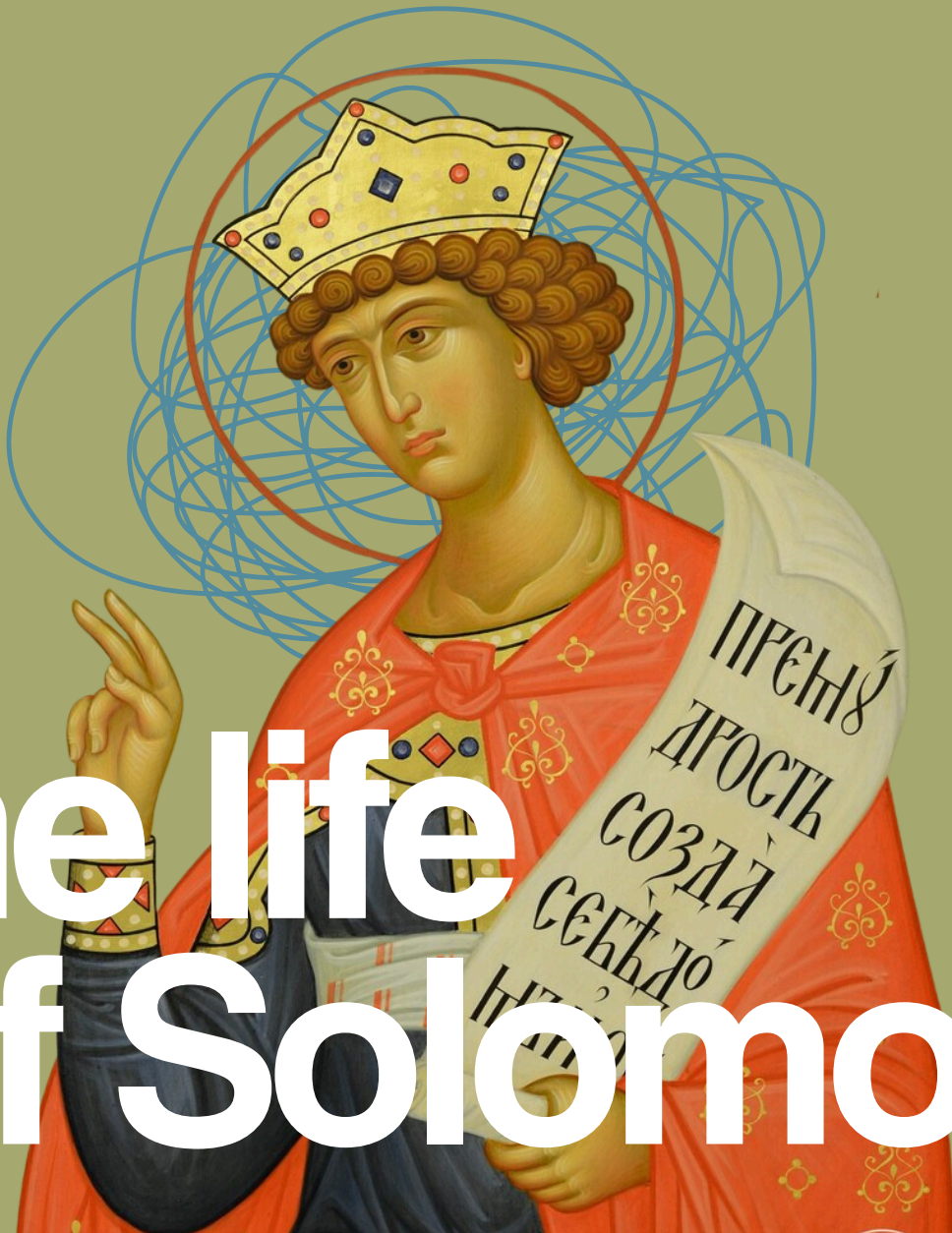


\* Theology +  
Bible +  
Discipleship to Jesus

# the life of Solomon





# Foreword

Last term, in our Theology, Bible, and Discipleship to Jesus study, we examined the letter of James. It was a rich time of study, and over 100 people participated in at least one week in person on Monday nights. Others participated independently by going through the workbook and listening to the podcast. Seeing our church community feed on God's word and strive to apply it has been an incredible encouragement. I'm excited about this next term and what it will hold for us.

This workbook wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and collaboration of several people in our church community. I am grateful for the significant time and energy Teresa Tetar invested in crafting the first draft. She is a dear sister-in-Christ and a gift to our church. I am also thankful for the efforts of my colleagues Tikvah Beard and Adam Van Rees. They each played an essential role in tweaking the curriculum and its final presentation.

Additionally, through Elijah Kroeker's encouragement and hard work, a multi-episode podcast season—featuring conversations between Tikvah Beard, Linda Murdoch, and myself—has been created to serve as a resource for this term of Theology, Bible, and Discipleship to Jesus. I'm thankful for Elijah's production genius and the depth of insight and wisdom that Tikvah and Linda brought to our conversations. You can listen to this podcast on YouTube, Spotify, or Apple.

This second term of Theology, Bible, and Discipleship to Jesus here at SouthRidge Fellowship would not be possible without the aforementioned small army of people, plus all those who will help in various ways to make our in-person gatherings possible. And, finally, I'm glad you're joining us on this journey. You're why this ministry exists.

May our study of the Life of Solomon prompt us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

All the best,

*Greg Harris*  
Discipleship Pastor

# Welcome

We are excited to begin this journey of studying the life of Solomon.

Our desire is that through participating in this study you would grow. Both in knowledge and understanding and in wisdom and character. We hope that this would serve as an opportunity for you to grow in Christlikeness and to be spiritually formed.

As you position yourself before the Scriptures, we ask that you would surrender yourself to the work of the Spirit. Allow him to plant and uproot, encourage and correct, convict and sanctify. In all of this, our prayer is that you would be encouraged to follow Jesus daily and that God would be glorified!

## HOW TO WORK THROUGH THIS BOOKLET

**This booklet consists of six weeks of material. Below outlines the major components.**

- **Pray** - we have included a prayer that can be used as you enter into God's Word each week.
- **Scripture** - Each week (except week 4) includes the passage from the NIV translation. As you read through the passage feel free to mark up, underline, and highlight in what ever way you find beneficial for your personal engagement.
- **Look, Learn, Contemplate** - this section consists of three categories of questions.
  - Look: These are questions that primarily focus on what the text is saying.
  - Learn: Takes it a step further as you examine the meaning of the passage.
  - Contemplate: This is where the rubber hits the road and you begin to consider how this text applies to your life.
- **For Further Study** -this section is for those who desire to dig deeper in their study each week.

# Formed: From the Garden to Glory

by: Adam Van Rees

**“There are no quick and easy paths to spiritual maturity. The soul that seeks a deeper level of maturity must be prepared for a long, arduous task.”**  
- R.C. Sproul -

The path of following Jesus and becoming more like him has no shortcuts. It's no surprise then that Jesus tells his disciples that they must count the cost of following him (Matt 16:24). One must consider what it will mean to die to self, time and time again. To renounce ownership of one's life, and submit to Christ is by no means easy.

But it is *good*.

It is in the loss of our life that we find true life (Matt 16:25). The life that Jesus promises is unrivaled; it is full, abundant, and eternal (Jn 10:10). While there are moments along the path that make it feel anything but abundant (by earthly standards at least), we are also promised that we do not trudge through it alone (Matt 28:20). In the moments where life has dealt suffering and disappointment and brought you face to face with the ugliness of your sin, Jesus is there. His invitation remains the same: come, and follow me. It is on this path that we are made whole and made holy. It is on this path that we are formed for His praise and for His glory.

This journey finds its roots in the Garden. God created humanity in His image so that we might glorify Him and enjoy eternal, intimate, loving relationship with Him (Gen 1:27). This truth establishes that our identity is connected to the divine, setting the stage for the continuous work of spiritual formation in our lives. Being made in God's image carries profound implications. It means that every person carries within them the imprint of their Creator. Thus, the work of spiritual formation is not about acquiring something new but about renewing and restoring what was always intended: an ability to display, reflect, and communicate who he is, how great he is, and what he is like as well as enjoying deeply satisfying communion with the one who formed us.

This process of restoration and transformation is described in Romans 8:29, where Paul writes, "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." Here, Paul introduces a key element of spiritual formation: conformity to the image of Christ. This passage reveals that God's purpose for us is to be shaped into the likeness of his Son so that we reflect and embody Christ's character, love, and holiness. The imagery of transformation is further developed in 2 Corinthians 3:18, where Paul explains, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." Paul insists that we become like what we behold. As we turn our gaze to Christ and orient ourselves towards all that is good, true, and beautiful in Jesus we become like him. This verse captures the dynamic nature of spiritual formation. It is not a one-time event but a continual and ongoing process.

Spiritual formation is not something we accomplish through willpower or self-discipline; it is the result of the Spirit's work in our lives (Gal 3:3). At the same time, it is not something that is passive. Spiritual formation requires both yielding to the Spirit and an active participation. As one engages in spiritual disciplines (Scripture reading, prayer, worship, and community fellowship to name a few) we position ourselves before God's grace, allowing the Holy Spirit to use these means to shape our character and desires, aligning them more closely with the heart of God.

At times this journey feels daunting, but our hope is anchored in the future promise revealed in 1 John 3:1-3: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure." These verses beautifully reveal the culmination of spiritual formation – the moment when we will fully and perfectly reflect Christ and be with him face to face. This future glorification gives us the motivation to pursue holiness and purity now, knowing that our efforts are part of a greater process that will one day be fully realized when we see Christ face to face.

In summary, spiritual formation is the lifelong journey of being conformed to the image of Christ, rooted in our creation in the image of God and carried out by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. It is a process that involves ongoing transformation, often through challenging experiences, but always with the hope of becoming more like Christ. This journey, marked by both struggle and grace, ultimately leads to the fulfillment of our identity as children of God, where we will fully reflect His image in glory. It is not a path of immediate perfection but one of continual progress, faithfully moving toward the ultimate goal of being like Christ and being with him.

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# Pray

Oh Holy God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

May all that I learn in this time increase in me

a love of wisdom, a hunger for justice, a thirst for righteousness,

a habit of peace, an instinct for mercy, an appetite for truth, a taste for goodness,

a longing for beauty, and a willingness to be gracious in all things.

May I love you in this study, not only with all my mind,

but also with all of my heart, soul, and strength.

May all that I study lead to a greater love for my neighbor,

both near and far, both friendly and hostile, both like and unlike me.

And by your grace may I become someone who

prays in and through all my studies

so that worship might become the the natural outcome of my study of this passage,

resulting in joyful praise and thanksgiving of you, Oh Triune God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

May this be so for

my growth in Christlikeness,

for the good of others,

and for your fame. Oh Triune God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Adapted version of "Liturgy – Beginning of Study" by W. David O. Taylor, Every Moment Holy, Rabbit Room Press.*

# Week 1/Solomon Introduced

## 1 Kings 1:28-53

28 Then King David answered, “Call Bathsheba to me.” So, she came into the king's presence and stood before the king. 29 And the king swore, saying, “As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity, 30 as I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel, saying, ‘Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,’ even so will I do this day.” 31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage to the king and said, “May my lord King David live forever!”

32 King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” So they came before the king. 33 And the king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule and bring him down to Gihon. 34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ 35 You shall then come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.” 36 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, “Amen! May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, say so. 37 As the Lord has been with my lord the king, even so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David.” 38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and brought him to Gihon. 39 There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, “Long live King Solomon!” 40 And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise.

41 Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished feasting. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, “What does this uproar in the city mean?” 42 While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. And Adonijah said, “Come in, for you are a worthy man and bring good news.” 43 Jonathan answered Adonijah, “No, for our lord King David has made Solomon king, 44 and the king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites. And they had him ride on the king's mule. 45 And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet has anointed him king at Gihon, and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard. 46 Solomon sits on the royal throne. 47 Moreover, the king's servants came to congratulate our lord King David, saying, ‘May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.’ And the king bowed himself on the bed. 48 And the king also said, ‘Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who has granted someone to sit on my throne this day, my own eyes seeing it.’”

49 Then all the guests of Adonijah trembled and rose, and each went his own way. 50 And Adonijah feared Solomon. So, he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. 51 Then it was told Solomon, “Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon, for behold, he has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me first that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.’” 52 And Solomon said, “If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die.” 53 So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and paid homage to King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, “Go to your house.”

# Look, Learn & Contemplate

## LOOKING AT THE TEXT

- 1 Kings 1:32-33
  - Who was Solomon?
- 1 Kings 1:34
  - What position and title was Solomon given?
- 1 Kings 1:35
  - Who was Solomon appointed to rule over?
- 1 Kings 1:37
  - What does Benaiah say about Solomon's throne?
- 1 Kings 1:39-40
  - What was the people's response when Solomon was crowned King?

## LEARNING WHAT IT SAYS

- Adonijah was another of David's sons who took the throne and role of King upon himself without David's knowledge or approval. Read 1 Kings 1:1-27 to familiarize yourself with his story.
  - What character traits would you use to describe Adonijah and his behavior?
- Bathsheba plays a central role in the coronation of King Solomon. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27; 2 Samuel 12:1-25; and 1 Kings 1:11-31 to familiarize yourself with her story.
  - Her story is one where horrific evil was done to her, and yet the Lord worked his purposes in mighty ways through the situation. Are you aware of any other stories in the Bible where the Lord takes the evil actions of people and uses them for his purposes?

# Notes

## CONTEMPLATING WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Spend some time reviewing the character traits you mentioned in *Learning What It Says*. To what degree do your actions reflect the character traits of Adonijah?
- Solomon's coronation occurs in a relationally complex and messy situation. What life situations do you find yourself in that feel *messy* or *complex*? Are you able to see how God has used or is using these messy/complex situations for his purposes? Spend some time praying for the Lord to work—even amidst the messiness and complexity—for his purposes.

# Notes

# For Further Study

- Read 1 Kings 2:13-25 and answer the following question: How do the stories of Bathsheba and Adonijah intersect again under Solomon's reign?
- Read Matthew 1:6-7. What is the significance of Bathsheba and Solomon being mentioned in this passage?
- Read 1 Kings 1:38 and Matthew 21:1-11. Do you see any connections between these two passages? Why or why not? If you identify connections, what might be the significance of these connections?

# Notes

# Notes

# Week 2 / Solomon Seeks Wisdom

## 2 Chronicles 1:1-13

1 Solomon, son of David established himself firmly over his kingdom, for the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

2 Then Solomon spoke to all Israel—to the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, to the judges and to all the leaders in Israel, the heads of families— 3 and Solomon and the whole assembly went to the high place at Gibeon, for God’s tent of meeting was there, which Moses the Lord’s servant had made in the wilderness. 4 Now David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared for it, because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. 5 But the bronze altar that Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made was in Gibeon in front of the tabernacle of the Lord; so, Solomon and the assembly inquired of him there. 6 Solomon went up to the bronze altar before the Lord in the tent of meeting and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

8 Solomon answered God, “You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, Lord God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. 10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

11 God said to Solomon, “Since this is your heart’s desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, 12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.”

13 Then Solomon went to Jerusalem from the high place at Gibeon, from before the tent of meeting. And he reigned over Israel.

# Look, Learn & Contemplate

## LOOKING AT THE TEXT

- 2 Chronicles 1:1
  - Who was with Solomon while his kingdom was established?
- 2 Chronicles 1:2
  - Who did Solomon speak to?
- 2 Chronicles 1:3-6
  - Where did Solomon do His sacrifices?
- 2 Chronicles 1:7-10
  - God asked Solomon what he wanted from him. What did Solomon ask for?
- 2 Chronicles 1:11-12
  - What did God acknowledge that Solomon did not ask for?
  - How did God honor his request and what other blessings did he promise Solomon?

## LEARNING WHAT IT SAYS

- Job 28:20-28
  - What does this passage say about wisdom?
- Proverbs 1:7
  - What type of people are we if we despise wisdom?
- Proverbs 10:8
  - What does the wise in heart do?
  - What happens to the “chattering fool”?
- Proverbs 14:8
  - What is the difference between the wise and the fool?

# Notes

## CONTEMPLATING WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Do you spend more time asking God for earthly possessions or wisdom? What are your most frequent prayer requests? What do your requests say about your priorities and desires?
- In what areas of your life do you need God's wisdom?
- Take some time and ask God to search your heart and reveal to you what you desire more than his wisdom. Confess those things to God and ask him to help you desire wisdom more than any earthly possession, just like Solomon asked of God.

# Notes

# For Further Study

- Re-read 2 Chronicles 2:3; then read 1 Chronicles 16:39-40 21:29
  - Why was this place chosen to do the sacrifices?
- Re-read 2 Chronicles 1:7-10; then read 1 Kings 3:9 2 Samuel 14:17
  - Why did Solomon ask for wisdom from God?
- Read Proverbs 1:1-19
  - Who wrote this Proverb? (1:1)
  - What do we gain from gaining wisdom and what type of behavior does it instruct us in? (1:1-3)
  - What benefit is wisdom to the simple and to the wise? (1:4-6)
  - Who are we not to give in to? (1:10-16)
  - Why are we not to set our feet on their path?(1:10-16)
  - What happens to those who go after ill-gotten gain? (1:19)
- Read Proverbs 2:11-17; Romans 16:23-27; and James 3:13-17.
  - What do these passages teach us about wisdom?

# Notes

# Week 3 / Solomon and the Temple - Part I

## 1 Chronicles 22:6-13

6 Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel. 7 David said to Solomon: “My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the Lord my God. 8 But this word of the Lord came to me: ‘You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. 9 But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign. 10 He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.’

11 “Now, my son, the Lord be with you, and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as he said you would. 12 May the Lord give you discretion and understanding when he puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. 13 Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

## 1 Chronicles 22:17-19

17 Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon. 18 He said to them, “Is not the Lord your God with you? And has he not granted you rest on every side? For he has given the inhabitants of the land into my hands, and the land is subject to the Lord and to his people. 19 Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God. Begin to build the sanctuary of the Lord God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the Lord.”

## 1 Kings 6:11-14

11 The word of the Lord came to Solomon: 12 “As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. 13 And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people, Israel.”

14 So Solomon built the temple and completed it.

## 1 Kings 9:1-9

9 When Solomon had finished building the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, 2 the Lord appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. 3 The Lord said to him:

“I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

4 “As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, 5 I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’

6 “But if you or your descendants turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. 8 This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, ‘Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?’ 9 People will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the Lord their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them.’”

# Look, Learn & Contemplate

## LOOKING AT THE TEXT

- 1 Chronicles 22:6-7
  - Who charged Solomon to build the temple?
  - What did David have in his heart?
- 1 Chronicles 22:8
  - What reason did the Lord give to David why he could not build the temple?
- 1 Chronicles 22:9-10
  - What did the Lord say to David?
  - What has David asked of the Lord for Solomon when he puts him in command over Israel?
- 1 Chronicles 22:17-19
  - What did David order of the leaders of Israel?
  - Why are they to build the sanctuary of the Lord?
- 1 Kings 6:11-14
  - What must Solomon do to have God keep his promise to David?
  - Who would God live amongst?
- 1 Kings 9:1-9
  - When did God appear to Solomon a second time?
  - What must Solomon do for God to establish his royal throne?
  - What will happen to Solomon and his descendants if they do not observe the commands and decrees that God has given them?

## LEARNING WHAT IT SAYS

- Read Deuteronomy 6:1-15
  - List all the commands from this text
  - List all God's promises that come through obedience according to this text

# Notes

## CONTEMPLATING WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Through this study, we have read about God's promises and seen them be fulfilled to David and Solomon thus far; how have you seen God's character?
- Have you experienced the benefits of obedience to God even when it has felt challenging?
- Is there something in your life that you need to repent of that is keeping you from walking in obedience to God?
- What is a promise of God that you can hold to when following him feels hard?

# Notes

# For Further Study

- 1 Chronicles 29:18-19
  - What does David ask of the Lord for Solomon?
- 1 Chronicles 29:25
  - What did the Lord do for Solomon?
- Proverbs 2:11 + Proverbs 4:6
  - What do the Scriptures say about protection from the Lord?
- Zephaniah 3:17
  - Did Solomon experience God's delight in his obedience if so how?
- Psalms 121:1-7
  - Who is ours and Samuel's protector? Do you think this is conditional? If so, why?
- 1 Samuel 12:1-15.
  - What do these verses say about obedience and disobedience?

# Notes

# Week 4 / Solomon and the Temple - Part II

**1 Kings 5-8** -Due to the length of this week's passage we ask that you consult your Bible, use an app, or consult [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)

## Look, Learn & Contemplate

### LOOKING AT THE TEXT

#### Preparation of the Temple

- 1 Kings 5:5
  - What was Solomon's motivation for building the temple?
- 1 Kings 5:1-6
  - What was Solomon's first step in preparing to build the temple?
- 1 Kings 5:13-18
  - How did Solomon organize the labor for the project?

#### Construction of the Temple

- 1 Kings 6:1-10
  - What were the dimensions and key features of the temple?
- Read 1 Kings 5:1-12
  - Who did Solomon rely on for materials and expertise?

#### Dedication of the Temple

- 1 Kings 8:22-53
  - What actions did Solomon take to dedicate the temple?
- 1 Kings 8:10-11
  - What was God's response to the dedication?
- 1 Kings 8:27-30
  - What did Solomon's prayer at the dedication reveal about his understanding of God?

### LEARNING WHAT IT SAYS

Work through the following prompts to learn about the theological significance of the construction of the temple:

- 1 Kings 6:13
  - What does God promise to his people?
- 1 Kings 8:20-21
  - What does the construction of the temple complete?
- 1 Kings 8:27
  - What does this passage teach us about God's presence in the temple?

# Notes

## CONTEMPLATING WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Reflect on Solomon's reliance on Hiram and his skilled workers. How does this illustrate the importance of collaboration in fulfilling God's plans?
- The temple was built for God's glory, not Solomon's. How are you using your skills and resources to glorify God in your life?
- The temple was the place where God dwelled and met with his people; and where he was worshipped. Take some time reflecting on the reality that now *through Jesus* God dwells in the lives of Christians. What is one implication that this truth has for how you will live your life this week?

# Notes

# For Further Study

You've done a lot of work this week! If you want to go deeper then read 2 Chronicles 2-7. It is the same story found in a different book.

- As you read this second passage are there any significant differences that you noticed?
- What questions do you have left unanswered after going through this week's study? Write those questions out.

# Notes

# Notes

# Week 5 / Solomon and his Downfall

## 1 Kings 11:1-13

1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. 2 They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done. 7 On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. 8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods. 9 The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. 10 Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command. 11 So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. 12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

# Look, Learn & Contemplate

## LOOKING AT THE TEXT

- 1 Kings 11:1-2
  - What led to Solomon's downfall?
- 1 Kings 11:4
  - What was the result of Solomon's relationships with foreign women?
- 1 Kings 11:7-8
  - What did Solomon do and why was he wrong in doing this?
- 1 Kings 11:11-12
  - How did God respond to Solomon's disobedience?
- 1 Kings 11:13
  - How was God merciful to Solomon?

## LEARNING WHAT IT SAYS

- Isaiah 59:2
  - What does sin do?
- Deuteronomy 28:15-19
  - What does God say will happen to the one who does not obey?
- The Scriptures don't tell us explicitly whether or not Solomon was remorseful or repentant (like David was over his sin with Bathsheba - Psalm 51). How does Solomon's unknown repentance or lack thereof impact how you view the story?

# Notes

## CONTEMPLATING WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR LIFE

- Are there areas in your life where divided loyalties or distractions are your heart away from God? How can you address these to refocus on Him?
- Reflect on how God uses consequences to guide His people back to Him. Are there moments in your life where difficult outcomes led you to recommit to following Jesus more closely or more intentionally?

# Notes

# For Further Study

- Deuteronomy 7:1-4
  - Compare God's warning in Deuteronomy about intermarrying with 1 Kings 11.
- Matthew 1:6-7
  - What is the significance of this passage despite Solomon's fall?
- 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
  - How does this passage relate (or not) to what we have studied regarding the fall of Solomon? How can we apply this teaching to our relationships today?

# Notes

# Week 6 / Solomon and his Writings

## Ecclesiastes 1

*Solomon is traditionally considered to be the author of Ecclesiastes.*

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!”

says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless.”

3 What do people gain from all their labors

at which they toil under the sun?

4 Generations come and generations go,

but the earth remains forever.

5 The sun rises and the sun sets,

and hurries back to where it rises.

6 The wind blows to the south

and turns to the north;

round and round it goes,

ever returning on its course.

7 All streams flow into the sea,

yet the sea is never full.

To the place the streams come from,

there they return again.

8 All things are wearisome,

more than one can say.

The eye never has enough of seeing,

nor the ear its fill of hearing.

9 What has been will be again,

what has been done will be done again;

there is nothing new under the sun.

10 Is there anything of which one can say,

“Look! This is something new”?

It was here already, long ago;

it was here before our time.

11 No one remembers the former generations,  
and even those yet to come  
will not be remembered  
by those who follow them.

12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! 14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened;  
what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said to myself, "Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." 17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow;  
the more knowledge, the more grief.

# Look, Learn & Contemplate

## LOOKING AT THE TEXT

- Ecclesiastes 1:2-3
  - How does Solomon describe the permanency of life?
- Ecclesiastes 1:4-11
  - What examples does the author provide to illustrate the cyclical nature of life?
- Ecclesiastes 1:16-18
  - What conclusion does the author reach about the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge?

## LEARNING WHAT IT SAYS

In Solomon's story we see his rise and fall and now here, in Ecclesiastes, we are presented with great wisdom literature that is believed to be written near the end of his life. Despite Solomon's sin God has used Solomon to teach His people wisdom from then until this day. Throughout Scripture there are examples of people who sinned and yet God used them anyway.

- Read Exodus 2:11-15. What sin did Moses commit?
  - Read Exodus 3:1-10. What did God call Moses to do?
  - Read Numbers 12:6-7. What does God say about Moses?
- God still used Moses even after he killed a man and still used Solomon despite the sin he committed. What does this show you about the character of God?

# Notes

## CONTEMPLATING WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR LIFE

- God used Moses even after he killed a man, God used David despite his sin, and God has left us with rich wisdom from Solomon even after the great sin he committed. What questions are you wrestling through as you reflect on the tension of God bringing about good in the midst of sin and evil?
- Through this study on the Life of Solomon how have you seen God's character displayed?
- Romans 3:23 says "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." What areas of your life have you fallen short in. Take sometime to confess your sin before God.
- Ephesians 1:7-10 says, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. and thank him for his forgiveness and mercy that he has lavished upon you." Spend some time thanking God for his forgiveness and grace that he has lavished upon you.

# Notes

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# Notes

