



## STORY

Solomon as King and the Building the Temple - I Kings 1-11 and I Chronicles 28-29

## TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Jesus, the Wisdom from on high, I pray that You fill my heart with the wisdom of Your Word so that I can proclaim that wisdom to my students. Do not let me trust or rely upon my own wisdom or abilities, but fill me with the Holy Spirit so the words I teach are truly from You. May this heavenly Wisdom remain in my heart and my students' hearts and lives forever until we stand before You in perfect wisdom, righteousness and peace. I ask this in Your name. Amen.

## VOCABULARY

### OUTER AIM

God gave Solomon wisdom, riches and honor to use to glorify His name in his rulership of Israel and in the building of the Lord's house.

### INNER AIM

We should use all the blessings God gives us (time, talents, treasures) to glorify God in our work, worship and recreation.

## BACKGROUND

Our lesson takes place about ten years after Absalom's rebellion and death. David is now 70 years old. His son, Solomon, is appointed to rule in his place when he dies. Solomon became a world famous king, noted for his wisdom and his wealth. He begins his rule like his father David and like King Saul; a God-fearing, obedient child of God. The most prominent event in his life was the building of the magnificent and extraordinarily beautiful house of God, the temple in Jerusalem. Solomon built the temple not to enhance or further his own fame and glory, but to glorify God and to further the spread of His spiritual kingdom on earth. He would give to God the best he and his people had to offer.

1:5-6

- Adonijah tried to usurp the throne by exalting himself as the next king after David.
- David did not rebuke him, either because of his old age or simple lack of fatherly discipline.

1:11-14

- Nathan and Bathsheba plan to speak to David to tell him what is happening with Adonijah and get him to proclaim Solomon king as he had sworn earlier.

2:1-9

- A dying father's words to his son. Wise advice and fatherly admonition.
- 1) Be strong in faith and courageous in battle
- 2) Walk in the ways of the LORD, keeping His statutes (Mosaic laws); His commandments the 10 Commandments; His judgments (ceremonial and civil laws); His testimonies (the revelations of God's covenant of grace with His people concerning the Messiah).

I Chronicles 28-29

- David gives Solomon plans for the temple, no doubt given to him by God in a vision
- David also encourages all the people to give from their hearts for this house of God and there was a great response. They "gave willingly." The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord.

### I Kings 3:5-9

- Solomon acknowledges God's great mercy to him. He realizes his youthful inexperience (about 20 years old).
- Solomon shows his faith and love for the LORD by not asking for wealth and fame, but as a benefit and blessing for the people-an understanding heart and wisdom to govern justly, wisely and well.

### 3:10-14

- Solomon's request sought 1) the glory of God and 2) the welfare of his fellow man. The LORD grants not only an understanding heart beyond any man before or since, but also great wealth and honor so that he will have no equal. Matt. 6:33

### 3:16-28

- Solomon's wisdom is put into practice and seen in this judgment. Solomon knew the love of a mother for her own child. The people held him in awe, yet acknowledged that his wisdom came from God.

### 5:1-8

- King Hiram, dear friend of David and Solomon. It appears Hiram had a heart knowledge of the LORD Jehovah as well. Brought down cedars from Lebanon and also pine or fir logs.

### 5:5

- A prophecy with an immediate and a future meaning. Solomon is a type of Christ because it was foretold of Him that He would build God's house. Christ's house is not made of wood or stone, but is a spiritual temple, an eternal house and kingdom, which is the house of the Church of Jesus Christ, all believers. All of us, like Solomon and his people, are called to help build this temple, His Kingdom!

### 5:9

- The logs were floated down to Joppa and then hauled overland to Jerusalem -quite an undertaking.

### 5:13-18

- 30,000 laborers to Lebanon: 10,000 a month with 2 months off; 70,000 carrying burden; 80,000 stone cutters; 3,600 supervisors

### 6:1-38

- Time: 480th year after the exodus from Egypt; the fourth year of Solomon's reign. Place: Mt. Moriah, where Abraham sacrificed Isaac; where David erected an altar during the time of the plague; where in the future, the Messiah would walk and speak and be judged by the Sanhedrin and was crucified.
- Size: arrangements the same as the tabernacle, but twice as large. 900 x 600 feet; temple proper: 90'1 x 30'w x 45'h
- Materials: Built of white and rose-tinted marble, cedar and fir (most lasting wood). It's front toward the east. See Rup. Pg. 329-331 for more details of the temple. Time of building: It took 7 ½ years; estimated cost: \$2,450 million. It was the most magnificent edifice in the world at the time.

### 7:1-39

- It took Solomon 13 years to build his palace after the temple was completed.

### 8:1-21

- Representatives from all 12 tribes. There were many people, it required 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep to feed them. The Lord's presence was in the cloud that filled the temple. The Lord showed His pleasure to live in this temple with His presence. NOTE: The dedication of our churches, school buildings, parsonages and teacherages means to set it apart for sacred use - for the glory of God.

8:22-53

- Solomon's dedication prayer gives praise to God requests His continued presence even in bad times, and asks God to hear their prayers and to forgive their sins. These are the small ways of salvation for the New Testament believer. Acts. 15:11 "We shall be saved in the same manner as they (O.T.), through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ."

11:1-13

- Unfortunately Solomon was led astray by the many foreign heathen wives whom he married. A warning to all, not to despise the Law of the Lord and put oneself into a place of temptation. He burned incense and offered sacrifices to these idols. In Deut. 17:17, the Lord warns Kings not to take wives to themselves for this very reason.
- There is danger in mixed marriages, especially if the one spouse is not a Christian. Our children need to be advised of this before their dating begins. If a love does grow between the two, the danger should be clearly revealed so that a blessing may result (conversion of a spouse) and not a curse (the falling away of the once faithful spouse).
- Two dangers: 1) seduced to follow false doctrine; 2) fall from faith.
- The great blessing: bring the unbelieving spouse to Christ or lead him or her out of false doctrine to the truth.
- Punishment from God upon faithless Solomon: the Kingdom would be torn into two nations; but in mercy (showing love for David) it would not happen in Solomon's lifetime.

11:41-43

- It seems that Solomon's last days were blessed ones. He wrote Ecclesiastes late in life, when near his death, he preaches of the perishability of everything earthly and that the joys and glories of this world as only vanity (emptiness). The true lasting joy and glory are in Christ and His Word.
- He is described as having slept with his fathers and is counted with the faithful, being buried in Jerusalem.
- Jesus mentions Solomon and honors him. This would not likely be so, had Solomon died in unbelief like the fallen King Saul.

Solomon was 58 years old at the time his death.

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

Dear Father in heaven, I pray that You ever keep me in the wisdom of Your Word so that I do not trust in my own wisdom or intellect. I thank You for all of the lessons You have taught me in my Sunday School. May these lessons give me the true wisdom to be able to rely upon You throughout all the days of my life. May we children always love Your house and come as often as we can to worship You. As we hear Your word, help us to learn the way of salvation better and better. Help us learn to do Your will more and more until we are taken to be with You for an eternity of worship and praise in heaven. Hear my prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## **PRESENTATION**

Teacher should tell the story with perhaps a model to the temple to scale. The following website has a good picture of a model of the temple. <http://www.yahrzeit.org/temple.html>

## **APPLICATION**

Ask the children what they pray for. Make a list. Do material things top the list? Do they ever pray for wisdom; wisdom to learn their lessons, to know right from wrong, to be able to understand and live according to God's Word? Encourage prayer at all times: before school, before tests, for parents, brothers and sisters, teachers and pastors, the government, good weather, friends, etc..

We, like Solomon, should spend our time, efforts, and talents in building up the house of God: HIS CHURCH. This means more than just a building. It means helping to spread the Word through missions (providing for missionaries and their expenses) and at home, by providing for pastor's and teachers' salaries and paying bills. Children can be encouraged to bring friends and neighbors to our Lord, thereby building the Spiritual kingdom!

Solomon first built the Lord's house, then built his own. Our firstfruits should be given to our Lord, not the leftovers. We give to our Lord, not out of necessity, grudgingly or being forced; but freely, willingly, out of love. Christ's love compels us. We rejoice when we see each other willingly, freely giving of our time and talents to the Lord, not comparing each other's gifts, but rejoicing in the blessed privilege and opportunity to be able to help by giving.

Ask the students the following questions: Why do we dedicate churches?--To set them apart for use in the Lord's kingdom. Why is the church the house of God?--Because God is present in the church. Where is His presence evident?--God is present in His WORD AND SACRAMENTS. How do we act in this house of God?--We are reverent and worshipful to the Lord.

Encourage the older children to be very selective in their dating choices. Remind them the blessings of a Christian spouse, especially of the same synod.

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

### **Lower**

Psalm 84:1 - "How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!"

### **Middle**

Psalm 26:8 - "LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells."

I Corinthians 10:12 - "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

Psalm 84:12 - "O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!"

### **Upper**

Psalm 84:10 - "For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."

Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

## **HYMN CHOICES**

Christ, Thou Art the Sure Foundation - TLH #466

My Soul, Be on Thy Guard - TLH #449

Here in Thy Name, Eternal God - TLH #635