and act justly between your servants, condemning the guilty and bringing down on his own head what he has done. Declare the innocent not guilty and so establish his innocence.

v.33 When your people Israel have been defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you, and when they turn back to you and confess your name, praying and making supplication to you in this temple,

v.34 Then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to their fathers.

v.35 When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because your people have sinned against you, and when they pray toward this place and confess your name and turn from their sin because you have afflicted them,
v.36 then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel. Teach them the right way to live and send rain on the land you gave your people for an inheritance.

v.37 "When famine or plague comes to the land, or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, or when an enemy besieges them in any of their cities, whatever disaster or disease may come,

v.38 and when a prayer or plea is made by any of your people Israel—each one aware of the afflictions of his own heart—and spreading out his hands toward this temple,

v.39 then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive and act with each man according to all he does, since you know his heart (for you alone know the hearts of all men).

v.40 so that they will fear you all the time they live in the land you gave our fathers.

v.41 "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your Name,

v.42 for men will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when he comes and prays toward this temple,

v.43 then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your Name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

v.44 "When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you send them and when they pray to the Lord toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name,

v.45 then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause.

v.46 "When they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you become angry with them and give them over to the enemy, who takes them captive to his own land, far away or near:

v.47 and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their conquerors and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong; we have acted wickedly';

v.48 and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive and pray to you toward the land you gave their fathers, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name;

v.49 then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause.

v.50 And forgive your people, who have sinned against you, forgive all the offenses they have committed against you, and cause their conquerors to show them mercy:

v.51 for they are your people and your inheritance, whom you brought out of Egypt, out of that iron-smelting furnace.
v.52 "May your eyes be open to your servant's plea and to the plea of your people Israel, and may you listen to them whenever they cry out to you.

v.53 For you singled them out from all the nations of the world to be your own inheritance, just as you declared through your servant Moses when you, O Sovereign Lord, brought our fathers out of Egypt."

v.54 When Solomon had finished all these prayers and supplications to the Lord, he rose from before the altar of the Lord, where he had been kneeling with his hands spread out toward heaven.

v.55 He stood and blessed the whole assembly of Israel in a loud voice, saying:

v.56 "Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.

v.57 May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers: may he never leave us nor forsake us.

v.58 May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep the commands, decrees and regulations he gave our fathers.

v.59 And may these words of mine, which I have prayed before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, that he may uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel according to each day's need.

v.60 So that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other.

v.61 But your hearts must be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time."
THE LORD APPEARS TO SOLOMON
STUDY #14

1 Kings 9:1-9

v. 1 When Solomon had finished building the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do.

v. 2 The Lord appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon.

v. 3 The Lord said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me. I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

v. 4 "As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws,

v. 5 I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel."

v. 6 "But if your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you, and go off to serve other gods and worship them,

v. 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

v. 8 And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?'

v. 9 People will answer, Because they have forsaken the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them—that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them."

Psalm 37:8-9
2 Chronicles 7:11-22

v.11 When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace.

v.12 The Lord appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.

v.13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people,

v.14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

v.15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

v.16 I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

v.17 "As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws,

v.18 I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.'

v.19 But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them,

v.20 then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

v.21 And though this temple is now so imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?'

v.22 People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them—that is why he brought all this disaster on them.'

Daniel 5: Weighed and found wanting!
SOLOMON'S OTHER ACTIVITIES
STUDY #15

1 Kings 9:10-28

v.10 At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built these two buildings—
the temple of the Lord and the royal palace—
v.11 King Solomon gave twenty towns in Galilee to Hiram king of
Tyre, because Hiram had supplied him with all the cedar and pine and
gold he wanted.
v.12 But when Hiram went from Tyre to see the towns that Solomon
had given him, he was not pleased with them.
v.13 "What kind of towns are these you have given me, my brother?"
he asked. And he called them the Land of Cabul, a name they have to
this day.

v.14 Now Hiram had sent to the king 120 talents of gold.
v.15 Here is the account of the forced labor King Solomon conscripted
to build the Lord's temple, his own palace, the supporting terraces, the
wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer.
v.16 (Pharaoh king of Egypt had attacked and captured Gezer. He had
set it on fire. He killed its Canaanite inhabitants and then gave it as
a wedding gift to his daughter, Solomon's wife.
v.17 And Solomon rebuilt Gezer.) He built up Lower Beth Horon,
v.18 Baalath and Tadmor in the desert, within his land,
v.19 as well as all his store cities and the towns for his chariots and for
his horses—whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and
throughout all the territory he ruled.
v.20 All the people left from the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites
and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites),
v.21 that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the
Israelites could not exterminate—these Solomon conscripted for his
slave labor force, as it is to this day.
v. 27 But Solomon did not make slaves of any of the Israelites; they were his fighting men, his government officials, his officers, his captains, and the commanders of his chariots and charioteers.

v. 28 After Pharaoh's daughter had come up from the City of David to the palace Solomon had built for her, he constructed the supporting terraces.

v. 29 Three times a year Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar he had built for the Lord, burning incense before the Lord along with them, and so fulfilled the temple obligations.

v. 30 King Solomon also built ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath in Edom, on the shore of the Red Sea.

v. 31 And Hiram sent his men—sailors who knew the sea—to serve in the fleet with Solomon's men.

v. 32 They sailed to Ophir and brought back 420 talents of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon.

2 Chronicles 8:1-18

v. 1 At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built the temple of the Lord and his own palace,

v. 2 Solomon rebuilt the villages that Hiram had given him, and settled Israelites in them.

v. 3 Solomon then went to Hamath Zobah and captured it.

v. 4 He also built up Tadmor in the desert and all the store cities he had built in Hamath.

v. 5 He rebuilt Upper Beth Horon and Lower Beth Horon as fortified cities, with walls and with gates and bars.

v. 6 As well as Baalath and all his store cities, and all the cities for his chariots and for his horses (whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and throughout all the territory he ruled).

v. 7 All the people left from the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites),

v. 8 that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites had not destroyed—these Solomon conscripted for his slave labor force, as it is to this day.
v. 9 But Solomon did not make slaves of the Israelites for his work: they were his fighting men, commanders of his captains, and commanders of his chariots and charioteers.

v.10 They were also King Solomon's chief officials—two hundred and fifty officials supervising the men.

v.11 Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the Lord has entered are holy."

v.12 On the altar of the Lord that he had built in front of the portico, Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings to the Lord.

v.13 according to the daily requirement for offerings commanded by Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons and the three annual feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles.

v.14 In keeping with the ordinance of his father David, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their duties, and the Levites to lead the praise, and to assist the priests according to each day's requirement. He also appointed the gatekeepers by divisions for the various gates, because this was what David the man of God had ordered.

v.15 They did not deviate from the king's commands to the priests or to the Levites in any matter, including that of the treasuries.

v.16 All Solomon's work was carried out, from the day the foundation of the temple of the Lord was laid until its completion. So the temple of the Lord was finished.

v.17 Then Solomon went to Ezion Geber and Elath on the coast of Edom.

v.18 And Hiram sent him ships commanded by his own officers, men who knew the sea. These, with Solomon's men, sailed to Ophir and brought back four hundred and fifty talents of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon.
THE QUEEN OF SHEBA
STUDY #16

1 Kings 10:1-13

v. 1 When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions.

v. 2 Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind.

v. 3 Solomon answered all her questions: nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her.

v. 4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built,

v. 5 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed.

v. 6 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true.

v. 7 But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me: in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard.

v. 8 How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!

v. 9 Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness."

v. 10 And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

v. 11 (Hiram's ships brought gold from Ophir; and from there they brought great cargoes of almugwood and precious stones.

v. 12 The king used the almugwood to make supports for the temple of the Lord and for the royal palace, and to make harps and lyres for the musicians. So much almugwood has never been imported or seen since that day.

v. 13 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for, besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country.
2 Chronicles 9:1-12
v. 1 When the queen of Sheba heard of Solomon’s fame, she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions. Arriving with a very great caravans—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all she had on her mind.

v. 2 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for him to explain to her.

v. 3 When the queen of Sheba saw the wisdom of Solomon, as well as the palace he had built,

v. 4 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, the cupbearers in their robes and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed.

v. 5 She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true.

v. 6 But I did not believe what they said until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half the greatness of your wisdom was told me: you have far exceeded the report I heard.

v. 7 How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!

v. 8 Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on his throne as king to rule for the Lord your God. Because of the love of your God for Israel and his desire to uphold them forever, he has made you king over them, to maintain justice and righteousness.”

v. 9 Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. There had never been such spices as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

v. 10 (The men of Hiram and the men of Solomon brought gold from Ophir; they also brought algumwood and precious stones.

v. 11 The king used the algumwood to make steps for the temple of the Lord and for the royal palace, and to make harps and lyres for the musicians. Nothing like them had ever been seen in Judah.)

v. 12 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for; he gave her more than she had brought to him. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country.
1 Kings 10:14-29

v.14 The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents. 

v.15 not including the revenues from merchants and traders and from all the Arabian kings and the governors of the land. 

v.16 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred bekas of gold went into each shield. 

v.17 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold, with three minas of gold in each shield. The king put them in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon. 

v.18 Then the king made a great throne inlaid with ivory and overlaid with fine gold. 

v.19 The throne had six steps, and its back had a rounded top. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them. 

v.20 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom. 

v.21 All King Solomon’s goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon’s days. 

v.22 The king had a fleet of trading ships at sea along with the ships of Hiram. Once every three years it returned, carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and baboons. 

v.23 King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. 

v.24 The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart. 

v.25 Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules. 

v.26 Solomon accumulated chariots and horses: he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. 

v.27 The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills. 

v.28 Solomon’s horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue—the royal merchants purchased them from Kue. 

v.29 They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a hundred and fifty. They also exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and of the Arameans.
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

v. 1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

v. 2 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

v. 3 What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?

v. 4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.

v. 5 The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.

v. 6 The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

v. 7 All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.

v. 8 All things are wearisome more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.

v. 9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again (there is nothing new under the sun).

v. 10 Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new." It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.

v. 11 There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow.

v. 12 The Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

v. 13 I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men!

v. 14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

v. 15 What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.

v. 16 I thought to myself, "Look! I have grown and increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge."

v. 17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom and also of madness and folly; but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

v. 18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.
THE LIFE OF SOLOMON
STUDY #19

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

v. 1 [Thought in my heart: "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good."

But that also proved to be meaningless.

v. 2 "Laughter," I said, "is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?"

v. 3 I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.

v. 4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards.

v. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.

v. 6 I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.

v. 7 I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.

v. 8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I accumulated men and women singers, and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man.

v. 9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this, my wisdom stayed with me.

v. 10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired. I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor.

v. 11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.
Ecclesiastes 2:12-26

v.12 Then I turned my thoughts to consider wisdom and also madness and folly. What more can the king’s successor do than what has already been done? (Question! #1)

v.13 I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness.

v.14 The wise man has eyes in his head, while the fool walks in the darkness; but if I come to realize that the same fate overtakes them both.

v.15 Then I thought in my heart, The fate of the fool will overtake me also. What then do I gain by being wise? I said in my heart, This too is meaningless.

v.16 For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered: in days to come both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die!

v.17 Solitude life, because the work that is done under the sun is grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

v.18 I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.

v.19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless.

v.20 So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun.

v.21 For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge, and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless, and a great misfortune.

v.22 What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors under the sun? (Question! #2)

v.23 All his days his work is pain and grief: even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless.

v.24 A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too is from the hand of God. (Question! #3)

v.25 for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?

v.26 To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness; but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.
SOLOMON'S WIVES
STUDY #21

1 Kings 11:1-13

v. 1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites.

v. 2 They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your heart after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love.

v. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.

v. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

v. 5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.

v. 6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.

v. 7 On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.

v. 8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

v. 9 The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.

v. 10 Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.

v. 11 So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.

v. 12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

v. 13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."
SOLOMON'S S
STUDY #22

Proverbs 5:1-23

v. 1 My son; pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight.

v. 2 that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.

v. 3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;

v. 4 but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.

v. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.

v. 6 She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.

v. 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.

v. 8 Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house.

v. 9 lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel,

v. 10 lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house.

v. 11 At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.

v. 12 You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!

v. 13 I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors.

v. 14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly."
v. 15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.

v. 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?

v. 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.

v. 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

v. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may your heart ever be captivated by her love.

v. 20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man’s wife?

v. 21 For a man’s ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths.

v. 22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.

v. 23 He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.
SOLOMON'S ADVERSARIES
STUDY #23

1 Kings 11:14-43

v.14 Then the Lord raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad, the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom.

v.15 Earlier when David was fighting with Edom, Joab the commander of the army, who had gone up to bury the dead, had struck down all the men in Edom.

v.16 Joab and all the Israelites stayed there for six months, until they had destroyed all the men in Edom.

v.17 But Hadad still only a boy, fled to Egypt with some Edomite officials who had served his father.

v.18 They set out from Midian and went to Paran. Then taking men from Paran with them, they went to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave Hadad a house and land and provided him with food.

v.19 Pharaoh was so pleased with Hadad that he gave him a sister of his own wife, Queen Tahpenes, in marriage.

v.20 The sister of Tahpenes bore him a son named Genubath, whom Tahpenes brought up in the royal palace. There Genubath lived with Pharaoh's own children.

v.21 While he was in Egypt, Hadad heard that David rested with his fathers and that Joab the commander of the army was also dead. Then Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me go, that I may return to my own country.

v.22 "What have you lacked here that you want to go back to your own country?" Pharaoh asked. "Nothing," Hadad replied, "but do let me go!"

v.23 And God raised up against Solomon another adversary, Rezon, son of Eliada, who had fled from his master, Hadadezer king of Zobah.

v.24 He gathered men around him and became the leader of a band of rebels when David destroyed the forces of Zobah: the rebels went to Damascus, where they settled and took control.

v.25 Rezon was Israel's adversary as long as Solomon lived, adding to the trouble caused by Hadad. So Rezon ruled in Aram and was hostile toward Israel.

v.26 Also Jeroboam, son of Nebat rebelled against the king. He was one of Solomon's officials, an Ephraimite from Zeredah, and his mother was a widow named Zeruah.

v.27 Here is the account of how he rebelled against the king: Solomon had built the supporting terraces and had filled in the gap in the wall of the city of David his father.
v.28 Now Jeroboam was a man of standing, and when Solomon saw how well the young man did his work, he put him in charge of the whole labor force of the house of Joseph. 

v.29 About that time Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, and Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him on the way, wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone out in the country.

v.30 And Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces.

v.31 Then he said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes."

v.32 But for the sake of my servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe.

v.33 I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molech the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in my ways, not done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my statutes and laws as David, Solomon's father, did.

v.34 But I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon's hand; I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David my servant, whom I chose and who observed my commands and statutes.

v.35 I will take the kingdom from his son's hands and give you ten tribes.

v.36 I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name.

v.37 However, as for you, I will take you and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel.

v.38 If you do whatever I command you and walk in my ways and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you; I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you.

v.39 I will humble David's descendants because of this, but not forever."

v.40 Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam but Jeroboam fled to Egypt, to Shishak the king, and stayed there until Solomon's death.

v.41 As for the other events of Solomon's reign—all he did and the wisdom he displayed—are they not written in the book of the annals of Solomon?

v.42 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.

v.43 Then he rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.
THE LIFE OF SOLOMON
STUDY #24

Proverbs 3:1-26

v. 1 My son, do not forget my teaching but keep my commands in your heart.

v. 2 For they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

v. 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

v. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

v. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

v. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

v. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

v. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

v. 9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

v. 10 Then your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine.

v. 11 My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline and do not resent his rebuke.

v. 12 Because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

v. 13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom; the man who gains understanding.

v. 14 For she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.
v.15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.

v.16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

v.17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.

v.18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

v.19 By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations; by understanding he set the heavens in place.

v.20 By his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the rain.

v.21 My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment; do not let them out of your sight.

v.22 They will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.

v.23 Then you will go in your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble.

v.24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

v.25 Have no fear of sudden disaster, or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked.

v.26 For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

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v.16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

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