

# Solomon's Reign

6 –12 FEB 2018

1 KI 7-11; ECC; SS

Week 19 - 31 Weeks to Go

Solomon continues his building project, completing his palace, and furnishing and consecrating the temple. The Ark of the Covenant is placed in the temple, a cloud of God's glory covers the temple, and Solomon gives glory to God and praises the people for accomplishing God's will. Solomon gains world renown as a wise king and becomes very wealthy. Enjoying his worldly success, Solomon is unfaithful to God. In response, God pits many adversaries against him. Solomon dies and his son Rehoboam succeeds him. Ecclesiastes ponders the question, what does our life mean apart from God? The Song of Solomon celebrates the power and intensity of love and the human longing to know and be known. Love is a gift from God.

## Weekly Reading Plan

(Pages 487-512)

Day 1: 1 KI 7:1-9:14

Day 2: 1 KI 9:15-10:29

Day 3: ECC 1:1 – 3:22

Day 4: ECC 4:1-7:29

Day 5: ECC 8:1-12:14

Day 6: 1 KI 11:1-8

Day 7: SS 1:1- 8:14

## Outline

Building the King's Palace [Day 1]

Solomon's Other Accomplishments [Day 2]

All is Vanity [Day 3-5]

Solomon's Wives [Day 6]

Song of Solomon [Day 7]

## Key Characters

Solomon

Huram

Hiram

Queen of Sheba

Jeroboam

Rehoboam

## Key Locations

Jerusalem

Israel

## Key Terms

Temple

Covenant

Apostasy

Divided Kingdom

Wisdom

Love

## Key Verses

“As for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, “You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.” But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep my commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight (1 KI 9:4-7)

What advantage does man have in all his work which he does under the sun [ECC 1:3]

“Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised [SS 8:7]

EPOCH 4  
(1200 – 930 BC)

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki7: Solomon built his own house. Hiram made pillars, the sea and utensils for the temple of bronze. Solomon made the furniture of gold.

1Ki8: The priests brought the ark into the temple. Solomon said, "O LORD, if anyone prays toward this place then hear from heaven and act."

1Ki9: The LORD said to Solomon, "If you walk in my ways I will establish your throne." Solomon did not make slaves of the sons of Israel.

1Ki10: The queen of Sheba came to test Solomon. She gave him gold, spices and precious stones. Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth.

Ecc1: Everything is meaningless! There is nothing new under the sun. I applied my heart to know wisdom, but much wisdom brings much sorrow.

Ecc2: I built houses, gathered possessions and sought pleasure. It was meaningless! The wise die like the foolish. I despaired of my toil.

Ecc3: There is a time for everything: to live, to die, to mourn, to dance. It is the gift of God that man should find pleasure in his work.

Ecc4: I saw the tears of the oppressed. Two have a good reward for their toil. I saw everyone follow a new king. This too is meaningless!

Ecc5: Do not make rash vows before God. The lover of money never has enough. What is gained by toil? It is good to find enjoyment in life.

Ecc6: Here is an evil: to have wealth and honour but not to enjoy them. What do the wise gain over fools? The more words, the less meaning.

Ecc7: The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning. Do not be too righteous, or too wicked. Men have gone in search of many schemes.

Ecc8: Obey the king's command. Though sinners do evil, it will be well for those who fear God. No one can know what goes on under the sun.

Ecc9: The same fate comes to all. A living dog is better than a dead lion. Enjoy the days of your vain life. Wisdom is better than strength.

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Ecc10: A little folly spoils wisdom. Whoever digs a pit will fall into it. The lips of a fool consume him. Through laziness the roof leaks.

Ecc11: Whoever watches the clouds will never reap. You do not know what will prosper. Enjoy your youth, but know that God will judge you.

Ecc12: Remember your Creator in your youth, before the days of trouble come. Everything is meaningless! Fear God and keep his commandments.

1Ki11: Solomon had many wives and turned to other gods. Ahijah told Jeroboam that the LORD would give him ten of the tribes. Solomon died.

Ss1: Let him kiss me! I am dark and lovely. Tell me, where do you pasture your flock? Follow the tracks, my love. Behold, you are beautiful.

Ss2: She is a lily among thorns. He is an apple tree in the wood. Here he comes, leaping on the mountains. My beloved is mine and I am his.

Ss3: By night I sought the one whom I love. I brought him into my mother's house. Behold, O daughters of Zion, the carriage of King Solomon!

Ss4: You are beautiful, my love! Your eyes are doves, your breasts are like fawns. My bride is a garden. Let my beloved come to his garden.

Ss5: My beloved is knocking! I opened to him but he had gone. The guards found me and wounded me. My beloved is ruddy, his body is ivory.

Ss6: Where has your beloved gone? He has gone to his garden. You are beautiful, my love. Fair as the moon, awesome as an army with banners.

Ss7: Your thighs are like jewels, your breasts like the fruit of a palm. May your kisses be like wine! Beloved, let us go into the fields.

Ss8: Do not awaken love until it pleases. Love is as strong as death. Solomon had a vineyard, but mine is my own. Make haste, my beloved!

## Big Ideas in ECCLESIASTES

Wisdom and pleasure alone  
have no lasting significance

Earthly  
achievements  
are ultimately  
futile

Enjoy the life God  
has given you

The wicked may  
seem to thrive  
while good  
people suffer,  
but God will  
balance the  
scales one day

God's wisdom is beyond  
human understanding

Life is meaningless  
without God; fear  
God and keep his  
commandments



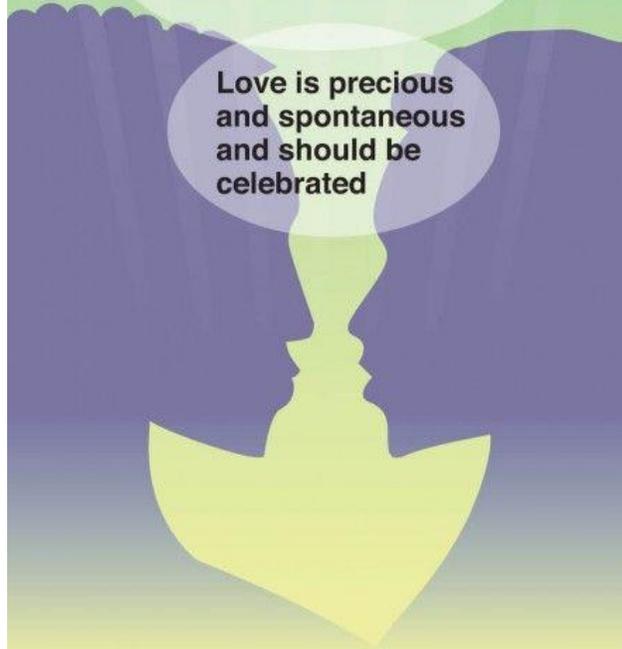
## Big Ideas in SONG OF SONGS

The love a person  
feels for someone  
else is powerful

Sex within marriage is a  
divine gift to value and enjoy

There is no shame in  
erotic love between  
husband and wife

Love is precious  
and spontaneous  
and should be  
celebrated



# Solomon's Temple vs. Palace

*1 Kings 6–7*

Differences and similarities between Solomon's great building projects

## Temple



## Palace



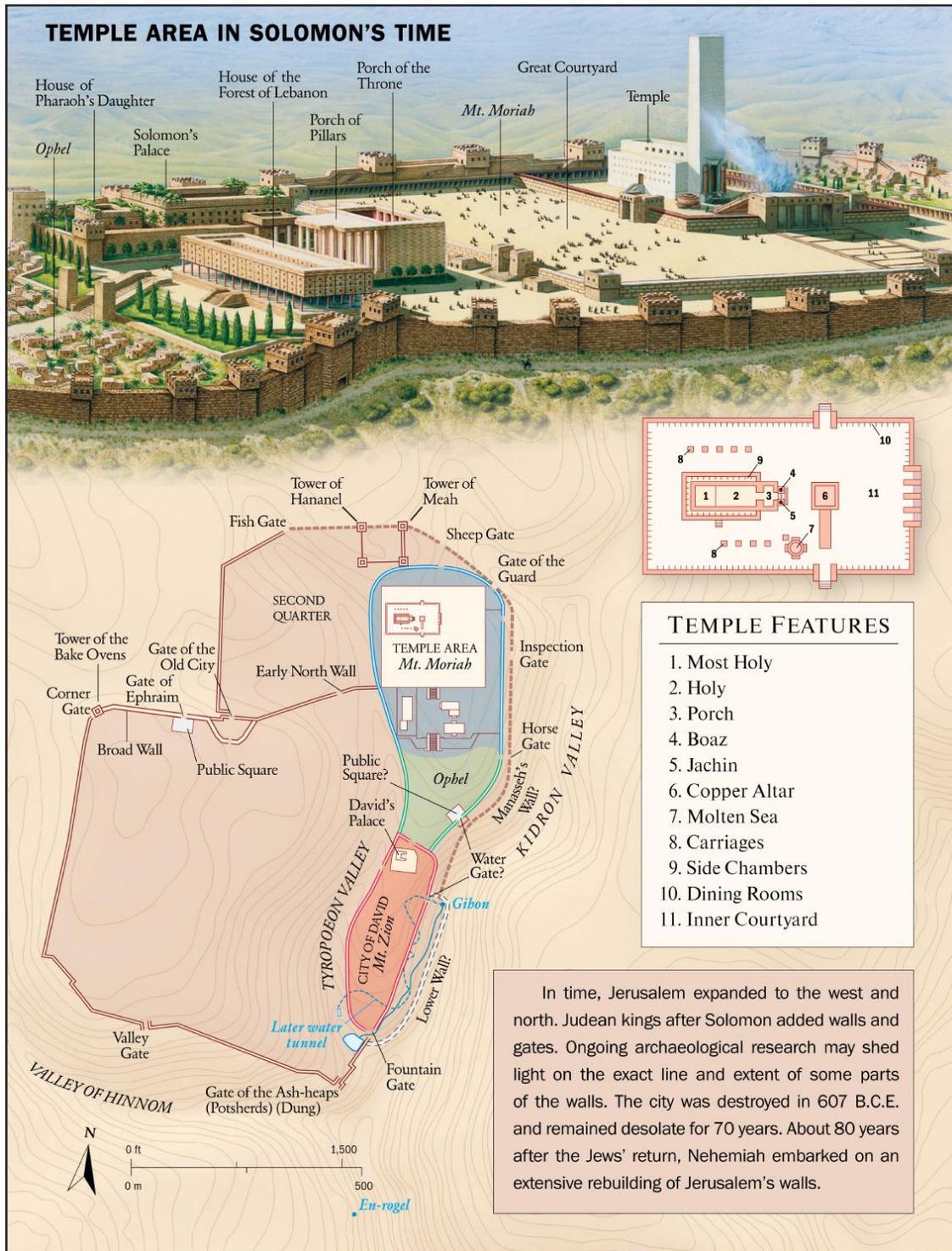


Illustration and diagram from *See the Good Land*, Watchtower publications.

# Solomon's Vast Wealth

## 1 Kings

Solomon owns a large palace as well as huge quantities of food and livestock; he also owns the following:



12,000 horses 4:26



4,000 stalls for chariot horses 4:26



666 talents of gold received per year (about 25 tons) 10:14



540 talents of gold from Ophir and Sheba (about 20 1/2 tons) 9:28; 10:10



500 gold shields 10:16-17



Ivory and gold throne 10:18

Fleet of trading ships that bring him gold, silver, ivory, apes and baboons 10:22



Gold goblets; all household articles pure gold 10:21



Revenues from merchants, traders, governors, Arabian kings 10:15



Precious stones 10:10



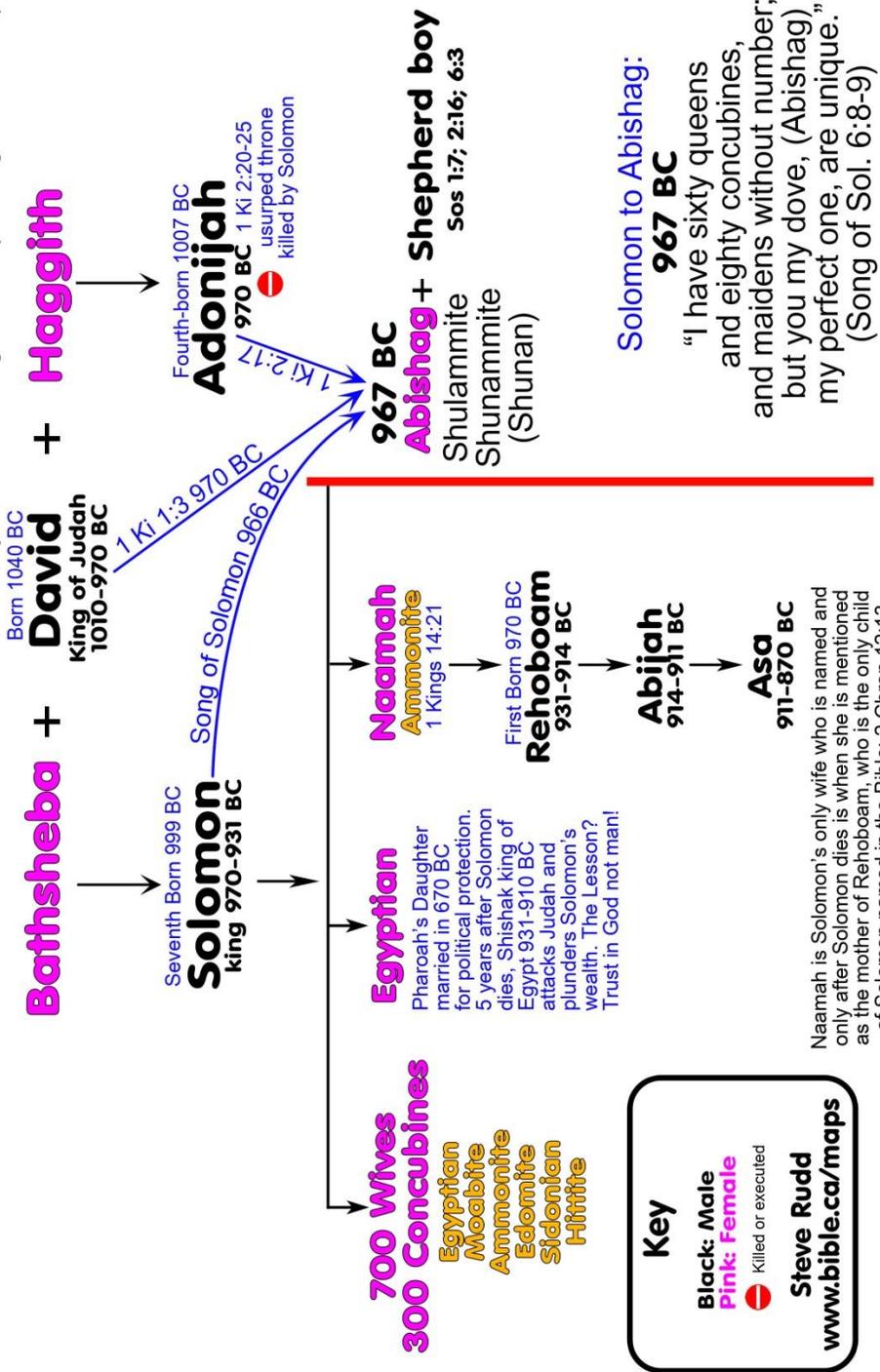
Large quantities of spices 10:10



**Solomon is so wealthy that he makes silver as common as stones! 10:27**

**The 1000 Wives of Solomon**  
(And almost wife #1001 who said no!)

“Solomon had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods...” (1 Kings 11:1-13)



**Key**  
 Black: Male  
 Pink: Female  
 (Red circle with slash): Killed or executed  
 Steve Rudd  
[www.bible.ca/maps](http://www.bible.ca/maps)

Naamah is Solomon's only wife who is named and only after Solomon dies is when she is mentioned as the mother of Rehoboam, who is the only child of Solomon named in the Bible: 2 Chron 12:13

# ECCLESIASTES

**THE LORDS OF JERUSALEM: SON OF DAVID, KING OF JERUSALEM**

**HEVEL: ONE WHO GAINERS PEOPLE**

- KING SOVEREIGN
- ANOTHER MEMBER OF DAVID'S
- COULDN'T TEACHER KING A SOLUTION-LIKE PERSONA

**TEACHER**

**KEY POINT: THE TEACHER IS DIFFERENT THAN THE AUTHOR**

**ANONYMOUS**

**TEACHER**

**HEVEL, HEVEL, EVERYTHING IS UTTERLY HEVEL.**

HEVEL: VAIN, SMOKE → USED 30 TIMES

1 TEMPORARY, FLEETING 2 KINGMA, KINGDOM

**HEVEL: NO GUARANTEES ENIGMA**

WEALTH  
CAREER  
STATUS  
PLEASURE

AVOID  
• LEAK OF THE LIND (SEE 9:3-10)

HOW DO YOU LIVE LIFE IN THE MIDST OF HEVEL? ACCEPT THAT ALL OF LIFE IS OUT OF YOUR CONTROL

FRINDSHIP  
FAMILY  
THE GIFT OF GOD  
GOOD THING  
SUNNY DAY

**THE TEACHER (1:3-12:7)**

**THE AUTHOR (1:1, 12:9-11)**

**1:1 INTRODUCTION TO THE TEACHER**

**1:2-11 TIME**

THE CUL, EVENTUALLY ERASE YOU, HE, AND ALL OUT CARE ABOUT

**CAREER:** STRESS, AGE, LEAVE IT BEHIND

**PLEASURE:** FOMO, ALWAYS COMES

**12:8 DEATH**

117-127

THE GREAT EQUALIZER

POURTH  
RICH  
POOR  
GONNA DIE  
GONNA DIE  
GONNA DIE

**12:9-14 CONCLUSION & EVALUATION OF THE TEACHER**

TEACHER'S JOURNALS

OF THE MAKING OF BOOKS THERE IS NO END

THE CONCLUSION: TEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMPANY - THIS IS THE DUTY OF HUMANS FOR GOD WILL BRING EVERY THING INTO JUDGMENT EVERY HIDDEN THING, WHETHER GOOD OR EVIL (12:13-14)

**THE AUTHOR'S BASIC GOAL**

TO LET THE TEACHER DECONSTRUCT ALL THE WAYS WE FIND MEANING & PURPOSE APART FROM GOD

PLEASURES  
WEALTH  
STATUS

created by the Bible Project

**THE SONG OF SONGS, WHICH IS OF SOLOMON...**

**HEBREW IDIOM:** "BODY OF HOLIES" "THINK OF KINGS" "THE GREATEST SONG"

**MAYBE** **1:2-7** **INTRODUCTION**

LET HIM KISS ME (1:2)  
COME FIND ME (1:3)  
TAKE ME AWAY WITH YOU (1:4)

**MAYBE NOT** **2:1-17** **SCENIC SCENING**

WHY VOICE IS A LIONESS  
WHY HANDS WOULD TAKE SOLOMON  
WHY CORNERS WOULD NOT MARK STONES  
WHY SOLOMON AND 700+ LADIES (1:1-2:17)

SOLOMON WAS KNOWN FOR WISDOM, POETRY, AND A LOVE OF LEARNING (ECC 1:1-17)

**CONCLUSION** **11:1-14**

**LOVE** **8:6-14**

...IS AS STRONG AS DEATH  
THE PASSIONS ARE TO STRIKE IN THE GARDEN  
ITS FLAMES ARE OF FIRE, A WINE CUP  
THAT LADIES CANNOT TOLERATE ONE  
BUTTERS CANNOT SWEET A MOUTH  
IF ONE WERE TO GIVE ALL THE WEIGHT  
OF ONES HOUSE FOR LOVE  
HE WOULD BE UTTERLY SPOILED (8:6-14)

**TRANSCENDENT GIFT FROM GOD**

THE HUMAN LONGING TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN  
BEYOND A KNOWING... OF... HUMANITY'S A NATURE

LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE  
SIN AND WITH ME!

**OPENING** **1:1-1**

...A LOT LIKE LOVE...

**THE JOY OF PHYSICAL ATTENTION** **4:1-5**

YOUR KISS ARE LIKE HONEY...  
I THINK HONEY LIKE A DROP OF GARDEN...  
YOUR TEETH LIKE LAMBS... J & G  
YOUR BREAST IS A TOWER...  
AND YOUR MOUNTAINS ARE HILLS

**THEME ONE** **4:1-5**

**INCREASE DESIRE SEEKING AND FINDING** **5:1-8**

**THEME TWO** **5:1-8**

REMEMBER: HEBREW METAPHORS ARE PRIMARILY NOT VISUAL

**WHAT IS LOVE POETRY DOING IN THE BIBLE?**

THREE MAIN INTERPRETATIONS, THROUGH HISTORIES:

- JEWISH TRADITION** AN ALLEGORY OF ISRAEL AND GOD (DEUTERONOMY 32)
- CHRISTIAN TRADITION** AN ALLEGORY OF THE CHURCH AND CHRIST (REVELATION 19:7-9)
- COLLECTION OF ANCIENT POETRY** THAT REFLECTS ON THE LIVING LIFE OF LOVE

**KEY FEATURE** **The Garden of Eden** (GENESIS 1-2)

YOU AND LADIES WOULD AND WOULD BE, YET UNWED AND SET UPON OF A RELATIONSHIP OF THE SONG BOOK OF THE BIBLE

created by *the Bible Project*

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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?

- In 1 Kings 8 Yahweh takes possession of His temple, with the cloud being a visible manifestation of His presence. Why does God appear as a cloud (1 KI 8:10-11)? In 1 KI 8:15-20 and 1 KI 8:27-30, does Solomon say that God lives in the temple? How does he speak about God's presence there?
- Read ECC 3:1-12. What parts of life is God concerned with? Do some parts please Him while others don't? Is He more impressed with a person making a lot of money before they turn 30 than a mother washing some dishes? Do things of importance and routine things both form our lives? What is God pleased with? Why will man never find happiness or meaning apart from God?
- Solomon and all of Israel offered an enormous amount of sacrifice at the dedication of the temple. What sacrifices does God require today and why?

## What did I learn about human nature?

- When Solomon brought the ark to the temple (1 KI 8) there was much ceremony in placing the ark in the temple. How do the Israelites approach God? How should we today approach the presence of God in worship and gatherings?
- Was Solomon a successful ruler?
- Is it possible to be overly righteous and/or overly wise? What does it mean to be overly righteous or overly wise? Does someone who Fears God want to be overly righteous or overly wise?
- Ecclesiastes 5 talks about the meaninglessness of riches. What causes people to love money? How can the love of money ruin a person's relationship with God? What is the right attitude for people to have with regard to money from a Biblical standpoint?
- The primary purpose of The Song of Solomon is to put before God's people an example of love and intimacy as it was designed by the Creator. Is God's view of sex more satisfying and pleasurable than the view of the world? Should we value intimacy more highly? Do we, as a culture, put it in its proper context?

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

- Solomon reminds the people of God's faithfulness as he blesses the people and prepares to dedicate the temple (1 KI 8:14-21). Review how God has been faithful to Israel (according to Solomon's praise). How often do we look back and remember the faithfulness of God in our lives and in the lives of our community of faith? What are some examples of God's faithfulness demonstrated in our lives, the lives of our community of faith, in the lives of our friends?
- What is your "ark" – something you must have in your life to feel close to God?
- In Ecclesiastes, Solomon speaks about the meaninglessness of man's life and work. Do you find this true at all? If so, in what situations? Have you ever felt this way about your studies, work or life in general? What is the meaning of life? Where does it come from? What is our purpose for existing?

## Insights about the time and/or customs?