

Week 35

1 Kings 2-3; 2 Chronicles 1:1-13; 1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chronicles 6-7

Key Verse: “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, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other. 1 Kings 8:59-60

The transition from one ruler to the next is not always a smooth one. In the last hours of a president’s time in office the final hours many times are spent signing executive orders and granting pardons. The newly elected president will then spend many hours reviewing these last minute moves, and many of them will have to be reversed or revised. This is a very different kind of transition than the one described in 1 Kings 2. David called Solomon and gave him some very good advice that would enable him to begin his new administration on the right foot. The interesting thing about David’s advice was that he encouraged Solomon to correct those things which he himself had failed to do while he was king of Israel.

First, David urges Solomon to devote himself to keeping God’s law: 1 Kings 2:2-4.

Second, David urges Solomon to deal with Joab: 1 Kings 2:5-6; 2 Samuel 18:12-15; 2 Samuel 19:11-15; 20:4-23.

Third, David encourages Solomon to reward Barzillai, a man who remained faithful to him in his time of trouble: 1 Kings 2:7; 2 Samuel 19:31-39.

Just as justice needed to be carried out to those who had sinned, so those who had been faithful to David ought to be rewarded by his son, who succeeded him.

Fourth, David urged Solomon to deal with Shimei, a man who had been a thorn in David’s flesh: 1 Kings 2:8-9; 2 Samuel 16:5-12.

The remainder of the scriptures listed describes how Solomon carried out David’s counsel and thereby consolidated his kingdom and built a temple for the Lord.

As we move to the closing of the United Kingdom we see how the hearts of men can change the direction of not only their family’s lives but of nations. Solomon had been told by his father David and more importantly by God, if he loved and followed the statutes set by God there would be blessings not only for generations after him but for the nation of Israel. Solomon like so many of the others before him started out his reign with his heart in the right direction, but the cares of the world lead him astray.

Towards the end of his life Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes. In it we find Solomon pointing out that all the earthly treasures we strive for – riches, power, and popularity – are empty and meaningless. True happiness, he concludes, comes from "fearing God and keeping His commandments." Or as Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-20, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, but store up treasures in heaven".

Week 35

1 Kings 2-3; 2 Chronicles 1:1-13; 1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chronicles 6-7

Key Verse: “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, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other. 1 Kings 8:59-60

Day 1 – 1 Kings 2-3; 2 Chronicles 1:1-13 Solomon’s Throne Established/Solomon Asks for Wisdom

1. Before Solomon could move forward with his reign he must deal with Adonijah again. Why did Adonijah want Abishag and what did sleeping with a king’s concubine symbolize? (1 Kings 1:3-4; 1 Kings 2:13-17; 2 Samuel 16:21-22)

2. Why did Abiathar the priest deserve death and why was he spared? (1 Kings 1:5-7; 1 Kings 2:26-27)

3. When news of Abiathar reached Joab what happened? (1 Kings 2:28-31)

4. What was the deal that King Solomon made with Shimei? What did Shimei do to annul the deal?

5. Why did King Solomon go to Gibeon to make sacrifices to the Lord instead of Jerusalem? (2 Chronicles 1:1-6; 1 Kings 3:4)

6. What took place that night? What did Solomon request? (2 Chronicles 1:7-13)

Week 35

1 Kings 2-3; 2 Chronicles 1:1-13; 1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chronicles 6-7

Key Verse: “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, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other. 1 Kings 8:59-60

Prayer Focus: As the leader of the nation of Israel, Solomon had to overcome obstacles in order to move forward with the task that was before him. What obstacles are keeping you from being all God has called you to be? Ask God to give you the strength to move pass those obstacles.

Day 2 – 1 Kings 5-6 Solomon Builds the Temple

7. What change of conditions in the kingdom made it possible to now proceed with such a great building program as Solomon undertook? (1 Kings 5:3-4)

8. Where was the timber for the temple obtained? Who brought it to Solomon?

9. How was Solomon’s wisdom displayed in chapter five? (1 Kings 5:12-18)

10. List the different groups involved in the workforce and their background. (1 Kings 9:20-22; 2 Chronicles 2:17-18; 2 Chronicles 8:1-9).

11. Why did some Israelites become discontent with Solomon? (1 Kings 5:13-14; 1 Samuel 8:10-18; 1 Kings 12:1-4)

12. In what year did Solomon start construction of the temple and how many years did it take to complete it? (1Kings 6)

The temple had been completed just as the Lord had instructed Solomon’s father King David. The first step in the dedication of the temple was the transfer of the **Ark of the Covenant** from the Tabernacle to the new Holy of Holies in the temple. This would have been a moment of suspense: would God honor this new temple by the signs of His presence. Would the transfer be

Week 35

1 Kings 2-3; 2 Chronicles 1:1-13; 1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chronicles 6-7

Key Verse: “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, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other. 1 Kings 8:59-60

made in the proper manner? The death of Uzzah recorded in 2 Samuel 6:1-11 would have been fresh on the minds of those priests involved in the transportation of the ark.

The dedication took place during the feast in the month of **Ethanim, which is the seventh month**, which would have been September-October. Thus, the dedication was scheduled for the Feast of Tabernacles or Ingathering. This was one of the high points of the Israelite religious year. God was praised for His gracious bounty in allowing Israel to bring in the harvest another year. It also celebrated the fact that God had brought Israel out of desert wandering where they had lived in tents (tabernacles) into the land of Canaan where they were able to settle down and enjoy the benefits of planting and harvesting.

The audience was described as the elders of Israel, **all the heads of the tribes, and the leaders of all the families of Israel**. Thus the dedication was not a family event for Solomon, nor a Jerusalem celebration. This was truly a national event in which all the people of Israel were equally represented through the tribal system and the families by which they were identified.

Prayer Focus: How long has it been since you took an inventory of how God has blessed you? Today make a list, review it, thank Him for those things, then dedicate them back to Him.

Day 3 – 1 Kings 8:1-11; 2 Chronicles 6-7 The Dedication

13. When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place what occurred? (1 Kings 8:1-11)

14. Does Solomon say that God lives in the temple? What did he say? (1 Kings 8:20; 27-30)

15. What were the things Solomon said the Lord had fulfilled to him and his father David in 1 Kings 8:14-21?

16. Where did Solomon position himself to lead his dedication prayer? What body positions does he use? (2 Chronicles 6:12-13)

Week 35

1 Kings 2-3; 2 Chronicles 1:1-13; 1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chronicles 6-7

Key Verse: “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, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other. **1 Kings 8:59-60**

17. What do you feel is the best place and posture for personal prayer? Why?

After Solomon had succeeded in carrying out all that was set before him concerning the temple, the Lord appeared to him a second time in a dream.

18. In 2 Chronicles 7:17-22, what are God’s promises to Solomon and the kings to follow? What were the warnings to those who did not walk as David?

Prayer Focus: Even though God does not speak to us necessarily in the same way as He did to those in the Bible, He does speak to us through His Word. Just as He gave instructions for obedience and warnings for disobedience to those of old He does the same for us.

Today take an inventory of your life. Where are you missing out on God’s blessings? Is there disobedience? Remember what God promised you.

Day 4 – 1 Kings 10; 1 Kings 11:1-13; 2 Chronicles 9 Solomon’s Decline

19. Why did the Queen of Sheba visit Solomon? To what two of his characteristics did she bear witness? (1Kings 10:1-7)

20. What indications were given of the sources of Solomon’s wealth? (1Kings 10:14-15) (2 Chronicles 9:13)

Week 35

1 Kings 2-3; 2 Chronicles 1:1-13; 1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chronicles 6-7

Key Verse: “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, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other. 1 Kings 8:59-60

21. For what two reasons were horses obtained? (1 Kings 10:26; 29) (2 Chronicles 9:25)

The Bible tells us that where your treasure is there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:21) When you have a lot of money and possessions and a great army, there is a great temptation to rely on these things instead of God. Solomon’s father David knew this was a danger. In Psalm 20:7-8, he wrote, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.” It is very easy to begin to get prideful at all the accomplishments you have made and the wealth you have accumulated.

22. Wealth alone was not what caused Solomon to fall away from God. What does 1 Kings 11:1-8 tell us?

Compare the reign of Solomon to the standard set forth in Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

23. As we said in the beginning of this week’s study Solomon had a great start but what happened at the end of his life? (1 Kings 11:9-13)

24. Gold, silver and ivory aren’t necessarily what takes our focus off God today. What seems to have taken their place and why?

Prayer Focus: What things have you put between you and God? Today ask God to help you lay aside those things and focus on Him.

Solomon was a man of extremes – great successes and terrible failures. We often forget that while Solomon was the world’s wisest man, (some of the best wisdom for living Solomon recorded in Proverbs and it is still valid for life today) he was still just a man. And like all of us who follow God, when Solomon walked with Him he was successful and when he didn’t he failed. We need to ask God to be with us and fill us with His Spirit so we not only see what is right, but also do what is right.