

Lesson 6: 1 Kings 2:12 – 4:20 Early Days of King Solomon's Reign

In our last lesson, King David, on his death bed, gave Solomon instructions on his duties as King. He was to **walk in the ways of the LORD and keep His commandments**. Solomon was also to **act with wisdom as he dealt with David's enemy, Joab, son of Zeruiah**. He was to be true to the friends and allies of King David, keeping them close. This included the sons of Barzillai from Gilead. Finally, before David died, he asked Solomon to **punish Shimei, son of Gera, but with all wisdom**. Then King David died.

1. Read 1 Kings 2: 12-25 and footnotes, share any helpful footnotes you find in your bible.

- a. Who is Adonijah? See 1 Kings 1:5.**
- b. Who is Abishag the Shunamite? See 1 Kings 1:3-4.**
- c. Why would it be a bad idea for King Solomon to grant Adonijah's request?**
- d. What was the fate of Adonijah?**
- e. Reflection- What may have prompted Bathsheba to take Adonijah's request to Solomon?**

2. Read 1 Kings 2:26-35 and footnotes. Share any footnotes with your group.

- a. Why was King Solomon angry with Abiathar the priest? See 1 Kings 1:25.**
- b. Why was Abiathar's life spared? What was his punishment?**
- c. King Solomon seems to be putting "his house in order." Why is Joab seeking refuge on the altar? See 1 Kings 2:5.**
- d. Why did King Solomon have Joab killed in such a public manner? See 1 Kings 2:31-32.**
- e. David made an oath not to kill his enemy, Shimei in 2 Sam 19:16-24. How does the Solomon deal with Shimei in 1 Kings 2:37-38?**
- f. What ultimately led to the death of Shimei?**

3. Read 1 Kings 3:1-2. What are the political advantages of marrying one of the Pharaoh's daughters?

4. Read 1 Kings 3:3-15 and footnotes. Read also Deut. 12:2-3 here. "Destroy entirely all the places where the nations you are to dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains, on the hills, and under every green tree. ³Tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, burn up their asherahs, and chop down the idols of their gods, that you may destroy the very name of them from that place. "

a. Why is Solomon concerned about worshipping in the “high places”?

b. In chapter 2, what was King Solomon’s main focus?

c. What is Solomon focusing his attention on in chapter 3:3-15?

d. What does Solomon ask of the LORD in his dream?

e. What did the LORD think of Solomon’s request?

f. After his dream, where did Solomon go to worship the LORD?

5. Read 1 Kings 3:16-28 and footnotes.

a. This story is quite famous. What do we learn about King Solomon from this story?

b. How important is it for a leader or a judge to have a “listening heart”?

6. Read 1 Kings 4:1-20 and footnotes. Share any footnotes with your group.

a. What does the organizational structure of Solomon's kingdom tell us about the way he governed?

b. What does the prosperity under Solomon's reign tell us about the potential impact of a wise and just leadership?

c. What responsibility did each of the 12 governors have? (1 Kings 4:7-8)

7. Read Wisdom 1:1-7 here. What message is Solomon sending to judges and leaders here?

Love righteousness, you who judge the earth; think of the Lord in goodness, and seek him in integrity of heart; ² Because he is found by those who do not test him, and manifests himself to those who do not disbelieve him. ³ For perverse counsels separate people from God, and his power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy; ⁴ Because into a soul that plots evil wisdom does not enter, nor does she dwell in a body under debt of sin. ⁵ For the holy spirit of discipline flees deceit and withdraws from senseless counsels and is rebuked when unrighteousness occurs.