

Lessons From Characters In Old Testament

Solomon

Lesson 27

INTRO:

- A. Solomon was the third and last king of the united kingdom of Israel.
- B. He was the son of David and Bathsheba. (**2 Samuel 12:24**)
 - 1. God's statement to David about Solomon: **1 Chronicles 22:8-9**
- C. Solomon wrote the Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, and much of the book of Proverbs.
- D. Summary of Solomon's life:
 - 1. When he came to the throne, he sought after God, and God gave him opportunity to ask for whatever he wanted. (**1 Kings 3:3,5**)
 - a. Solomon was humble and acknowledged he was UNable to rule well. (**v.7**)
 - b. He asked for wisdom to rule God's people and God gave him wisdom and wealth, as well (**1 Kings 3:4-15; 10:27; 10:23**).
 - c. God gave Solomon peace during most of his reign (**1 Kings 4:20-25**).
 - 2. Probably the most familiar story of Solomon's wisdom is his judging a dispute over the identity of the true mother of an infant child (**1 Kings 3:16-28**).
 - a. Solomon commanded the dividing of the living child in half, knowing that the true mother would rather give her son to another woman than have it killed. "*Bring me a sword.*" (**v 24**)
 - 3. Solomon became known for his wisdom so much so that the Queen of Sheba traveled 1,200 miles to test his wisdom (**1 Kings 10:3-5**).
 - 4. Solomon wrote many proverbs and songs (**1 Kings 4:32**) and built many buildings and cities (**1 Kings 7:1-12; 9:15-23**).
 - 5. Solomon also built many ships and brought considerable amounts of gold from Ophir with Hiram, king of Tyre, as a partner (**1 Kings 9:26-28; 10:11,22**).
 - 6. Perhaps Solomon's most important building project was building the temple according to the instructions and materials provided by David (**1 Kings 6; 1 Chronicles 22**).
 - 7. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, many of them were foreign women who led him into idolatry in his old age, greatly angering God (**1 Kings 11:1-13**).
 - a. God told Solomon he would remove the kingdom from him, but, for the sake of David, would not do so during Solomon's lifetime. (vs. **11-12**)
 - b. God raised up an "*adversary*" against Solomon who caused trouble the remainder of Solomon's life (**1 Kings 11:14-25**).
 - c. Jeroboam, who would become the first king of Israel, also began to rebel against Solomon, but fled (**1 Kings 11:26-40**).
 - 8. Upon the death of Solomon the kingdom divided under Rehoboam, Solomon's son (**1 Kings 12**).

I. LESSONS:

- A. **When We Seek God With All Of Our Heart, He Will Be Found (1 Kings 3:3-7)**
 - 1. Solomon recognized God as the source of all blessings!
 - a. When God asked Solomon to ask Him for whatever he wished, his first response was to acknowledge God's great blessings. (**3:6**).
 - b. If we hope to gain the wisdom that comes from above, we must also recognize what James wrote: (**James 1:17**).
 - 2. Solomon was humble!

**Solomon
Lesson 27**

- a. Though he had become king, Solomon recognized he was “*but a little child*” who did not “*know how to go out or come in*” (3:7).
 - 1) We, too, must possess humility if we are to gain wisdom.
 - 2) We acquire wisdom when we “*receive with meekness the implanted word*”.... (James 1:21).
3. Solomon appreciated his responsibility!
 - a. Solomon recognized that he was ruling over “*a great people*” that had been “*chosen*” by God (1 Kings 3:8).
 - b. The magnitude of his responsibility, along with his humility, caused him to realize that he needed wisdom and to desire it.
4. Solomon was selfless and put others first!
 - a. Solomon could have asked God for long life, riches, or the life of his enemies (1 Kings 3:11) but instead of asking for things that would primarily benefit himself, he asked for something that would benefit others – “*an understanding heart to judge your people*” (3:9).
 - b. The wisdom of the world focuses on self-promotion and self-preservation.
 - c. The wisdom that comes from above causes us to seek the good of others as we are told to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39).
- B. **Those Who honor God Will Be Honored By Him (1 Kgs 3:11–13; 1 Sam 2:30)**
- C. **The Spiritual Life Is A Marathon, Not A Sprint!**
 1. A good start does not guarantee us a good finish! (1 Kings 3; 11).
 2. **Revelations 2:10** (i.e. parable of the sower. Luke 8:4-8, 11-15)
- D. **We Can Sincerely Ask God To Incline Our Hearts Toward Him But We Will Wander From The Path Of Righteousness If We Choose To Violate His Revealed Word.**
 1. Solomon said, (1 Kings 8:57–58).
 2. Yet, despite these most noble words, he did not “*keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgment*”.
 3. The proof of the words we speak are found in the lives we live just as it was with Solomon.
- E. **Those Closest To Us Affect Our Spiritual Lives (1 Kgs 11:1–8; 1 Cor. 15:33),**
 1. We must therefore be very careful of the company we keep. 1 Kgs 11:1-8
 2. Solomon knew better; he possessed wisdom in the ways of God, yet, **HE DID NOT USE THAT WISDOM!**
 3. Instead, he ignored the will of God and followed the influence of those who were close to him.
 - a. It is not enough to seek wisdom or even to possess wisdom; we must use wisdom.
- F. **Life Lived Apart From God Will Be Meaningless, Regardless Of Education, Fulfilled Goals, The Greatest Of Pleasures, And The Greatest Abundance Of Wealth (Ecclesiastes 1:2).**
 1. We can learn from his example that the pursuit and possession of things are not enough.

Lessons From Characters In Old Testament

Solomon

Lesson 27

2. We can also learn a lot from one of the wealthiest men that ever lived.
3. **Love God, Not Money!**
 - a. **Ecclesiastes 5:10**
 - b. This is the opposite of the thinking of the world.
 - c. People who run after money and do everything just to have it are setting themselves up for a great disappointment.
 - 1) Solomon had everything: power, fame, and money, yet he declared everything is meaningless.
 - d. While we all must use money to buy and acquire things we need to live, we must not become a slave to it.
 - e. Only God can satisfy our needs; all our needs!
 - 1) Our soul can only have true lasting peace and joy when we have a close faithful relationship with the Lord.
 - f. All the things money can buy are just temporary pleasures but the Lord, our Creator, will be able to provide our real needs.
 - g. Let us put God first in our lives and all the things we need will be added to us. (**Matthew 6:33**)
4. **Discipline And Hard Work Brings Wealth And Success!**
 - a. Success doesn't come automatically!
 - b. Someone once said, "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."
 - c. No lazy or idle person can achieve success.
 - d. Many times we want success without sacrifice or the harvest without the planting and the labor.
 - e. Anything worth pursuing will require a good amount of work.
 - f. Discipline shapes our character, our bank account, and our reputation.
 - g. Here are some things from Solomon to keep in mind when it comes to work: **Proverbs 14:23; 28:19**
5. **Avoid The Debt Trap!**
 - a. The dictionary defines a 'debt trap' as "a situation in which a debt is difficult or impossible to repay, typically because high interest payments prevent repayment of the principal." (**Collins Dictionary**)
 - b. **Proverbs 22:7**
 - c. Getting trapped in debt does not come overnight.
 - 1) It's usually a series of "not so good" decisions that have piled up over a long period of time.
 - 2) When it does happen suddenly, it's usually because of an unforeseen event which we didn't see coming.
 - A) This could result from being laid off or having a medical condition not covered by insurance.
 - d. We need to be aware our world is full of 'experts' deliberately looking for ways to entice people to borrow money so they can make money off them.
 - e. Here are some ways to avoid the "debt trap":

Solomon
Lesson 27

- 1) Live within our means or, maybe better yet, live beneath your means.
 - 2) Buy what we need and not always the things we want.
(There is a difference but sometimes it becomes blurred!)
 - A) Solomon wrote in **Proverbs 24:27**
 - B) Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs a long time ago and yet the principles found in it are still applicable and just as effective today..
- f. **Proverbs 10:22**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Solomon was the wisest man to ever live, the builder of the temple, a great poet, a king, and a man of great wealth.
- B. He was a man who seemed to have it all. Yet, here is what he says about it:
(Ecclesiastes 2:11)
- C. God appeared to Solomon three times — at the beginning (1 Kings 3:5), the middle (1 Kings 9:2-9), and the end of his time as king (1 Kings 11:11).
 1. The first time, God said, "*Ask! What shall I give you?*"
 - a. Solomon asked for wisdom, and God was pleased.
 2. The second time, God promised Solomon that if he remained faithful, his kingdom would be secure, but if he turned from God, he would lose his kingdom.
 3. The third time, God told Solomon because he had not kept the covenant, he would tear the kingdom away from him and give it to his servant.
- D. God has made us wonderful promises, **IF** we remain faithful to him.
- E. What will we choose?
- F. Our being born was a great day but our last day is the most important.
- G. It's not about how it begins but it's about how it ends.
 1. Will it end with us being old and grey worshipping and serving the Lord or will we be bitter and angry looking back on a wasted life?
- H. We can have all the money, power, intellect, sex, and possessions and still waste our lives and in the end we have to ask ourselves, "Was it worth it?"
- I. **AND IT'S NOT!**

LESSON 28
Rehoboam

1 Kings 11:43 - 14:31