



Chronicles of Israel

A study on Israel, her kings, and truth versus consequence

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Lesson #8 – January 3, 2023

The Splendor of Solomon (2 Chronicles 8:1 – 9:31)

Provided in the table below is a high level overview of 1st and 2nd Chronicles. As we go through this series it will be useful to keep this overview in mind in relation to the overall framework of this study.

Chapters	Content	Significance
1 Chronicles 1 – 9	Genealogies, emphasis on tribes of Judah and Levi	Preparing the stage for the Kingdom of Judah and the priestly tribe
1 Chronicles 10	Reign of Saul	Transition to David's Kingdom; declaration that the throne belonged to the tribe of Judah
1 Chronicles 11 – 29	Reign of David	Phase 1 of the ideal Kingdom; detailed preparation for the Temple
2 Chronicles 1 – 9	Reign of Solomon	Phase 2 of the ideal Kingdom; construction and installation of the Temple
2 Chronicles 10 – 26	Kings of Judah	Succession of kings, all of whom were descended from David; implemented the standards of David and Solomon to varying degrees

This is the third of three lessons focused on the life and reign of Solomon. Solomon is one of the great character studies in the Bible. David provided the Kingdom to Solomon in a good condition. In the history of Israel there was never a king who had the splendor and majesty of Solomon. Certainly, no one can argue there was ever a king in the history of the world who ruled with the wisdom of Solomon.

In this lesson we'll discuss the splendor of Solomon, and all the Lord allowed him to accomplish. We'll also spend time in 1 Kings 11 and discuss the downfall of Solomon. **One of the greatest benefits in studying the Old Testament is we get to see the fruits of obedience and the consequences of sin.** As men of God this is a message we need to hear for our own lives, but also a message we need to communicate to the younger men with whom God brings us in contact.

There is an interesting write-up on Solomon worth reading from the King James Bible Dictionary website¹. Provided below is a brief snippet from the text. The words in **bold** should haunt us...

The bright day of Solomon's glory ended in clouds and darkness. His decline and fall from his high estate is a sad record. Chief among the causes of his decline were his polygamy and his great wealth. As he grew older he spent more of his time among his favorites. The idle king living among these idle women, for 1,000 women, with all their idle and mischievous attendants, filled

¹ <https://kingjamesbibledictionary.com/Dictionary/Solomon>



the palaces and pleasure-houses which he had built (1 Kings 11:3), learned first to tolerate and then to imitate their heathenish ways. He did not, indeed, cease to believe in the God of Israel with his mind. He did not cease to offer the usual sacrifices in the temple at the great feasts. **But his heart was not right with God; his worship became merely formal; his soul, left empty by the dying out of true religious fervor, sought to be filled with any religious excitement which offered itself.**

Questions

1. Read 2 Chronicles 8 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What period of time was allocated for the building of the Temple and Solomon's palace?
 - b. Identify some of Solomon's accomplishments highlighted in this chapter of 2 Chronicles.
 - c. Solomon reigned for a period of 40 years (1 Kings 11:42). It would seem the latter part of his reign was when he got into trouble. How does the phrase "idle hands are the Devil's workshop" seem to apply to the life of Solomon and what can we learn from it?
2. In 2 Chronicles 9:1-12 we read about the Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon.
 - a. What impressions do you have of her visit?
 - b. In terms of application to our lives, what are the benefits to the world when Christians pursue the Lord and do the work He has called us to do? List some examples from American history when Christian men did work God called them to complete.
3. Read Deuteronomy 17:16-17 and 1 Kings 10.
 - a. What things were commanded of kings to NOT acquire?
 - b. What did Solomon acquire and what were the eventual consequences for him?
 - c. Can you think of ways Solomon's accumulation might parallel things and activities in our lives? What can we do about it?

Next Meeting (Lesson #9, 1.17.23): In our next lesson we'll read 2 Chronicles 10:1 – 12:16 and discuss what happened to the empire.