

THE KINGS

Date: 5.12.24 | Title: Solomon Built the Temple | Scripture: 1 Kings 6-9:9 and 2 Chronicles 1-8

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.

High School Students

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus. God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory. God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.



MEMORY VERSE

"Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn." 1 Kings 2:3

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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

First and Second Chronicles cover much of the same historical time period as 1 and 2 Kings do, but with a different emphasis. First and Second Kings conclude the Deuteronomy based history and stress the failure of Israel and Judah to obey Deuteronomy. They look back at the largely tragic time period of the kings, explaining why the terrible exile (judgement) comes. First and Second Chronicles, on the other hand, reflect more of a forward looking account of the kings, pointing beyond the exile and stressing worship and the Davidic covenant.

Through God's remarkable grace and mercy, He loves and blesses Solomon. "When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 'I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn' (1 Kings 2:3). God himself speaks directly to Solomon twice, reiterating what David declared: if you obey, you will be blessed, but if you disobey, bad things will happen. (1 Kings 3:14; 9:4-9).

In 1 Kings 2:10-12 we read that after David's forty-year reign in Israel, he dies and is buried. "So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established." "Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David." (1 Kings 3:3). One night, God comes to him in a dream and says, "Ask, what I shall give you." (3:5). Solomon asks for "an understanding mind to govern God's people, that he may discern between good and evil" (1 Kings 3:9). God gives him "not only great wisdom but wealth, honor, and respect, as well as a largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore" (4:29) Solomon's wisdom is so extensive that people come from all over to learn from him (4:31-34).

On the surface Solomon's reign seems to go well. He forms important alliances by marrying the daughters of foreign kings. He consolidates and expands the kingdom he inherited from David. Solomon uses his wisdom and great wealth to build magnificent, awe-inspiring buildings in Jerusalem. He builds a grand palace and residence, along with residences for his many wives. More importantly, he constructs a spectacular, breathtaking temple for God and places the ark of the covenant inside the temple in the "Most Holy Place" where the presence of God comes to dwell (1 Kings 7:13-8:13).

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Peace and security in Israel are established during Solomon's reign, however the ultimate theme of this period is the presence of Yahweh among His people through the building and spirit filling of the temple. The temple being built for Yahweh's name (5:5) and in the center of the center city of Jerusalem shows the centrality of Yahweh in Israel and the trust of the people in His lordship.

The uniqueness of the temple is found in the Lord's presence there in the inner sanctuary, where the ark is placed (6:19). The people have rest and safety in the land when they and their king trust in and obey the Lord. The Lord forewarns Solomon and Israel that the temple is no guarantee of His presence; only their continued obedience will assure that. During the construction of the temple, the Lord speaks to Solomon and reiterates that the fulfillment of His word to David through Solomon is contingent on Solomon's obedience to His commands (2:3-4; 3:14; 9:4-8). Yahweh will dwell with Israel and be faithful to them if they are obedient (6:13).

After the ark is lodged in the temple and sacrifices are offered, "a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord" (8:10-11). Because of the presence of Yahweh with his people in the temple; His awesome glory was so stunning that the priests could not fulfill their duties. Solomon recognizes that Yahweh cannot be limited to or contained by the temple: "Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built" (8:27). If the Lord is too immense for the heavens, then certainly He cannot be limited to the temple.

Solomon goes on to build a huge standing army with large numbers of chariots, the latest in military technology. He builds a fleet of ships to sail on the Red Sea. Wealth pours into the empire. On the surface everything about Solomon's empire is spectacular.

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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



TELL
THE
STORY



Read directly from
Scripture, use the
message, or the
summary provided
in the lesson

Re-Tell
The Bible
Story

Put the events
in order, draw a
comic strip, build
it with blocks or
playdough, act it
out, etc...

Tell the story: Use the Background Info for Leaders and the summary below to help teach 1 Kings 6-9 and 2 Chronicles 1-8

Solomon, one of David's sons, succeeded him as king, and he started out well. He asked for great wisdom, and God blessed him with that and much more. Solomon would become famous for his wise judgments, write many proverbs, and rule over an expanded and prosperous land. He did not have the heart his father did, but at the peak of Solomon's power, God used him to fulfill a promise once given to his father, David. Solomon built the temple that David longed to see.

Solomon began to build the temple in Jerusalem, right where God had appeared to his father, David. He started building in the fourth year of his reign, 480 years after the Exodus from Egypt. When he had finished building, he brought all the valuable worship items that his father had dedicated for the temple and put them in the treasuries. Solomon called all of Israel's elders to Jerusalem to bring the ark of the covenant into the temple. When they arrived, the Levites (priests) brought up the ark and furnishings from the Tabernacle, with many sacrifices being made along the way. They took the ark into the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place. The two tablets from Mount Sinai with God's commandments written on them were in the ark. The priests withdrew from the Holy Place and those who were musicians stood on the east side of the altar playing cymbals and stringed instruments. They were joined by 120 priests playing trumpets and singers giving praise and thanks to God. "He is good; His love endures forever," they sang. The temple was filled with a cloud of God's glory, so much so that the priests couldn't continue. Solomon said, "I have built a magnificent temple for You, a place for You to dwell forever", then he turned around and blessed the people. He praised God for fulfilling what He had promised to David: a temple in Jerusalem and a lasting dynasty. He recalled how David had it in his heart to build the temple and how God told him one of his sons would do it. "The Lord has kept the promise He made," Solomon said. "I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the Lord promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the Lord,

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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

the God of Israel.” Solomon stood before the altar in front of the whole assembly and spread out his hands. Then he knelt on the platform and lifted his hands to heaven and prayed. He praised God for keeping His covenant of love and fulfilling His promise to David. He asked God to keep His promise for David’s dynasty to always have a man on the throne. He acknowledged that even the highest heavens couldn’t contain God, much less the new temple, that He would put His Name there, and that He would hear the prayers of his people there. Solomon asked God to forgive His people when they sinned, to restore them after they had been defeated by an enemy, and always to bring them back to the land He had given them. He prayed that when God judged them with a drought or famine or plague, He would hear their prayers of repentance and forgive them—and that He would teach them the right way to live. He asked God to deal with each person’s heart and to help each one walk in His ways. He even prayed for foreigners who would come from a great distance—that God would heart their prayers and that all the peoples of the earth would learn about Him and worship Him. Solomon prayed for God’s help in battles against enemies, for restoration when they would one day be held captive in a foreign land, and for forgiveness when they confessed their sins. When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and burned the sacrifices, and God’s glory filled the temple, now the priests couldn’t even enter the temple. When everyone saw the fire and the glory, they knelt down and put their faces to the ground. They worshipped God and thanked Him. Then the king and the people offered many more sacrifices—thousands of them—and dedicated the temple to God. The priests took their positions, including the musicians and trumpet blowers. All of Israel was standing. Solomon consecrated the courtyard and offered burnt offerings there. The festival continued for about three weeks before Solomon sent people back to their homes. They left feeling joyful for all that the Lord had done for David, Solomon, and Israel. Later, God appeared to him at night and said He had heard Solomon’s prayers and chosen the temple as a place for sacrifices. He assured Solomon that He would hear the prayers of his people and forgive them when they confessed their sins and repented. “My eyes and my heart will always be there,” He said. Then God told Solomon that if he walked in God’s ways and observed His laws, God would establish his throne just as He had with David. He also warned that if Solomon turned away, forsook God’s laws, and went after other gods, then Israel would be uprooted from the land, the temple would be rejected, and other nations would know that Israel had been forsaken because they had forsaken the God who brought them out of Egypt.

Re-tell the Bible Story: put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

Attributes of God: Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today’s story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Share the GOSPEL: Matthew 12:42 references Jesus, the greater Son of David, who will outshine Solomon in both wisdom and glory. That greatness would later be demonstrated by His sacrificial atonement on the cross, and through His everlasting reign as king.

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

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QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students support their answers by sharing evidence they took from Scripture.

- 1. Where did Solomon build the temple? Can you remember another story in which Mount Moriah was mentioned? What happened there?**
- 2. What did Solomon do when the construction of the temple was finished? What did the priests bring into the Most Holy Place of the temple?**
- 3. What did the musicians sing about at the temple dedication? What did God do when they finished singing? Do you think there’s a connection between their praise and God’s response? If so, what?**
- 4. What did Solomon say in his prayer about his father? In what ways did God show His faithfulness to David? What did Solomon say about God keeping his promises?**
- 5. According to Solomon, what was the purpose of the temple? Why or why not? In what ways and for what purposes did he expect God to dwell in the temple?**
- 6. What kinds of requests did Solomon pray for the people of Israel? What did he ask God to do for them?**
- 7. What did Solomon say about foreigners in his prayer? In what ways does his prayer reflect the original mission God gave to Adam and Eve?**
- 8. How did God respond to Solomon’s prayer? How did He show Himself? What did the people do when they saw and felt God’s presence?**
- 9. How long did the people celebrate at the dedication of the temple? How did they feel when it was over?**
- 10. What did God say to Solomon later? How did God encourage him? What warnings did He give?**
- 11. In light of the fact that Solomon would later disobey God and even worship at pagan altars, why do you think God allowed him to be the one to build the temple? What does this say about God’s willingness to use imperfect people?**
- 12. What does this story teach us about God’s desire to be with His people? What can we do to sense His presence more in our lives? How do you think He would respond if you asked for a greater sense of His presence?**

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PRAYER PROMPTS

God thank you for being omnipresent. Thank you for being a king and Lord who is available and accessible to us always. Help us to rest in, rely on, and enjoy Your presence!

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Bible Skills Practice: Encourage your students to not only know the order of the books of the bible but also the different divisions they come in.

The Torah: Genesis - Deuteronomy | **History:** Joshua - Esther | **Poetry:** Job - Song of Solomon | **Major Prophets:** Isaiah - Daniel | **Minor Prophets:** Hosea - Malachi | **Gospels:** Matthew - John | **Acts** | **Paul's Letter:** Romans - Philemon | **General Letters:** Hebrews - Jude | **Revelation**

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

We will have no mission focus for the remainder of the school year. As we pray through what our next focus will be, please continue to give generously.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this week's verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:

BSASYAMAKTCOTLYGWIHWAKHSHCHRAHTAIWITLOMTYMPIATYDAWYT - 1 Kings 2:3

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Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?