

Lesson #15

PREPARATION FOR LESSON read 1 Kings 3, 8, 10, 11:1-3; Song of Songs 1, 2, 5

BACKGROUND for 1 Kings

Author and Date: Events of 1 Kings were written by Levite historians as they happened 975-852 BC.
Some 120 years later, c. 580 BC, Levite scribes compiled the book from the historical records.
A final edition was made c. 560 BC.

Theme: The history of Jewish kings after David

Important People: Solomon Jeroboam, king of Israel Rehoboam, king of Judah
Queen of Sheba Elijah Ahab

OUTLINE

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|---------------------------------|---------|
| I. The reign of Solomon | 1 - 11 |
| II. The division of the kingdom | 12 - 16 |
| III. The ministry of Elijah | 17 - 22 |



EXPLANATIONS

Solomon's Wisdom

Human wisdom gave him ability to govern wisely, use common sense and understand the world around him.
It was unconditional, but it did not give him insight about God.

Godly wisdom gave him ability to see things from God's perspective and be in tune with God's desires.
This was conditional, in proportion to his obedience to God.

Solomon's Greatness as the wisest man.

He had riches, honor, fame and glory; had the greatest of all Jewish kingdoms; king over other kings.

He showed leadership by dealing with the injustices of the past; he was both just and merciful

He built the Jerusalem temple and received God's promises.

He made trade agreements with the Queen of Sheba. She was from Arabia, in the area we know today as Yemen.

Solomon's Failures: became a selfish ruler 11:28; 12:4

disobeyed God's laws for Jewish Old Testament kings Deut. 17:16-18 cf. 10:26; 11:1-3; 10:16

- not to acquire horses, take many wives (marriage alliances) or accumulate gold
These were methods pagan nations used to give them military strength and superiority.
If God's kings obeyed Him, God guaranteed **He** would always protect them.

- was to make his own copy of Deuteronomy and read it.

Solomon did not do this. *Failure to read God's law led him to forget God's law.*

worshipped idols 11:5

This was all the worse, considering God had personally appeared to him twice.

Great spiritual experiences did not guarantee he would obey God in the future.

Solomon's Punishment

Lost the respect of the nation; lost his spiritual wisdom; lost his kingdom

Lost the enjoyment of his relationship with God; died prematurely

Solomon's Writings *Song of Songs:* written in his first year as king when he was 20 years old.

Proverbs: written in the middle of his kingship when he was 40.

Ecclesiastes: written in his last year as king when he was 60.

APPLICATION from Solomon's Life

If God offered to give us anything we wanted, what would we ask for?

Failure to read God's Word will lead us to forget God's Word. It will become easier and easier to disobey God.

Spiritual experiences make us **feel** close to God, but they do not have the power to **keep** us close to God.

Studying and applying God's Word is what keeps us obedient.

Continued disobedience will destroy our godly wisdom and our enjoyment of God.

BACKGROUND

Author and Date: Solomon writes this during his first year as king when he is 20 years old.

Theme: An eastern love song divided into 5 poems; this was the best of all 1005 songs that he wrote.

Purposes: To lead the Jews to appreciate the purity and beauty of marriage as God intended it.

To picture the purity and beauty: God the Father wanted in His relationship with the Jews – wife of Yahweh God.
 Jesus wants in His relationship with the Church, His Body – His future bride.
 in our individual relationship with Jesus.

OUTLINE

Reflections of Love

Their wedding day 1:1-2:7

Their courtship 2:6-3:5

Their wedding night 3:6-5:1

Their marital problems 5:2-6:9

Their recommitment 6:10-8:14

modified from outline of Dr. A Fruchtenbaum

EXPLANATION The history and story behind this eastern love song

King Solomon goes to inspect his vineyards in northern Israel. He sees a beautiful girl, Shulamit, working on her family's vineyard. In order to win her love, he comes back in the disguise of a shepherd and visits her at her country home. Over the winter they do not see each other. When spring comes, Solomon again travels north to see her, disguised as a shepherd. Eventually she agrees to marry him.

Just before the wedding, Solomon sends a group to escort her to his palace in Jerusalem. Once she arrives, there is the wedding, the wedding banquet and the wedding night. Sometime in the next year or so, there is a problem in their relationship. The friction causes each to pull away. Realizing how much she loves him, Shulamit does what she can to win him back. Solomon, in love, does his part and they work it out.

After another year or two, Shulamit wants to visit family and see the countryside once again. She wants Solomon to enjoy it with her. They go back to the place where they met and recommit themselves to each other.

APPLICATION There is both a literal meaning and a spiritual lesson.

1:6 *My brothers were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected.*

Literal: Shulamit became so involved in working in the vineyard, she got sunburned and forgot to take care of herself.

Spiritual: Pressure to do things for others or for God, can get us so involved that we neglect our own life, emotionally, physically, mentally or spiritually. This means we need to adjust our schedule or change our priorities.

2:15 *Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards; our vineyards that are in bloom.*

Literal: Solomon and Shulamit are walking thru the vineyard when she sees the damage the foxes have done to the vines. She immediately thinks how little things can damage their new relationship. They need to deal with problems as soon as possible.

Spiritual: There are little things that can damage our relationship with God or pull us away from Him. We need to deal with them as soon as possible. We need to "catch the little foxes".

2:14 *Show me your face; let me hear your voice...*

Literal: Solomon has been gone all winter. In the spring he goes to see Shulamit. Walking by the window, he calls out to her, *Show me your face; let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet and your face is lovely.* Solomon is anxious to spend time with her. He wants to enjoy her beauty and have time to talk with her.

Spiritual: The God of all the earth is calling out to us, *I want to spend time with you. I want to hear your voice in praise, worship, prayer and conversation.* He is eager to talk with us thru His Word. He is anxious to hear our voice in prayer and praise – thru music or words. God says to us, *Let Me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet and your face is lovely.*

