

Bible Study # 24
October 11, 1988
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Old Testament Series—2 Samuel 21—24; 1 Kings 1—11; 1 Chronicles 21—29 and 2 Chronicles 1—9

Last Bible study we were in 2 Samuel and the life of David. This evening we **are primarily focusing in on King Solomon**. It was during his reign that Israel reached its height and was the recipient of the choicest bounties of heaven. His kingdom stretched from the Euphrates to Egypt. Ezion Geber was an industrial city. The kingdom of Solomon set astride all the great trade routes of Europe.

The first part of King Solomon's reign was, in reality, a type of the millennial reign. The name "Solomon" means "peace." One of the statements made of the reign of Solomon and characteristic of it was "each man under his vine and his fig tree" (1 Kings 4:25).

Micah 4:4, "But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid;" It refers to the Millennium.

It was a time of abundance, wealth and prosperity in ancient Israel. Solomon hired and contracted Phoenician sailors. They even conducted expeditions to the new world. The Phoenician alphabet was very similar to the Hebrew. So, Solomon's navy literally had a worldwide impact. Solomon's navy left out of a port on the Red Sea and three years later came back to a port on the Mediterranean Sea. They circumnavigated the earth. Solomon's fleet returned every three years.

The story of Solomon's life from God's perspective is found in Ecclesiastes. In the midst of blessings and prosperity, there are also potential problems. This section in Samuel and Kings and the parallel account in Chronicles is the time that we find the building of the temple. The tabernacle had been situated in various locations, but at this time there was a permanent structure built. David had desired to build it. He had been a man of war, and because of certain things, God did not want him to build it.

There was a courtyard that enclosed the temple itself, and then you had the temple. To get an idea of the temple, the actual inner part was a rectangle that measured 90 feet by 30 feet. The Holy of Holies was actually a cube 30 feet by 30 feet by 30 feet. The Holy Place measured 60 feet by 30 feet by 45 feet. Surrounding the temple on two sides and the rear were rooms or apartments.

John 14:2, remember when Christ made the statement, "'In My Father's house are many mansions;'" He called the temple "My Father's house." There were three stories with 33 rooms per floor. There were entrances from the front side. The roof of the temple proper was 45 feet. The roof of the apartments on the sides and rear was 30 feet. The porch rose to a height of 180 feet. This great columned porch in front was set in a great courtyard, which was many times larger than the temple itself. In the court were the brazen laver and the altar of sacrifice. The back half would be in the inner court and was located about half way behind the two great columned porch. The priests' hall and the Israelites hall consisted of the very finest of things.

Let us get on into our material.

2 Samuel 23:1-5, "Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse. Thus says the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel: 'The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me: "He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises, a morning without clouds, like the tender grass springing out of the earth, by clear shining after rain." Although my house is not so with God, yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire; will He not make it increase?'"

Verse 8, "These are the names of the mighty men whom David had:" It gives their acts of valor accomplished.

2 Samuel 24:1, "Again the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, 'Go number Israel and Judah.'"

1 Chronicles 21:1, "Now Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel." God wanted the nation to trust Him, not trust in the military. Satan incited him and stirred him up to do that.

2 Samuel 24:3-4, "And Joab said to the king, 'Now may the Lord your God add to the people a hundredfold more than there are, and many the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?' Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the captains of the army. So Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel."

Verse 10, "And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said

to the Lord, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now I pray, O Lord, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly.'" David was feeling guilty about it. He knew he had done the opposite of what God would want him to do.

Verses 12-13, "'Go and tell David, 'Thus says the Lord: 'I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you.'"' So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, [1] 'Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or [2] shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or [3] shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me.'"

God gave David a choice, and "none of the above" wasn't one of the choices. Not many of us have a chance to choose our trial.

Verse 14, "And David said to Gad, 'I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.'" He chose three days of disease epidemics. He would rather take his chances of falling into the hands of God. He would rather be dependent upon God's mercy than man's mercy.

Verse 16, KJV, "...the Lord repented him of the evil and said to the angel..." What does that mean "the Lord repented"? Did God make a mistake? No, let's understand these words. "Repent" literally means "to be sorry" and the word "evil" is a word that means "adversity, calamity or affliction." What it means is that God felt pity. He looked down and had pity and mercy on what was happening.

Verse 16, NKJV, "And when the angel stretched out his hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the destruction,"

Verse 17, "Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, 'Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house.'"

'It is my fault. Let it be against my family. Spare the people.' Where do you ever find Saul saying it was his fault? Ever see people where it was never their fault, always somebody else's fault? Everything they encounter is somebody else's fault. With Saul there was the inability to repent and change from the mistakes because he never took responsibility for anything. David made mistakes, but he took responsibility for those mistakes and he repented and grew. God was preparing him for a job. God has an overview of

things. Why do we do things this way? God knows what He is doing and what He is accomplishing. He is far more concerned about the long-range outcome on out into eternity.

Verses 18-25, "And Gad came that day to David and said to him, 'Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.' So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the Lord commanded. Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground. Then Araunah said, 'Why has my lord the king come to his servant?' And David said, 'To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people.' Now Araunah said to David, 'Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him. Look, here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood. All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king.' And Araunah said to the king, 'May the Lord your God accept you.' Then the king said to Araunah, 'No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price, nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which cost me nothing.' So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel."

1 Kings 1:1, "Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm." David had loss of body heat; he had health problems.

Verse 5, "Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, 'I will be king'; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him." He figured he was next in line.

Verse 6, "(And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, 'Why have you done so?' He was also a very good-looking man. His mother had borne him after Absalom.)" He was a spoiled brat. His father had never put his foot down. Many of the problems David encountered later in life with his children came from his child rearing. He was entangled with various women. When a person is not really fulfilling his responsibilities at home, they try to make it up to their kids by giving them things instead of their time. They try to compensate by giving them things. His kids had not been properly disciplined, and by the time he learned his lesson, they were grown. David couldn't turn the

clock back 25 years. He never called Adonijah into account for what he did; he was a spoiled brat who thought he could do what he wanted to do.

Adonijah was the younger brother of Absalom. David was dying and there began to be a power struggle. Adonijah was trying to take the kingdom. This was not God's intention. It was apparent that God had already chosen Solomon. Solomon was a young teenager at this time; he was not even grown. God had made plain to David through the prophet that it was to be Solomon.

Verses 33-35, "The king also said to them, 'Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, "Long live King Solomon!" Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.'"

Solomon is brought in and seated on the throne while David is yet alive. David did not wait until after he died for Solomon to be anointed as king. It was important that the succession be established before the leader died. If the selection is not clear, then you are going to have confusion, and we know who the author of confusion is.

Verses 50-52, "Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. And it was told Solomon, saying, 'Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, "Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'" Then Solomon said, 'If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die.'"

1 Kings 2:1-2, "Then the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: 'I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man.'" He charged Solomon. He is talking to one who is still a young teenager. He is talking to a young person who is going to be taking the throne.

Verses 3-4, "'And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the Lord may fulfill

His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, "If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul," He said, "you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"

Verses 5-9, he gives him some final advice as to how to handle certain problems.

Verses 10-11, "So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years."

1 Chronicles 22:1-5, "Then David said, 'This is the house of the Lord God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel.' So David commanded to gather the aliens who were in the land of Israel; and he appointed masons to cut hewn stones to build the house of God. And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails of the doors of the gates and for the joints, and bronze in abundance beyond measure, and cedar trees in abundance; for the Sidonians and those from Tyre brought much cedar wood to David. Now David said, 'Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries, I will now make preparation for it.' So David made abundant preparations before his death."

Verses 6-9, "Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the Lord God of Israel. And David said to Solomon: 'My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the Lord my God; but the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.'" "Solomon" is derived from "Shalom" which means "peaceful."

Verses 10-12, "'He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'" Now, my son, may the Lord be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the Lord your God, as He has said to you. Only may the Lord give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the Lord your God.'" He continually reminded him, 'Obey God, put God first, keep the

Commandments, and God will bless you and back you up.’

Verses 13-14, “Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the Lord charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be dismayed. Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the Lord one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them.” He did all of these things to prepare. There were millions of dollars in gold in today’s prices.

1 Chronicles 23:1-5, “So when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel. And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and above; and the number of individual males was thirty-eight thousand. Of these, twenty-four thousand were to look after the work of the house of the Lord, six thousand were officers and judges, four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand praised the Lord with musical instruments, ‘which I made,’ said David, ‘for giving praise.’” Talk about a choir, a gigantic orchestra and choir of 4,000.

Verse 6, “And David divided them into divisions [KJV, “courses”] among the sons of Levi:” They couldn’t crowd in and do this all at one time, so David divided them into courses. There were 24 courses (1 Chronicles 24:7-18). Each course served for two weeks and rotated, and then they all served together during the Festival seasons. It would take in the whole year. They could rotate through.

Understand this and look at the book of Luke.

Luke 1:5, “There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zechariah, of the division [KJV, “course”] of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.” Zechariah was ministering in the temple in his course, which was the eighth division (course) of Abijah. The Sabbath-to-Sabbath rotation began the first Sabbath of Nisan. Course one served the first week; course two, the second week. All priests served during the three annual Festivals, so all the courses served the week of Passover. Course three served the fourth week; course four served the fifth week, etc. The course Abijah was on duty was at the beginning of the ninth week. The following week was Pentecost, so he would have remained for the tenth week as well.

In verses 23-24, when his course was finished he went home. John the Baptist was conceived shortly afterwards. Nine months later would be spring.

In verse 36, John was six months older than Jesus Christ, thus Jesus was born in the fall. You can derive the time of Christ’s birth within a few weeks, through the courses, another proof that Christ was clearly born in the fall. It’s a matter of putting together what the Bible itself gives.

1 Chronicles 24 lists the divisions of the priests and the various functions. Things needed to be organized and David is trying to get things organized prior to his death.

1 Chronicles 25 names the musicians to go with the 24 divisions.

1 Chronicles 26 lists the gatekeepers.

1 Chronicles 27 details the military divisions, the leaders of tribes and other officials.

1 Chronicles 28:1-11, “Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel: the officers of the tribes and the captains of the divisions who served the king, the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officials, the valiant men, and all the mighty men of valor. Then King David rose to his feet and said, ‘Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. But God said to me, “You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.” However the Lord God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel. And of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. Now He said to me, “It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.” Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the congregation of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever. As for you, my son Solomon, know

the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.’ Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat.” He gave him all this instruction.

Verse 13, “also for the division [course] of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the Lord, and for all the articles of service in the house of the Lord.” He gave him the courses of the Levites.

Verses 19-20, “‘All this,’ said David, ‘the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.’ And David said to his son Solomon, ‘be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God—my God—will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.’”

1 Chronicles 29:1-2, “Furthermore King David said to all the congregation: ‘My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the Lord God. Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might:’” Solomon was the only one of David’s children that God chose to work through. David had prepared all these things.

Verses 7-9, “They gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. ... precious stones.... Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly.”

Notice what David prayed to God after this.

Verses 10-15, “Therefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation; and David said: ‘Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty, for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. Now

therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You. For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope.’”

‘We thank you God for the chance to give an offering because everything we have is Yours.’ When we give an offering, we give God what He has already given us. We see the end of David’s reign here.

Verses 26-28, “Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. And the period that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and thirty-three years he reigned in Jerusalem. So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place.”

2 Chronicles 1:3, “Then Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for the tabernacle of meeting with God was there, which Moses the servant of the Lord had made in the wilderness.”

Verses 6-7, “And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the Lord, which was at the tabernacle of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it. On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, ‘Ask! What shall I give you?’” God gave Solomon a vision that night, and said, ‘Ask whatever you want and I will give it to you.’

Verse 10, “‘Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?’” Solomon, of course, asked for wisdom. He lacked wisdom, but one thing he wanted was wisdom to be the king.

Verses 11-12, “And God said to Solomon: ‘Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king—wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who have been before you, nor shall any after you have the like.’” ‘You didn’t ask for riches, long life, etc. I am going to give you great wisdom and many other things.’ Wealth increased tremendously.

2 Chronicles 2:1-2, “Then Solomon determined to build a temple for the name of the Lord, and a royal house for himself. Solomon selected

seventy thousand men to bear burdens, eighty thousand to quarry stone in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred to oversee them.” This describes the work force put together to build the temple and royal house.

2 Chronicles 3:1-2, “Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. And he began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.”

Chapters 3 and 4 give details about the temple.

Chapter 5 is the dedication of the temple.

2 Chronicles 6:16, “Therefore, Lord God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, “You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, to walk in My law as you have walked before Me.”” God’s promise to Solomon: there will not fail to be one to sit on the throne of Israel.

2 Chronicles 7:8-9, “At that time Solomon kept the Feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt. And on the eighth day they held a sacred assembly, for they observed the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.” The dedication of the temple and the eighth day they made a sacred assembly.

Verse 11, “Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king’s house; and Solomon successfully accomplished all that came into his heart to make in the house of the Lord and in his own house.”

God warned Solomon not to turn away.

Verses 14-22, “if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, “You shall never fail to have a man as ruler in Israel.”

But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you,

and go and serve other gods, and worship them, then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations. And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, “Why has the Lord done thus to this land and this house?” Then they will answer, “Because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.””

1 Kings 4:21, “So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the [Euphrates] River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt.” Solomon reigned from the Euphrates River to the Egyptian border. He ruled over a tremendous area.

Verse 24, “For he had dominion over all the region on this side of the River from Tiphshah even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River; and he had peace on every side all around him.” He ruled over everything west of the Euphrates and had peace on all sides.

Verse 25, “And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.” This is a picture of the Millennium.

Verses 29-33, “And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon’s wisdom exceeded the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men...and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish.”

He was an expert. He could tell you about everything from plants to shrubs, fish and creeping things. He knew about everything.

Verse 34, “And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.” He had a tremendous reputation. He excelled everyone everywhere. God gave Solomon exceptional wisdom and knowledge.

1 Kings 5 describes some of the things that occurred.

We come to a verse that is important in establishing the chronology of the Bible.

1 Kings 6:1, “And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord.”

The reason this is essential, this verse can be put together with Exodus 12.

Exodus 12:41, “And it came to pass at the end of four hundred thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass, that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.” The 430 years began with the confirming of the covenant made with Abraham when he was 99 years old (Genesis 17:1-10). If you didn’t have this verse, you would have to wade through the book of Judges and some of the judges overlap.

The fourth year of Solomon was the 480th year of the Exodus. Then you can add the 40 years of David and Saul, the wandering in the wilderness and the time you have for all the judges to fit in. From the time of Solomon’s reign down to the time of the captivity is an easier way to document it. Then we have 1 Kings 6:1 that gives you the time that elapsed between the Exodus and King Solomon. With those two verses you can jump back almost 1,000 years in chronology.

Verse 7, “And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.” I want to quickly call your attention to that. God had the temple made as a pattern of something spiritual. What is God doing now? He is building a spiritual temple.

Ephesians 2:20-22, “Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.”

Peter tells us we are living stones.

1 Peter 2:5, “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” When is that temple going to be assembled? It will be assembled in the resurrection. All the rough edges are being hammered off now. When the stones got to the construction site, it fit. It was cut to order. God is not going to squeeze us in there. He is knocking off the rough edges now. Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone. Everything else has to start around that.

1 Kings 6:38, “And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.” It was finished in seven years.

1 Kings 7:1, “But Solomon took thirteen years to build his own house; so he finished all his house.” He was building his own house 13 years.

1 Kings 8 is a parallel account of the dedication of the temple as noted in Chronicles.

1 Kings 9:4-9, “Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’ But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And this house will be exalted; yet everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?’ Then they will answer, ‘Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the Lord has brought all this calamity on them.’”

Verse 10, “Now it happened at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the Lord and the king’s house”

Verse 26, “King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom.” —Phoenician sailors.

Notice something that I think is interesting; notice what the Queen of Sheba noticed about the people around Solomon.

1 Kings 10:8, “Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom.”

Verses 6-7, “Then she said to the king: ‘It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However I did not believe the words until I came and saw it with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.’” Generally, you hear

something and it gets stretched. But she found out she had not even heard everything. 'It is better than I thought.'

Verse 22, "For the king had merchant ships [KJV, "navy [ships] of Tarshish"] at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys." Tarshish is the area of Spain.

Verses 23-24, "So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. And all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart."

Verses 25-27, "Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses and mules, at a set rate year by year. And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem. The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland."

Silver was so plentiful it had almost lost its value. He had tremendous wealth and prosperity; everything was going for him.

Ever notice so many times when people have everything going for them, this turns out to be a problem. It gets their eyes off God. And that is what has happened to this nation. God has given us everything. God has given us the choicest bounties of heaven. Have we really appreciated it and given God the credit?

All of this leads us up to the rest of the story and that is what we begin to notice in chapter 11.

1 Kings 11:1-4, "But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. For surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.' And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David."

He had a thousand women and his wives turned away his heart after other gods. His mind began to get on pleasing them and was pulled in a thousand ways. It goes to show that a person can

have a gigantic blind spot. He had a weakness and indulged himself.

Verses 5-8, "For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods." They wanted him to build places for them.

God was angry.

Verses 9-10, "So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord commanded." God saw the problem coming and warned him not to go after other gods.

Verses 11-12, "Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, 'Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your day, for the sake of your father David; but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.'" He said, 'I am going to rend the kingdom from you and give it to your servant—not in your lifetime, but at the time of your son.'

Verse 13, "However I will not tear away the whole kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen." God said, 'All right, I am going to remove the blessings (kingdom). I will not do it 100 percent because of your father.' There began to be problems here in the later years of Solomon. What we find prophesied is going to happen. His son, Rehoboam would only reign over Judah.

Verses 26-39, "Then Solomon's servant, Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite from Zereda, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king. And this is what caused him to rebel against the king: Solomon had built the Millo and repaired the damages to the City of David his father. The man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor; and Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, made him the officer over all the labor force of the house of Joseph. Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out

of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field. Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, 'Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David. However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and give it to you—ten tribes. And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there. So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel. Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will give Israel to you. And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever."'"

Verses 40-43, "Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon. Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? And the period that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place." Rehoboam would reign over Judah.

2 Chronicles 9 gives the account of the Queen of Sheba coming to Jerusalem.

Verses 30-31, the end of Solomon's reign and his death.

There are a lot of lessons to gain. If you want to get some insight into Solomon's experiences, go

to the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon could not take God's word for it. The way to prove God's way is to do it. Do it and see if it works.

Malachi 3:10, "'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove [test] Me now in this, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.'"

The way Solomon tried to prove God's way was to go out and do the opposite, and then he wanted to see if he got the curses. Solomon's experiments were to see if there was some other way. Solomon lived his life and at the end said, 'Fear God and keep His Commandments; that is what it's all about' (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Solomon lived a life of experience. He said, 'There is nothing you can do that I haven't already done—nothing on a grander scale.'

The Bible contains the ups and downs of those with whom God was working and was written down as examples for us. We can look, learn and understand; we are able to grasp the things that God is doing and are able to understand what God was accomplishing in these people's lives. We can go through Solomon's life and understand these lessons. We don't have to "reinvent the wheel" and do it the hard way. In many ways, Solomon's life is a very sad account of an individual who had so much going for him, and yet he began to look into the wrong places for fulfillment and satisfaction. It should give us some insight as to the pitfalls.

Solomon's reign also shows parallels to the Millennium. A lot of prosperity and abundance can be a dangerous thing. We can never take prosperity for granted. It is a matter of being thankful and appreciative.

If we allow ourselves to begin to compromise, we are on a dangerous road. It leads to compromise in other areas. Solomon's entanglements with all these women began a path of compromise. Once you start compromising, you are going in a direction that leads to more and more compromises.

It sets the stage for the period of history that we are going into next, the time of the divided kingdom and the ups and the downs. This sets the stage for it. This is how the nation got into this division. Blessings come from God. God gives them and God can remove them.

From this we have the closing period of King David's reign and somewhat of a perspective of the time of King Solomon. We are going to finish the book of 1 Kings next time. Go through and read it. If there are areas where you have

questions, make note of them. The idea is to give you an overview, a survey, of this period of Bible history.