

The Temple begins

Notes for 5 Jul

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Read: [1 Kings 4-5](#), [2 Chronicles 2](#)

Solomon's Reign

Traditional biblical dating places it around 970-931 BCE (based on 1 Kings. 11:42). Some historians suggest c960-929 BCE. Dates for the construction of the Temple: 957-950 BCE.

This period was one of the weaker periods for Egyptian rule and empire building. However, Solomon formed an alliance with Egypt. No archaeological proof of Solomon but his reign aligns with 'The United Monarchy' period, ie before the split. Possible references in later Egyptian and Assyrian records.

He wrote approximately 3000 proverbs, and 1000 songs. Traditionalists also credit him with writing Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.

These last few statements reflect the fact that he was a man of some intellectual substance as well as a keen observer of human behaviour.

1. Ch 4:7 gives an insight into Solomon's rule. What is the wisdom of this form of delegation?
2. Each district had to supply one month's provision to Solomon. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this formula?
3. Ch 4:21. 'These Countries brought tribute and were Solomon's subjects all his life'. How would you interpret this?
4. Does Ch 4:26 support the adage: 'If you want peace prepare for war'?
5. What do you understand by having the gift of Wisdom?
6. Are verses 29 to 34 reflecting only one dimension of wisdom? What would you add?
7. In modern politics, it's reckoned that the best way to establish peace between nations is to ensure good trading links. Is this supported in 1 Kings 5?
8. Ch 5 is effectively devoted to the building of the Temple. The planning was meticulous and looking at the logistics, the building of it was very expensive. What does this inform you about the importance of having a Temple devoted to Yaweh?
9. 2 Chronicles 2:12 indicates that Hiram acknowledged that the God of Israel had given David a wise son endowed with intelligence and discernment because he was to build a Temple for the Lord and a palace for himself. Do you agree?
10. What do you make of 2 Chronicles 2:17-18?
11. We have now studied 1 Kings chapters 1 to 5. Do you recognise any pitfalls in the narrative so far that could lead to Solomon's downfall?