

Week Thirty One (31)
1 Kings 1 - 4



— PASTOR'S —
BIBLE STUDY

David needs a successor to the throne. Who will become King?

1 Kings 1 NKJV

Adonijah Presumes to Be King

David is an old, sick, infirm and broken man

1 Now King David was old, ^[a]advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm. **2** Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king, and let her ^[b]stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm." **3** So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. **4** The young woman was very lovely; and **she cared for the king**, and served him; **but the king did not know her.**

NOTE: Abishag the Shunammite is not a wife or a concubine – She is a nurse only

2 Samuel 3:2

²Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was **Amnon** by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; ³his second, **Chileab**, by Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite; the third, **Absalom** the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur; ⁴the fourth, **Adonijah** the son of Haggith; the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; ⁵and the sixth, Ithream, by David's wife Eglah. These were born to David in Hebron.

5 Then **Adonijah the ^[c]son of Haggith (Son number 4)** exalted himself, saying, "**I will ^[d]be king**"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

6 (And his father had not ^[e]rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. *His mother had borne him after Absalom.*)

7 Then he conferred with **Joab** the son of Zeruiah and with **Abiathar the priest**, and they followed and helped Adonijah. **8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David were not with Adonijah.**

To be King he needs the support of the Military and Priesthood

9 And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of ^[f]Zohaleth, which is by En Rogel; ^[g]he also invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants.

¹⁰ But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah (b(e)-naia), the mighty men, or Solomon his brother.

¹¹ So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying,

“Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know it?”

¹² Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.

¹³ Go immediately to King David and say to him, ‘Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, “Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne”?’

Why then has Adonijah become king?’ ¹⁴ Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words.”

We have to ask ourselves why would David make such a promise?

Was it a way for David to atone for his sin and to mitigate the consequences of his infidelity?

Remember Psalm 51

¹⁵ So Bathsheba went into the chamber to the king. (Now the king was very old, and **Abishag the Shunammite** was serving the king.) **¹⁶ And Bathsheba bowed and did homage to the king.**

Then the king said, “What is your wish?”

¹⁷ Then she said to him, “My lord, you swore by the LORD your God to your maidservant, saying, ‘Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.’

¹⁸ So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, **you do not know about it.** ¹⁹ He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited.

She is letting David know the Military and Priesthood are supporting him

²⁰ And as for you, my lord, O king, **the eyes of all Israel are on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.** ²¹ Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, **that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders (criminals)."**

²² And just then, while she was still talking with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.

²³ So they told the king, saying, **"Here is Nathan the prophet."** And when he came in before the king, **he bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.** ²⁴ And Nathan said, "My lord, O king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'? ²⁵ For he has gone down today, and has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance,

and has invited all the king's sons, and the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest; and look! They are eating and drinking before him; and they say, **'Long live King Adonijah!'**

²⁶ **But he has not invited me—me your servant—nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon.**

²⁷ Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not told your servant who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

If David does not do something, they will be put to death

David Proclaims Solomon King

²⁸ Then King David answered and said, **“Call Bathsheba to me.”**

So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king. ²⁹ And the king took an oath and said, **“As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress, ³⁰ just as I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel, saying, ‘Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,’ so I certainly will do this day.”**

³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed with *her* face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, **“Let my lord King David live forever!”**

³² And King David said, **“Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.”**

So they came before the king.

³³ The king also said to them, **“Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. ¶ ³⁴ There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, ¶ ‘Long live King Solomon!’”**

³⁵ Then you shall come up after him, and **he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place.** For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.”

³⁶ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, **“Amen! May the LORD God of my lord the king say so too. ³⁷ As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David.”**

38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and took him to Gihon.

39 Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, **[K]“Long live King Solomon!”**

40 And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound.



41 Now Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished eating.

And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, **“Why is the city in such a noisy uproar?”** ⁴² While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, **“Come in, for you are a prominent man, and bring good news.”**

43 Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, **“No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king. ⁴⁴The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king’s mule. ⁴⁵ So Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard.**

⁴⁶ Also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom. ⁴⁷ And moreover the king’s servants have gone to bless our lord King David, saying, **‘May God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.’** Then the king bowed himself on the bed.

⁴⁸ Also the king said thus, **‘Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who has given one to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see it!’ ”**

49 So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way.

⁵⁰ **Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon;** so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

⁵¹ And it was told Solomon, saying, **“Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.’ ”**

52 Then Solomon said, **"If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."**

53 So King Solomon sent them to bring him down from the altar. And **he came and fell down before King Solomon**; and Solomon said to him, **"Go to your house – [and stay there]."**

Parallels between Solomon and Jesus

Solomon

- Rode David's Mule as symbol of his Kingship
- Anointed by Nathan the Prophet
- Fulfilled prophecies – Davidic Covenant
- People went "up from there rejoicing"
- "Long live King Solomon!"

Jesus

- Rode a Donkey as a symbol of his spiritual Kingship
- Mary of Bethany anointed Jesus' feet with expensive ointment and wiped his feet with her hair.
- Fulfilled messianic promise
- took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!'"

1 Kings 2 NIV

David's Instructions to Solomon

2 Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he **l**o**a**d**h**arged Solomon his son, saying: **2** **"I go the way of all the earth; be strong [and show yourself a man], therefore, and**

Solomon is not a warrior, he is meek, weak and indecisive and will need to stand firm to remain King

- **prove yourself a man.** **3** **And**
- **keep the charge of the LORD your God:**
 - **to walk in His ways,**
 - **to keep His statutes,**
 - **His commandments,**
 - **His judgments, and**
 - **His testimonies,**

The Davidic Covenant is an if then covenant. "If you walk in my ways then I will.."

as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; **4** **that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying,**

'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

He killed your brother Absalom

5 **"Moreover you know also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to **Abner the son of Ner (remember Sauls son - Isboseth?)** and Amasa the son of Jether (appointed captain of the Israelite army by Absalom), whom he killed. And he shed the blood of war in peacetime, and put the blood of war on his belt that was around his waist, and on his sandals that were on his feet. **6** **Therefore do according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.****

7 **"But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for so they came to me when I fled from Absalom your brother.**

⁸ “And see, you have with you **Shimei the son of Gera (a weasel of a man)**, a Benjamite (King Saul is from the tribe of Benjamin) from Bahurim, **who cursed me with a malicious curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim**. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, ‘I will not put you to death with the sword.’ ⁹ Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man and know what you ought to do to him; but bring his gray hair down to the grave with blood.”

Who was the first person to meet David as he crossed from Jericho after Absalom's death?

Death of David

¹⁰ So David [\[b\]](#)rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. ¹¹ The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years. ¹² **Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.**

*David Unified the Tribes of Israel
Solomon is given the greatest of inheritances*

Its one thing to become King, its another to survive as a King

For Solomon to remain King he will have to deal with those who will seek to undermine him.

- Joab who has led David's Army
- Shimei the son of Gera – leader in the Tribe of Benjamin
- Abiathar priest to the LORD
- And Adonijah who was perceived to be the rightful heir

Solomon Executes Adonijah

¹³ Now **Adonijah the son of Haggith** came to **Bathsheba** the mother of Solomon. So she said, **“Do you come peaceably?”**

And he said, **“Peaceably.”**

¹⁴ Moreover he said, **“I have something to say to you.”**

And she said, **“Say it.”**

¹⁵ Then he said, **“You know that the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had set their expectations on me, that I should reign.** However, the kingdom has been turned over, and has become my brother’s; for it was his from the LORD.

¹⁶ **Now I ask one petition of you; do not deny me.”**

And she said to him, **“Say it.”**

¹⁷ Then he said, **“Please speak to King Solomon, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as wife.”**

¹⁸ So Bathsheba said, **“Very well, I will speak for you to the king.”**

Remember: Abishag the Shunammite as wife is not the wife or concubine of King David. She was his nurse. Bathsheba understands she is not a threat and her marriage to Adonijah would not be a threat to Solomon.

So Bathsheba goes to see her son, King Solomon

19 Bathsheba therefore went to King Solomon, to speak to him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her and bowed down to her, and sat down on his throne and had a throne set for the king's mother; so she sat at his right hand.

20 Then she said, **"I desire one small petition of you; do not refuse me."**

And the king said to her, **"Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you."**

21 So she said, **"Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as wife."**

Adonijah has a huge crush on Abishag!

22 And King Solomon answered and said to his mother, **"Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also—for he is my older brother—for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah."** 23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, **"May God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life! 24 Now therefore, as the LORD lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the throne of David my father, and who has established a house for me, as He promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today!"**

25 So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and **he struck him down**, and he died.

Why did King Solomon act in this way. The request was not a threat to his kingship. Is there more to this story?

Turn to Song of Songs Chapter 1

Why is Solomon so upset?

Song of Songs 1 NIV

1 Solomon's Song of Songs.

She^[a]

**2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—
for your love is more delightful than wine.**

**3 Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes;
your name is like perfume poured out.**

No wonder the young women love you!

4 Take me away with you—let us hurry!

Let the king bring me into his chambers.

Friends

We rejoice and delight in you^[b];

we will praise your love more than wine.

Song of
Songs is
written in
the style of
erotic love
poetry

He

**9 I liken you, my darling, to a mare
among Pharaoh's chariot horses.**

**10 Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings,
your neck with strings of jewels.**

**11 We will make you earrings of gold,
studded with silver.**

She

**12 While the king was at his table,
my perfume spread its fragrance.**

**13 My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh
resting between my breasts.**

**14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms
from the vineyards of En Gedi.**

Who is this?
Go to:
Chapter 2:3

Song of Songs 2:3 NIV

She

³ Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest
is my beloved among the young men.

I delight to sit in his shade,
and his fruit is sweet to my taste.

⁴ Let him lead me to the banquet hall,
and let his banner over me be love.

⁵ Strengthen me with raisins,
refresh me with apples,
for I am faint with love.

⁶ His left arm is under my head,
and his right arm embraces me.

Song of Songs 3:6


⁶ Who is this coming up from the wilderness
like a column of smoke,
perfumed with myrrh and incense
made from all the spices of the merchant?

⁷ Look! It is Solomon's carriage,
escorted by sixty warriors,
the noblest of Israel,

⁸ all of them wearing the sword,
all experienced in battle,
each with his sword at his side,
prepared for the terrors of the night.

⁹ King Solomon made for himself the carriage;
he made it of wood from Lebanon.


¹⁰ Its posts he made of silver,
its base of gold.

Its seat was upholstered with purple,
 its interior inlaid with love.
 Daughters of Jerusalem, ¹¹ come out,
 and look, you daughters of Zion.
 Look  on King Solomon wearing a crown,
 the crown with which his mother crowned him
 on the day of his wedding,
 the day his heart rejoiced.

He is so strong and drives a cool set of wheels!!

Back to 1 Kings 2:

Abiathar Exiled, Joab Executed

²⁶ And to Abiathar the priest **the king said**, "Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, for  you are deserving of death; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before my father David, and because you were afflicted every time my father was afflicted."

²⁷ So Solomon removed Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, that he might fulfill the word of the LORD which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh.

²⁸ Then news came to Joab, **for Joab had defected to Adonijah**, though he had not defected to Absalom.

So Joab fled to the tabernacle of the LORD, and took hold of the horns of the altar. ²⁹ And King Solomon was told, "Joab has fled to the tabernacle of the LORD; there *he is*, by the altar." Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down."

³⁰ So Benaiah went to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said to him, "Thus says the king, 'Come out!' "

And he said, "No, but I will die here." And Benaiah brought back word to the king, saying, "**Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.**"

³¹ Then the king said to him, "**Do as he has said, and strike him down and bury him**, that you may take away from me and from the house of my father the innocent blood which Joab shed.

³² **So the LORD will return his blood on his head, because he struck down two men more righteous and better than he, and killed them with the sword**—Abner the son of Ner, the commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, the commander of the army of Judah—though my father David did not know *it*. ³³ Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his descendants forever.

But upon David and his descendants, upon his house and his throne, there shall be peace forever from the LORD."

³⁴ **So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck and killed him**; and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. ³⁵ The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his place over the army, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

Shimei Executed

³⁶ Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, **“Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere. ³⁷ For it shall be, on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely die; your blood shall be on your own head.”**

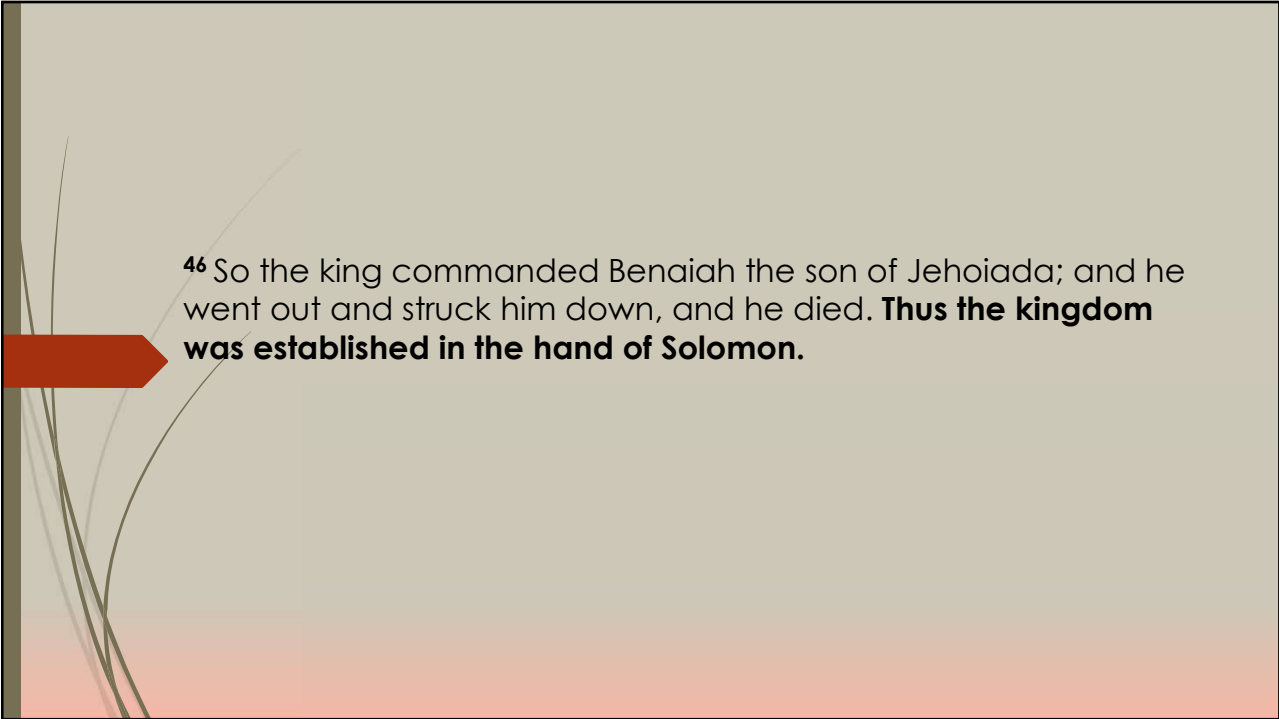
³⁸ And **Shimei said to the king**, “The saying is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do.” So Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

³⁹ Now it happened at the **end of three years**, that two slaves of Shimei ran away to Achish the son of Maachah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, **“Look, your slaves are in Gath!”**

⁴⁰ So Shimei arose, **saddled his donkey, and went to Achish at Gath to seek his slaves.** And Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath.

⁴¹ And Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had come back. ⁴² Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, **“Did I not make you swear by the LORD, and warn you, saying, ‘Know for certain that on the day you go out and travel anywhere, you shall surely die’? And you said to me, ‘The word I have heard is good.’”**

⁴³ **Why then have you not kept the oath of the LORD and the commandment that I gave you?”** ⁴⁴ The king said moreover to Shimei, “You know, as your heart acknowledges, all the wickedness that you did to my father David; therefore the LORD will return your wickedness on your own head. ⁴⁵ But King Solomon *shall be* blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever.”



⁴⁶ So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he went out and struck him down, and he died. **Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.**




So those who could undermine and cause trouble for King Solomon have been dealt with:

- Adonijah who was perceived to be the rightful heir
- Abiathar priest to the LORD
- Joab who has led David's Army
- Shimei the son of Gera – leader in the Tribe of Benjamin

1 Kings 3 NIV

Remember
Deuteronomy
Chapter 17 – 1406
BCE?

Solomon Requests Wisdom

3 Now Solomon made  a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall all around Jerusalem. ² Meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the LORD until those days. ³ And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.

⁴ Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

David united through battle – Solomon makes economic trade agreements through marriage

From production through distribution

Both by land and by sea

Deuteronomy 17:14

The King

¹⁴ When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us," ¹⁵ be sure to appoint over you a king the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your fellow Israelites. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not an Israelite. ¹⁶ The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself **or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, "You are not to go back that way again."** ¹⁷ He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

1 Kings 3 NIV

⁶ And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. ⁷ **Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child** (30 years old); **I do not know how to go out or come in.** ⁸ And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.

⁹ Therefore give to Your servant **an understanding (hearing) heart to judge Your people**, that **I may discern between good and evil.** For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

¹⁰ The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹ **Then God said to him:**

- "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,
- ¹² behold, I have done according to your words; see,
 - **I have given you a wise and understanding heart**, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.
 - ¹³ **And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor**, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. ¹⁴ So if you walk in My ways, to **keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen^[c] your days.**"

This is
not a
positive
gift

¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Solomon's Wise Judgment

¹⁶ Now two women *who were harlots* came to the king, and stood before him. ¹⁷ And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house. ¹⁸ Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we were together; dno one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house. ¹⁹ And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. ²⁰ So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

²¹ And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. **But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne.**"

²² Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son."

And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son."

Thus they spoke before the king.

²³ And the king said, "**The one says, 'This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'**" ²⁴ Then the king said, "**Bring me a sword.**" So they brought a sword before the king. ²⁵ And the king said, "**Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other.**"

26 Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!"

But the other said, "**Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him.**"

27 So the king answered and said, "**Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother.**"

28 **And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.**

1 Kings 4 NIV

Solomon's Administration

4 So King Solomon was king over all Israel. 2 And these were his officials: Azariah the son of Zadok, the priest; 3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder; 4 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, over the army; Zadok and Abiathar, the priests; 5 Azariah the son of Nathan, over the officers; Zabud the son of Nathan, a priest and the king's friend; 6 Ahishar, over the household; and Adoniram the son of Abda, over the labor force.

7 And Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household; each one made provision for one month of the year.

⁸ These are their names: ⁸ Ben-Hur, in the mountains of Ephraim; ⁹ Ben-Deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh, and Elon Beth Hanan; ¹⁰ Ben-Hesed, in Arubboth; to him *belonged* Sochoh and all the land of Hopher; ¹¹ Ben-Abinadab, *in* all the regions of Dor; he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as wife; ¹² Baana the son of Ahilud, *in* Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth Shean, which *is* beside Zaretan below Jezreel, from Beth Shean to Abel Meholah, as far as the other side of Jokneam; ¹³ Ben-Geber, in Ramoth Gilead; to him *belonged* the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, in Gilead; to him *also belonged* the region of Argob in Bashan—sixty large cities with walls and bronze gate-bars; ¹⁴ Ahinadab the son of Iddo, *in* Mahanaim; ¹⁵ Ahimaaz, in Naphtali; he also took Basemath the daughter of Solomon as wife; ¹⁶ Baanah the son of Hushai, in Asher and Aloth; .

¹⁷ Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar; ¹⁸ Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin; ¹⁹ Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, *in* the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan. *He* was the only governor who was in the land.

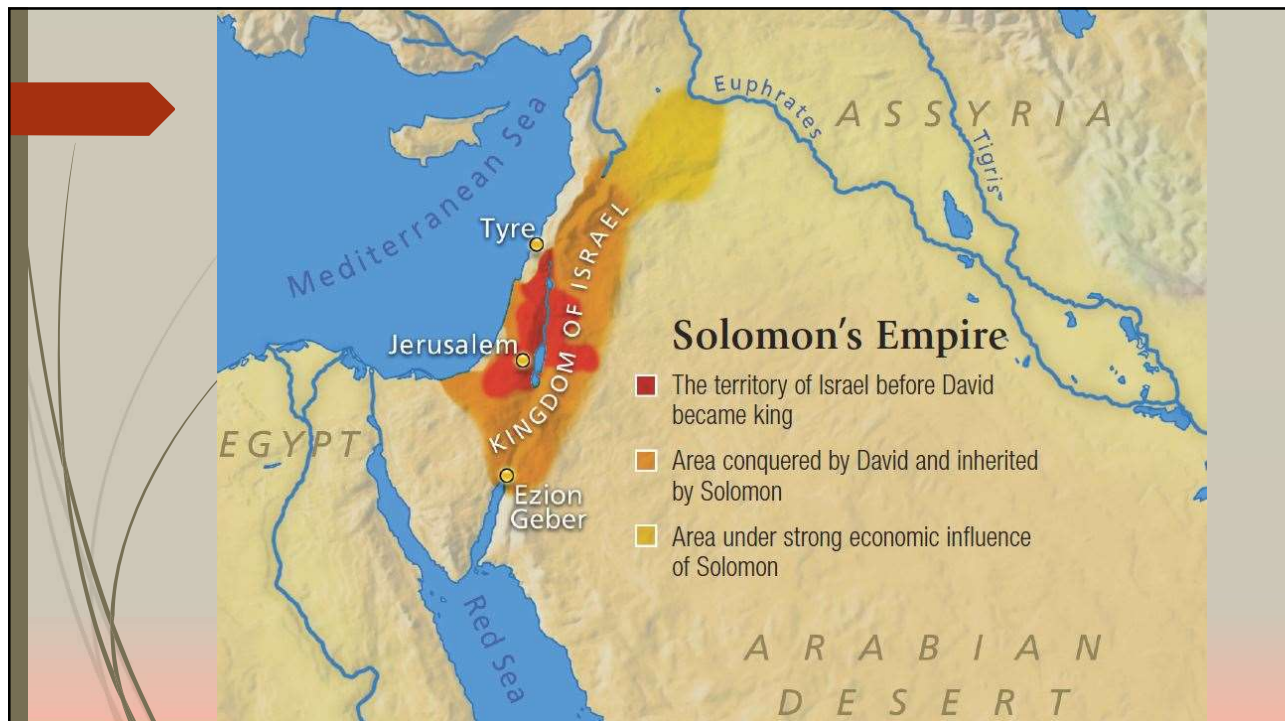
Prosperity and Wisdom of Solomon's Reign

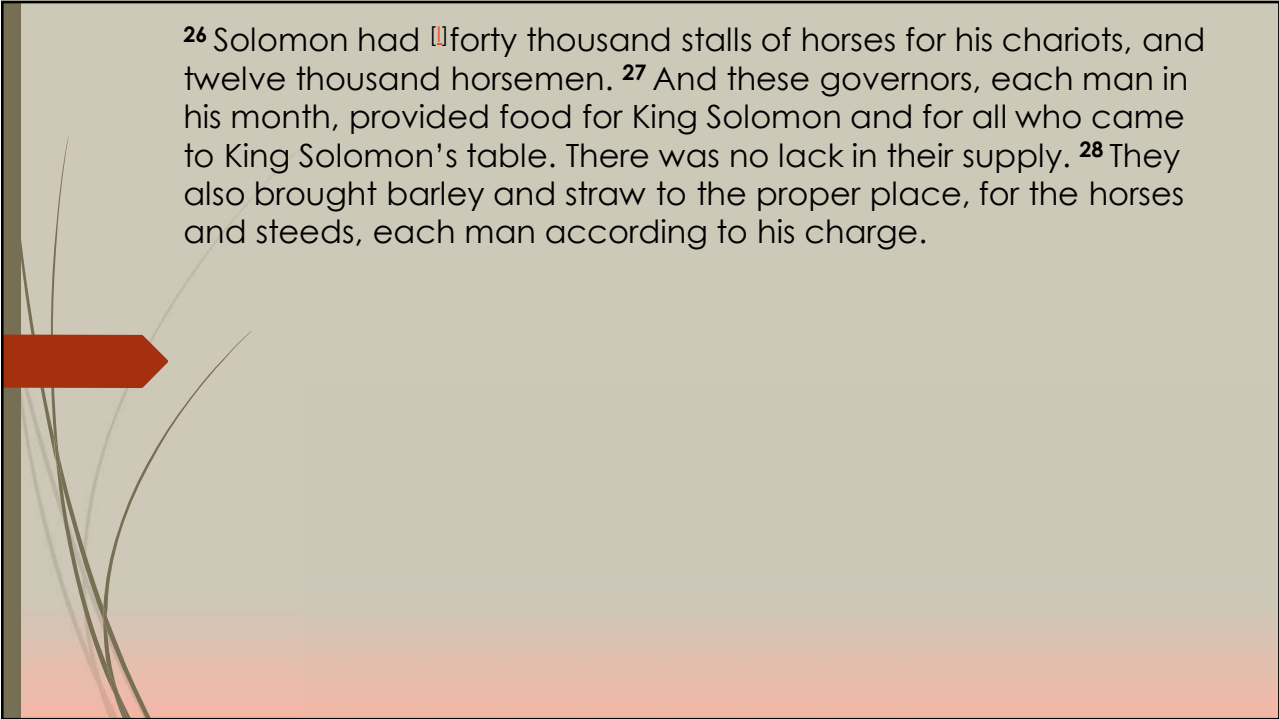
²⁰ Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing. ²¹ **So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt.** *They* brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

22 Now Solomon's **provision for one day** was thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal, **23** ten fatted oxen, twenty oxen from the pastures, and one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl.

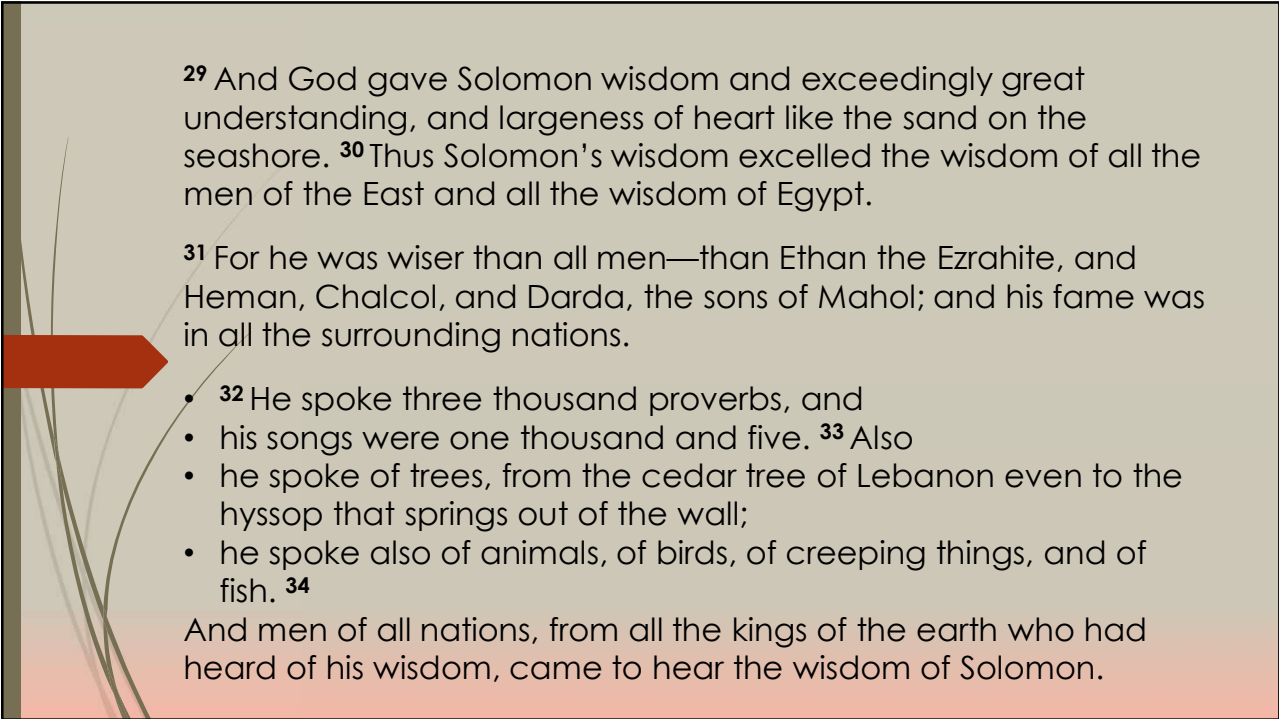
24 For he had dominion over all the region on this side of the River from Tiphseh even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River; and he had peace on every side all around him. **25** And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

The Kingdom grew during Solomon's reign





²⁶ Solomon had **f**orty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen. ²⁷ And these governors, each man in his month, provided food for King Solomon and for all who came to King Solomon's table. There was no lack in their supply. ²⁸ They also brought barley and straw to the proper place, for the horses and steeds, each man according to his charge.



²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. ³⁰ Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.

³¹ For he was wiser than all men—than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.

- ³² He spoke three thousand proverbs, and
- his songs were one thousand and five. ³³ Also
- he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall;
- he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. ³⁴

And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.



So Solomon is running a
grand court indeed!

Next week Read 1 Kings 5 – 11

Solomon builds the Temple