

I WILL BUILD YOU A HOUSE

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4. David's sons

- a. 2 Samuel 3:2-5; 5:13-15

- b. Solomon (2 Samuel 12)

- c. Amnon (2 Samuel 13)

- d. Absalom (2 Samuel 14-18)

5. What kind of king do God's people need?

- a. 2 Samuel 24:17-25

- b. John 10:11-18
 - i. What does Jesus do for his people?

 - ii. How does he use his authority?

 - iii. Are you one of Jesus' sheep? What will it mean for you this week to listen to his voice?

 - iv. Spend time thanking God for Jesus, the good Shepherd-King

Study 2: Who Will Sit On The Throne?

The Plot

Read 1 Kings 1:1-10

1. What crisis does Israel face?
2. What kingly qualifications does Adonijah have?
3. What action does he take?

The Players

Team Adonijah		
Joab	Army commander	<i>2 Sam 2:13</i>
Abiathar	Priest	<i>2 Sam 20:25</i>
Team Solomon		
Zadok	Priest	<i>2 Sam 8:17</i>
Benaiah	Chief bodyguard	<i>2 Sam 8:18</i>
Nathan	Prophet	<i>2 Sam 7:2</i>
Bathsheba	Solomon's mother	<i>2 Sam 12:24-25</i>

The Promise

Read 1 Kings 1:11-40

4. What stirs King David into action?
5. Who takes the lead in countering Adonijah's claim to the throne?

6. What is the basis of Solomon's claim? (see v13,17,30)

7. What is the people's response to Solomon's rise to the throne?

The Party's Over

Read 1 Kings 1:41-53

8. What parts of Jonathan's report make it clear that Adonijah's attempt to take the throne has failed?

9. How do Adonijah's guests respond to the news?

10. How does Adonijah respond to the news?

11. What do you think of the way Solomon handles the situation?

12. Look again at verses 5 and 35b. What is the main difference between Adonijah and Solomon?

The right son of David to sit on the throne was the one about whom promises were made, who was loved by God, and who didn't exalt himself.

Read Philippians 2:1-11.

How does Jesus demonstrate these characteristics even more than Solomon?

What will it look like for us to have this same attitude?

Study 3: A Kingdom Firmly Established

Read 1 Kings 2:1-12

1. What does David command Solomon regarding his relationship with God?
2. Why is this so important?
3. What do you make of his instructions regarding Joab, Barzillai and Shimei? (*For the back stories see 2 Samuel 3:27; 17:25; 17:26; 19:31-39; 16:5-13*)
4. Why will doing the needful be 'wise' (v6,9)?

Read 1 Kings 2:13-46

5. We might find this all a bit bloodthirsty and vindictive, but look again at verses 23-24; 27; 31-33; 44-45. How is our narrator presenting these deaths?

For the kingdom to be established, its enemies must be removed.

Revelation 18-19 pictures the final destruction of Babylon, the city that represents all human opposition to God.

Read Revelation 19:1-6

Why is the destruction of Babylon a good thing?

What is the right response of God's people to the defeat of evil?

Read Revelation 19:11-16. This is a terrifying image of King Jesus!

What will it mean in your life for his kingdom to come and his will to be done?

Who do you know who is not ready for Jesus to come like this? How can you be praying for them?

Study 4: Wisdom To Rule

Read 1 Kings 3:1-15

1. What does Solomon say about God?
2. What does Solomon say about himself?
3. What does he ask for?
4. Why does he want this?
5. What can we learn about Solomon's character from these verses?
6. What is God's response?
7. Are there any conditions?

Read 1 Kings 3:16-28

8. What does this story show us about Solomon? (See v28)

9. What does this story show us about God?

How often do you feel the need for understanding to discern what is right?

Read James 1:5 and 3:13-18

Are you quick or slow to ask God for wisdom? Why?

What does godly wisdom look like in practice?

Read Philippians 1:9-11 and make this your prayer for each other.

Study 5: The Blessings of a Wise King

1 Kings 4:1-19 names the various officers appointed by Solomon for the good governance of the kingdom.

Read 1 Kings 4:20-34

1. What picture of life in Israel is given to us here?
2. How do we see God keeping his promises to Abraham? (Gen 12:1-3, 13:14-16)

Read 1 Kings 5:1-18

3. How does Solomon know it's time to start building? (See v 4-5)
4. Why does Hiram king of Tyre (Israel's northern neighbour) get involved?
5. How do we see God keeping his promises to David? (2 Sam 7:10-13)

What are the benefits to the people when the king is a wise ruler?

Read Revelation 21:1-7

What do we have to look forward to when the Kingdom of God is fully established?

How should that future reality shape our lives here and now? (See for example 1 Peter 4:7-11)

Study 6: A House For The Lord

Read 1 Kings 6

1. What is your overall impression of the temple?
2. Why do you think the writer goes into so much detail?
3. Look again at verses 11-13. What is the condition for God making use of this house?
4. Why is obedience more important than buildings?

Read 1 Kings 7:1-12

5. What other buildings were part of this grand project?

Read 1 Kings 7:13-51

6. How would the inside of the temple have looked when it was finished?
7. Why do you think it was built and decorated with such splendour?
8. The names given to the giant pillars at the entrance mean “He [God] will establish” and “In him [God] is strength”. Why are these helpful?

Most Israelites would never see inside the temple, so the writer gives them (and us) an audio-tour. Did you catch his enthusiasm and breathless wonder?

Read Revelation 21:9-22:5

Do you hear the Apostle John's breathless wonder at the new Jerusalem?

What details are we given?

In what ways is it like Solomon's temple?

In what ways is it different?

How can we be sure we can enter?

Study 7: This House Cannot Contain God!

The temple is finished. The leaders of Israel gather. Sacrifices are made and the ark of the LORD containing the stone tablets with the 10 commandments is carefully put in place...

Read 1 Kings 8:10-13

1. What is the significance of the cloud? (See Exodus 40:34-35)

Read 1 Kings 8:14-26

2. What promises have been kept?
3. What further promise does Solomon ask God to keep?
4. What is the basis for Solomon's confidence?

Read 1 Kings 8:27-53

5. What reality does Solomon acknowledge in v27?
6. What, then, is the point of the temple?
7. Five times Solomon asks God to hear in heaven and forgive. What does this acknowledge about the people of Israel?
8. Look again at v 51-53. Why should God listen to their prayers?

9. How does Solomon want the temple to be used by foreigners (v41-43)?
Why?

Read 1 Kings 8:54-61

10. What does Solomon say God has done (v56)?

11. What does he want God to do (v57-59)?

12. Why does he want this (v60)?

13. What does he call upon the people to do?

The temple dedication ends with sacrifices and a feast. The people return to their homes full of joy, blessing the king and the LORD.

It would be lovely to just freeze the story here. In terms of the relationship between God and Israel it doesn't get any better than this.

Read John 1: 14 and 2:19-22

In what ways does Jesus replace the temple?

Read 1 John 1:5- 2:1

Where do we look to confess our sins and seek forgiveness?

How can we be sure God will hear us?

How does God want us to live?

Study 8: Everyday Obedience

Read 1 Kings 9:1-9

1. Here we see God's response to the prayers of chapter 8. Will he do as Solomon has asked?
2. What promise is repeated? Are the conditions the same?
3. If Solomon or his children turn away from following God, what will the consequences be?

Read 1 Kings 9:10-28

Now we are shown some of the details of running a kingdom: diplomacy (v10-14), building (v15-24), and business (v26-28). Nestled in the middle is a statement about Solomon's devotion (v25, compare Exodus 34:14-17). After the grandeur of the temple description and excitement of the dedication it all seems a bit ordinary.

4. Why do you think the writer includes it in his account of King Solomon's rule?

Whether or not Solomon will remain faithful to God alone is not so much about the eloquent prayers and grand gestures. It will be seen in his conduct as he goes about the business of being king.

Similarly, our devotion to God is revealed in our day to day lives.

Read Colossians 3: 12-17

Reflect on the privilege it is to be God's chosen ones, holy and beloved!

Work through these verses together, discussing what this actually looks like in practice in your daily life.

Study 9: It Leaves You Breathless

Read 1 Kings 10:1-13

1. Why did the queen of Sheba come to Jerusalem?
2. What was her experience there?
3. What does her experience cause her to say about God?

Read 1 Kings 10:14-29

4. Decorative gold shields, a great throne, gold cups! Why do you think the writer reports such abundance of wealth?
5. Where does all the wealth come from?
6. Recall 1 Kings 3:10-13 and read again 10:23-24. What does this section tell us about God?

King Solomon's wealth and wisdom were beyond comparison. It is easy to understand why kings and queens sought him out.

Read Jesus' words in Luke 11:31

What does he claim about himself?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Why does the world not recognise the wisdom of Jesus?

The kingdom of Jesus doesn't look as impressive as Solomon's. It can seem weak and foolish. How can we encourage each other to keep proclaiming that this is the power of God to save?

Study 10: Heart Trouble

Read 1 Kings 11:1-13

1. What happens to Solomon's heart?
2. What actions follow?
3. How does the LORD respond?
4. What will God do for the sake of David and Jerusalem?

One consequence of King Solomon's turning away from God is the loss of peace. Trouble comes from Edom (v14-22) and Syria (v23-25).

Read 1 Kings 11:26-43

5. What is Jeroboam told about why he is to be given the kingdom?
6. Is this a job Jeroboam wants? (see v37)
7. What promise is made to him?
8. What does God require of him? Does this sound familiar?

9. Compare v28 and 40. Why does Solomon's attitude to Jeroboam change? Is Solomon behaving more like David or Saul?

It's all so sad. So many years of ruling in the wisdom of God, such abundant blessing for himself and the nation, only to turn away at the end.

The New Testament writers warn us of the same dangers.

Read Hebrews 3:12-15 and 1 John 2:15-17

What are the influences in your life that would turn your heart away from God?

How can we help each other to remain devoted to our heavenly Father?

Use Jude 24-25 to pray for each other, praising God for his faithfulness.