

# SOLOMON: BUILDER OF THE TEMPLE

## 1 Kings 2–5



# SOLOMON – THE STORY

- SOLOMON HAD JUST ASSUMED THE THRONE OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL. HE WENT TO THE CITY OF GIBEON, NOT FAR FROM THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL JERUSALEM. HE WAS THERE TO SEEK THE LORD AND OFFER A SACRIFICE TO THE LORD.
- THE NIGHT BEFORE HE OFFERED HIS SACRIFICE, SOLOMON HAD A DREAM. IN THE DREAM, GOD CAME TO HIM AND MADE HIM AN OFFER HE COULDN'T REFUSE...HIS INVITATION WAS STUNNING: "ASK FOR WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU."



- “YOU HAVE SHOWN GREAT KINDNESS TO YOUR SERVANT, MY FATHER DAVID,” SOLOMON BEGAN THOUGHTFULLY, “BECAUSE HE WAS FAITHFUL TO YOU AND RIGHTEOUS AND UPRIGHT IN HEART. YOU HAVE CONTINUED THIS GREAT KINDNESS TO HIM AND HAVE GIVEN HIM A SON TO SIT ON HIS THRONE THIS VERY DAY.... BUT I AM ONLY A CHILD AND DO NOT KNOW HOW TO CARRY OUT MY DUTIES.... SO GIVE YOUR SERVANT A DISCERNING HEART TO GOVERN YOUR PEOPLE AND TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG. FOR WHO IS ABLE TO GOVERN THIS GREAT PEOPLE OF YOURS?”

- “I WILL GIVE YOU A WISE AND DISCERNING HEART,” THE LORD RESPONDED, “SO THAT THERE WILL NEVER HAVE BEEN ANYONE LIKE YOU, NOR WILL THERE EVER BE. MOREOVER, I WILL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU HAVE NOT ASKED FOR—BOTH RICHES AND HONOR—SO THAT IN YOUR LIFETIME YOU WILL HAVE NO EQUAL AMONG KINGS.”
- SOLOMON’S EYES WIDENED AS HIS PULSE QUICKENED WITH WONDER. WISDOM, RICHES, AND HONOR—WHAT ELSE COULD A MAN HOPE FOR?

- BUT THEN GOD ADDED A SOBERING STIPULATION: “IF YOU WALK IN MY WAYS AND OBEY MY STATUTES AND COMMANDS AS DAVID YOUR FATHER DID, I WILL GIVE YOU A LONG LIFE.”
- WE MANY TIMES FORGET THAT THE PROMISES OF GOD ALWAYS ARE CONDITIONAL. THERE IS ALWAYS THE BIG “IF” AND THAT MUST ALWAYS BE CONSIDERED. WE DON’T JUST ASK AND RECEIVE. WE ASK, RECEIVE, OBEY, AND APPROPRIATE WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED.

- SOLOMON'S FACE FLUSHED IN SHAME. HE HAD ALREADY BEEN DISOBEDIENT. HIS FIRST ACT AS THE KING HAD BEEN TO TAKE THE DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOH OF EGYPT AS HIS WIFE.
- BUT SOLOMON WAS MOVED BY GOD'S PROMISE. WHEN HE RETURNED TO JERUSALEM, HE STOOD BEFORE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT AND VOWED HIS ALLEGIANCE AND OBEDIENCE TO THE GOD OF HIS FATHER.



- SOON GOD'S PROVISION OF A WISE AND DISCERNING HEART WAS PUT TO THE TEST. ONE DAY, TWO WOMEN STOOD BEFORE SOLOMON. "THE LIVING CHILD IS MINE," ONE WOMAN PLED. POINTING TO THE OTHER WOMAN, SHE SAID, "IT WAS SHE WHO ROLLED OVER IN THE NIGHT AND SMOTHERED HER CHILD TO DEATH. THEN, BEFORE I AWOKE, SHE GAVE ME HER DEAD CHILD AND TOOK MINE AS HER OWN"



- “NO, THE LIVING CHILD IS MINE,” THE OTHER WOMAN DEMANDED. “IT WAS SHE WHO SMOTHERED HER CHILD.
- “BRING ME A SWORD,” KING SOLOMON COMMANDED OF HIS SERVANTS. “NOW CUT THE LIVING CHILD IN TWO AND GIVE HALF TO ONE AND HALF TO THE OTHER.”
- THE WOMEN—AND ALL WHO WERE THERE —WERE SHOCKED BY THE KING’S HEARTLESS PLAN. “PLEASE, MY LORD,” CRIED ONE OF THE WOMEN.

- “GIVE HER THE LIVING BABY. DON’T KILL HIM!” AND WITH THAT, THE KING DECLARED, “GIVE THE LIVING BABY TO THE FIRST WOMAN. DO NOT KILL HIM; SHE IS HIS MOTHER.”
- WORLD-RENOWNED DIGNITARIES PAID VISITS TO SOLOMON. THEY CAME TO SEE WHAT HE HAD ACCOMPLISHED AND TO TEST HIS WISDOM WITH “HARD QUESTIONS.”



- ONE SUCH VISIT PRODUCED MUCH TROUBLE FOR SOLOMON. IT WAS A SHE... SHEBA IN FACT.
- SHE ARRIVED WITH A VERY GREAT CARAVAN—WITH CAMELS CARRYING SPICES, LARGE QUANTITIES OF GOLD, AND PRECIOUS STONES. THE QUEEN ALSO CAME WITH ALL HER QUESTIONS. AND, TO HER AMAZEMENT, NOTHING WAS TOO HARD FOR THE KING TO EXPLAIN TO HER.

- SOLOMON ACCOMPLISHED MANY GOOD THINGS AS ISRAEL'S THIRD KING. HE ORCHESTRATED THE BUILDING OF A PALACE AND THE TEMPLE, A PERMANENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP AND AN APT DWELLING PLACE FOR THE ARK OF THE COVENANT.
- BUILT TO ELEGANT SPECIFICATIONS, THIS HOLY BUILDING MIRRORED SOLOMON'S LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS EYE FOR BEAUTY AND ATTENTION TO THE SMALLEST DETAIL.

- POLITICALLY, HE ORGANIZED THE KINGDOM INTO TWELVE DISTRICTS AND APPOINTED GOVERNORS OVER EACH ONE.

EDUCATIONALLY, SOLOMON HELD CLINICS AND “DESCRIBED PLANT LIFE, FROM THE CEDAR OF LEBANON TO THE HYSSOP THAT GREW OUT OF THE WALLS. HE TAUGHT THE PEOPLE ABOUT ANIMALS AND BIRDS, REPTILES AND FISH.” A LOVER OF THE ARTS, SOLOMON SPOKE THREE THOUSAND PROVERBS AND HIS SONGS NUMBERED A THOUSAND AND FIVE.

- BUT SOLOMON WAS A FAILURE. HIS GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS DID NOT COMPENSATE FOR HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO “KEEP GOD’S STATUTES.” SOLOMON LOVED FOREIGN WOMEN AND HAD AN INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR THEM. IN SPITE OF GOD’S SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS, THE KING MARRIED NOT ONE, BUT MULTIPLE WOMEN FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.
- HIS RATIONALE WAS THAT HE WAS BUILDING COALITIONS WITH THESE NATIONS. HOW COULD THE MOABITES, THE AMMONITES, THE EDOMITES, THE HITTITES, AND THE SIDONIANS ATTACK THE ISRAELITES WHEN THE POPULATION INCLUDED THEIR OWN DAUGHTERS AND GRANDCHILDREN?





- **HOWEVER, GOD'S LAWS WERE CLEAR. AS A NATION, ISRAEL WAS YOUNG AND VULNERABLE. INTERMARRYING WITH FOREIGNERS MEANT THE UNAVOIDABLE BLENDING OF THEIR INFANT FAITH WITH PAGAN BELIEFS.**
- Like Saul and David before him, God had recruited Israel's king from the ranks of mortal, sinful men. Saul's transgressions led to his destruction; David's led to contrition and repentance.
- With no legitimate excuse, Solomon did not follow David's example. Instead, like Saul, his flagrant disregard of God's laws led to his own spiritual destitution and death.

- GOD'S PROMISE WAS CLEAR: OBEY ME AND LIVE A LONG LIFE. DISOBEY ME AND DIE. IN THE END, SOLOMON'S WISDOM COULD NOT SAVE HIM.
- SOLOMON WAS INDEED "THE LEGACY THAT COULD HAVE BEEN"
- OBEDIENCE TO GOD BRINGS US INTO A PLACE OF BLESSING.
- COMPROMISE BRINGS US TO DESTRUCTION- EVERYTIME!!!

- IT IS CALLED “SPIRITUAL DRIFT”.
- IT IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD’S DIRECTION AND OUR FLESH COLLIDE.
- OUR HEART IS DECEPTIVE AND WILL LEAD US TO DO THINGS THAT WE WILL JUSTIFY IN OUR OWN SIGHT..
- GOD’S WAYS ARE HIGHER THAN OURS AND WE MUST BE TRUE TO WHAT GOD CALLS US TO.
- IF NOT WE OPEN OURSELVES TO THE ATTACK OF THE ENEMY IN EVERY AREA.