

The Wisdom of Solomon

30 JAN –5 FEB 2018

1 KI 3-6; PR 1-22

Week 18 - 32 Weeks to Go

These opening chapters of 1 Kings describe Solomon's divinely given wisdom and the golden years of his reign. Solomon is blessed with wisdom and charged with building a majestic temple to the Lord in Jerusalem. The building of the temple, which will hold the Ark of the Covenant, is Solomon's greatest success. Solomon's reign begins with great success. God tells Solomon to remember Him and follow his father David's example. Solomon seeks wisdom from God to govern his people well. God responds by giving him unparalleled wisdom, which will bring wealth and fame. The heart of Israel's wisdom tradition is shown in Proverbs.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: 1 KI 3:1-4:34
Day 2: PR 1:1-4:27
Day 3: PR 5:1-9:18
Day 4: PR10:1-15:33
Day 5: PR16:1-22:16
Day 6: 1 KI 5:1-18
Day 7: 1 KI 6:1-38

Outline

The Rise of Solomon as King [Day 1]
Proverbs [Day 2-5]
Preparations for Building the Temple [Day 6]
Laying the Temple's Foundation [Day 7]

Key Characters

Solomon
Hiram

Key Locations

Jerusalem
Gibeon

Key Terms

Wisdom
Temple

Key Verses

So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. [1 KI 3:9]

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge but fools despise wisdom and discipline. [PR 1:7]

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart [PR3:3]

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. [PR 3:27]

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. [PR 4:23]

EPOCH 4
(1200 – 930 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki3: Solomon married Pharaoh's daughter. He asked the LORD for discernment. Two women came before him and he judged between them wisely..

1Ki4: Solomon had officials and twelve governors. He ruled from the River to the land of Egypt. Men of all nations came to hear his wisdom.

Pr1: The proverbs of Solomon. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. Wisdom calls aloud. The complacency of fools destroys them.

Pr2: My son, apply your heart to understanding. For the LORD gives wisdom. It will save you from the way of evil, and from the adulteress.

Pr3: My son, trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not despise his discipline. Wisdom is a tree of life. Do not quarrel without cause.

Pr4: Listen, my sons: Get wisdom. The path of the righteous is like the morning sun. Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Pr5: My son, listen to my words. In the end an adulteress is bitter as wormwood. Keep away from her. Rejoice in the wife of your youth.

Pr6: A little slumber, and poverty will come like a bandit. A scoundrel sows discord. My son, a man who commits adultery destroys himself.

Pr7: My son, wisdom will keep you from the adulteress. I saw her seducing a young man. He followed her like an ox going to the slaughter.

Pr8: Wisdom cries aloud: "My mouth speaks truth. The LORD brought me forth at the beginning of his works. Whoever finds me finds life."

Pr9: Wisdom has built her house. She says, "Come, leave your folly." The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Folly knows nothing..

Pr10: A wise son makes a glad father. Love covers all offences. With many words, sin is not lacking. The righteous will never be uprooted.

Pr11: The LORD hates dishonest scales. The wicked earn false wages. Whoever gives water will get water. Whoever trusts in riches will fall.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Pr12: No one finds security by wickedness. Those who work the land have food. Rash words pierce like a sword. Righteousness leads to life.

Pr13: The righteous hate lies. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. Whoever heeds reproof is honored. Whoever spares the rod hates his son.

Pr14: The talk of fools is a rod for their backs. Even in laughter the heart may ache. Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker.

Pr15: A gentle answer turns away wrath. The eyes of the LORD are everywhere. Plans fail for lack of counsel. The LORD hears the righteous.

Pr16: A man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps. Kings detest evil. Pride goes before destruction. Wisdom is a fountain of life.

Pr17: A wise servant will rule over a shameful son. Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam. Even a fool seems wise if he keeps silent.

Pr18: A fool delights in his own opinions. The name of LORD is a strong tower. A gift opens the way. The tongue can bring life or death.

Pr19: Wealth makes friends. A false witness will not go unpunished. A good wife is from the LORD. Whoever helps the poor lends to the LORD.

Pr20: Wine is a mocker, beer a brawler. Even a child is known by his deeds. The LORD hates false weights. It is a snare to make rash vows.

Pr21: To do justice is better than sacrifice. Better to live on the roof than with a quarrelsome wife. No plans can avail against the LORD.

Pr22: A good name is better than riches. Train a child and he will not go astray. Incline your ear and apply your heart to my teaching.

1Ki5: Solomon sent to King Hiram: "I will build a house for the LORD. Cut down cedars for me." The workers prepared the timber and stones.

1Ki6: Solomon built the temple. The LORD said, "If you walk in my ways I will dwell with Israel." Solomon overlaid the temple with gold.

Big Ideas in PROVERBS

Seek wisdom
and avoid folly

There is no real wisdom
apart from God

Fear of God is
the beginning of
knowledge

A proverb
provides good
principles but
not always
promises

In many situations,
a person has a
choice between a
godly response and
an ungodly one

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

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Israel's 3rd King — King Solomon

[1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9]

King Solomon started out great! He prayed for wisdom to lead God's people and God gave him both wisdom and riches.

Under King Solomon, the Kingdom of Israel rose to prominence and people marveled at Solomon's wisdom and greatness.

God chose Solomon (a man of peace) to build the Temple.

King Solomon lived in a lavish palace and married hundreds of women, including idol worshipping women from neighboring nations. To support his extravagant lifestyle, King Solomon imposed harsh taxes and had little regard for the poor.

To please his foreign wives, he had a temple of idols built and King Solomon himself offered sacrifices to those idols.

God was very angry with Solomon and promised to take 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel away from those that Solomon's son Rehoboam would inherit as his kingdom. Rehoboam became king of 2 tribes.



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.

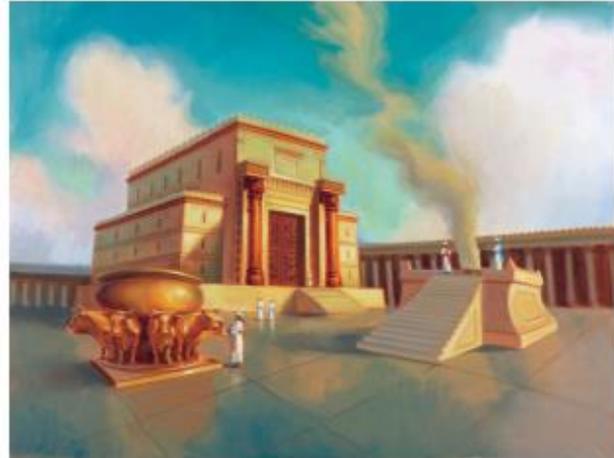
Solomon's Temple

[1 Kings 5-9]

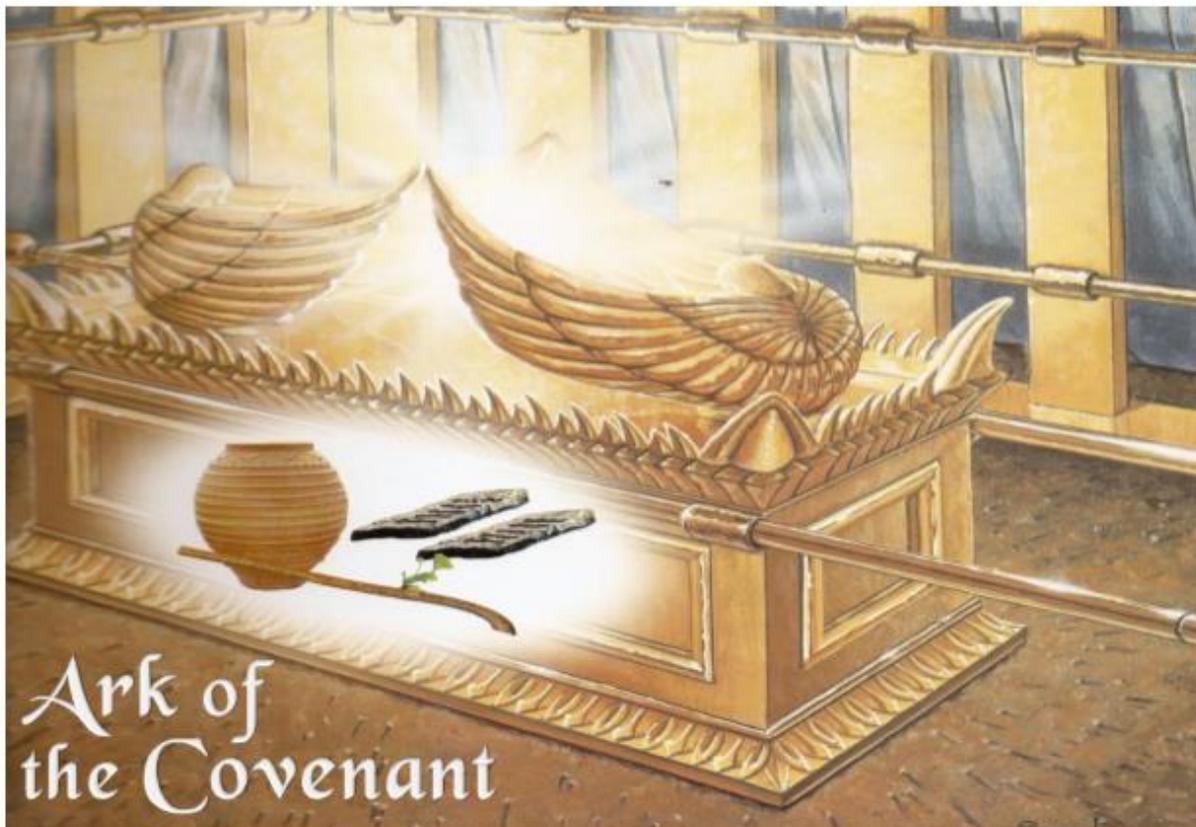
This Temple, built in Jerusalem by King Solomon, was gorgeous and lavish. It was twice as long and twice as wide as the Tabernacle and became the replacement for the Tabernacle.

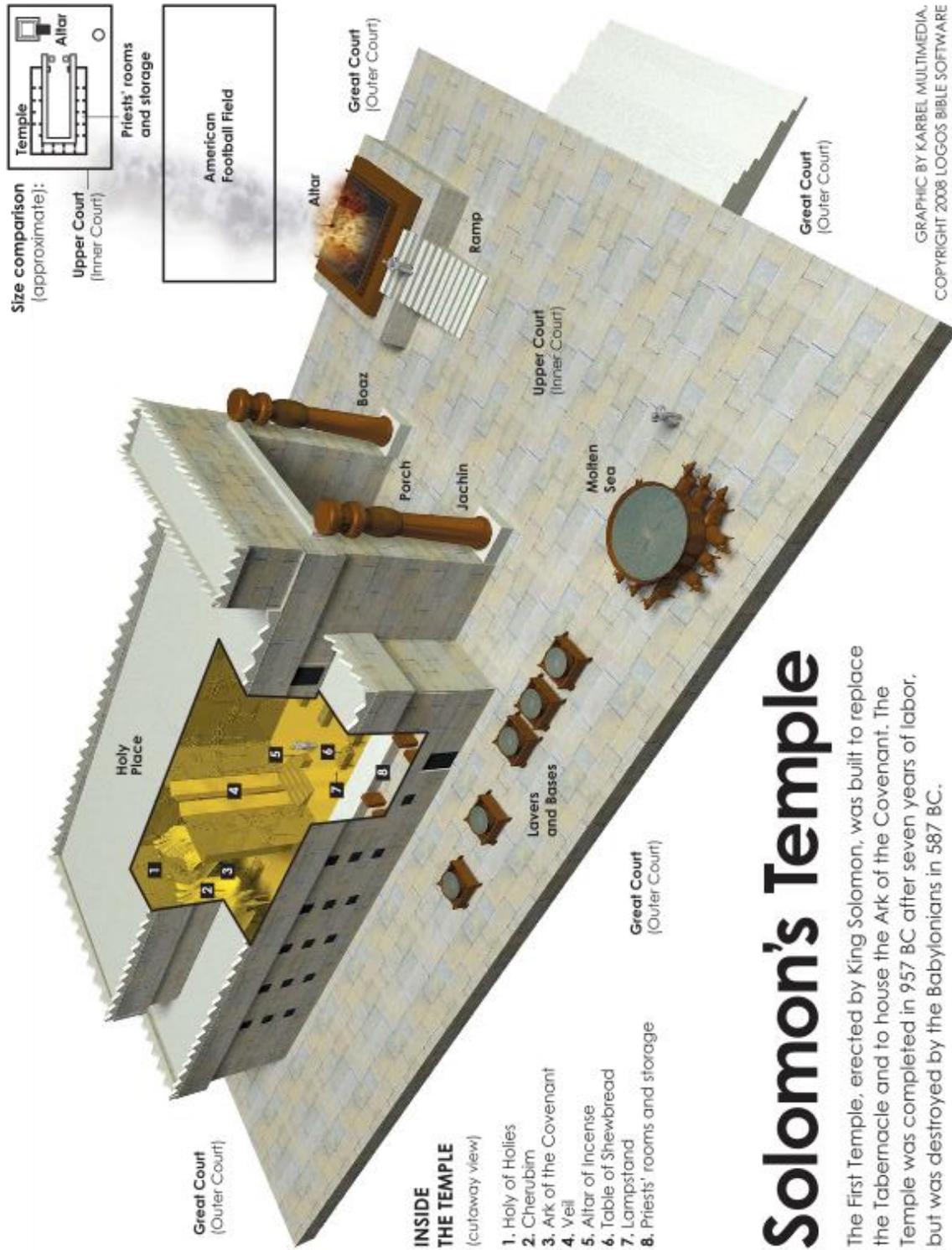
At the Temple dedication service the Ark of the Covenant was transferred from the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle to the Holy of Holies in the Temple “and the glory of the Lord filled the Temple.”

This Temple was the center of sporadic God worship until it was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC. (The Babylonians stole the Ark of the Covenant and it has never been found since.)



Lieber, D. (1994). Bible 101 getting the big picture. From a class presented at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in 1994.





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Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

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Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- What distinctions does God make regarding a worshiper's integrity (PR 15:8-9)?
- How does God chasten his children (PR 3:11-12)? What are the seven things that God hates (PR 6:16-19)?
- Why is God so concerned about the treatment of the poor and down-trodden? Why does God indebted Himself to us for helping the poor (PR 19:17)?
- Why do God and pride not mix? What causes enmity between the two? Is there any positive kind of pride that we should have?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Wisdom tends to be defined differently by people who have different perspectives. What may seem wise to one group may be deemed foolish by another. Does having wisdom guarantee we will live by wisdom? How do the following uphold wisdom: understanding, knowledge, prudence, shrewdness, instruction, discretion, perception?
- The opening of Proverbs (PR 1:7) says that knowledge and wisdom begins by having a healthy fear of God. What does it mean to have "fear of the Lord?" How does the fear of the Lord give us a good foundation for life?
- Should a person's emotions be his master or his servant? Does the way in which emotions like anger are directed make a difference? When someone "blows up" where is anger directed? When someone "clams up" where is anger directed? Where should anger be directed? With so many passionate and conflicting emotions prompting people to action, what is our responsibility to controlling those actions?
- Humility is important throughout the Bible. Proverbs assert that because of pride, a person is often tempted to take risks and be dishonest to protect reputation. Humility allows a man to confess his shortcomings and ask for advice. How does pride lead to strife (PR 13:10)? We are told in PR 15:33 that humility precedes true honor. What does that mean? Why are we not able to see pride in ourselves but can so easily detect it in others?
- Why is a friend who tells us the uncomfortable truth so valuable (PR 13:17-18; PR 20:30)? Are strong words sometimes necessary to correction (PR 15:10)? How strong?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Knowing that God sees and knows all we do, should that knowledge make us afraid? Or comforted? Or both? In what ways can knowing God – as He is depicted in Proverbs—motivate us to live wisely?
- The wisdom of proverbs talks about the need for people to tame the tongue. How can our words build up or tear down the wayward and the weak (PR 15:4; 16:24)?
- Integrity is a matter of relationships with other people that reflect the influence of our relationship with God. What would it say about me if I had the power to help someone but refused (PR 3:27-30)? What would it say about my relationship with God? What are some specific situations in which we have opportunities to show integrity in our day-to-day activities (PR 11:1)?
- Are you an advice-giver or an advice-receiver? Do those who give the most advice generally heed the advice of others?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- How are the Proverbs able to span years, locations, and cultures, and still be relevant to all people?