

LIFE UNDER THE SUN



STUDIES IN ECCLESIASTES

18 August 2018

הַבַּיִת

Elrond - "The line of kings is broken. There is no strength left in the world of Men. They're scattered, divided, leaderless."

Gandalf - "There is one who could unite them, one who could reclaim the throne ..."

—The Fellowship of the Ring (Film)

Ecclesiastes Part 2 - "Kingship & the Story of Solomon"

Introduction: Ecclesiastes as the Testimony of Solomon

Ecclesiastes 1:1 — "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem."

This introduction serves to establish (1) The _____ of the author ()

(2) The _____ of the author ()

"the Preacher" →

"the Son of David" →

The
Preacher

The Son
of David

King in
Jerusalem

"king in Jerusalem" →

Kingship in Israel Before Solomon

Instructions Regarding Kingship — Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Key Command: The king must be chosen by _____! (Deut. 17:15)

- The commands regarding what the king must not do serve to make him fully reliant upon Yahweh for protection, pleasure, progeny, and provision (Deut. 17:16-17).
- The commands regarding what the king must do serve to humble him under the Word of God in order that he might lead the people in the proper worship of Yahweh (Deut. 17:18-20).

The King was to lead by example, serving as the ideal _____ of God (the ideal _____)

Davidic Kingship

- In contrast to Saul, David was an example of the ideal Israelite worshiper of Yahweh (1 Sam. 13:14). He brought the ark to Jerusalem and led the people in worship (1 Chron. 15-16) where he longed to build a permanent place for it.
- In 2 Sam. 7:1-17 God established a covenant with David that promised that his house and kingdom would be "made sure forever" before the Lord. "Your throne shall be established forever." (1 Sam. 7:16).

As king, David understood that he had a responsibility to both Israel and the _____.

2 Sam. 23:44a — "You delivered me from strife with my people; you kept me as the head of the nations..."

Psa. 18:49-50 —⁴⁹ For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to your name. ⁵⁰ Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.

The Reign of Solomon — 1 Kings 2-11; 2 Chron. 1-9

Solomon as the Ideal Israelite

1. He began his reign by walking in the ways of the Lord (1 Kings 3:3).
2. He demonstrated dependence upon God, asking for wisdom in order that he might lead His people (1 Kings 3:9).
3. He built the temple and led the people in the worship of the Lord (1 Kings 6-8).

1 Kings 8:57-58 —⁵⁷ The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, ⁵⁸ that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers.

Solomon as the Ideal Man

1. He was able to effectively administer his kingdom (1 Kings 4:1-28)
2. He was greatly concerned with education and scientific study (1 Kings 4:29-34)
3. His wisdom afforded him the opportunity to bear witness to the nations (1 Kings 10:1-13)

1 Kings 4:34—And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

Solomon's Opportunity

- **Solomon's extraordinary wisdom and wealth were _____ given by God that were to be exercised by a man who was a faithful worshiper of Yahweh.**

1 Kings 3:12-14—¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

- **If exercised to the glory of God and in accordance with His Word, there was an opportunity to call the _____ to come and worship the God of Israel.**

1 Kings 8:41-43—⁴¹ “Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name's sake ⁴² (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³ hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

Solomon's Failures

1. **He acquired great _____, violating the command of Deut. 17:17b.**

1 Kings 10:14—Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold,

2. **He acquired many _____, violating the command of Deut. 17:16.**

1 Kings 4:26—Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen.

3. **He acquired many _____, violating the command of Deut. 17: 17a.**

1 Kings 11:1a,3—¹ Now King Solomon loved many foreign women...³ He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.

Solomon's Testimony

The
Preacher

The Son
of David

King in
Jerusalem

Ecclesiastes is Solomon's exhortation both to _____ and _____ to face the harsh realities of life and consider their own failures and idolatry in light of his own and to turn to God and worship Him alone.

Hope in the Greater Son of David

1. Jesus offers forgiveness to those who have ruined their _____ . (Luke 5:27-32)
2. Jesus redeems the failures of our lives and gives us a restored testimony so we can _____ Him! (John 4:39)