

- Recap of last week: Adonijah tries to set himself up as King but Nathan and Bathsheba intervene to get Solomon anointed King instead. (I Kings 1). David dies but before he does tells Solomon to keep God's commandments (I Kings 2) Solomon asks God for wisdom and immediately illustrates his wisdom by deciding who a mother is by threatening to divide a child. (I Kings 3) Solomon's wealth and wisdom grow. (I Kings 4)
- King Hiram of Tyre loved David and when he hears that Solomon is now King he makes a deal with Solomon – he sends them their famous trees “cedars of Lebanon” – by boat, and Solomon sends him wheat and oil. (I Kings 5: 1-7)
- Solomon must provide the labor, so he drafts 30,000 men to go to Lebanon, (10,000 for a month, then those 10,000 would spend two months at home). (I Kings 5: 12-14)
- Solomon also drafted 80,000 men to cut stone out of quarries, 70,000 men to carry the stones, and 3,300 men to supervise. (I Kings 5: 14-18)
- Solomon is going to use these materials in lots of different construction activities. In the fourth year of his reign he starts building a temple. He uses very exact measurements and construction materials according to God's instruction. It takes him seven years to complete it. (I Kings 6)
- Solomon takes 13 years to build his own palace. In it there are many different buildings, including a court house. One of these buildings was a house for Pharaoh's daughter (obviously not the same Pharaoh who they left in Egypt almost 500 years earlier) who was one of his wives. In those days it was common for Kings to marry into the families of other Kings to preserve peace between them. (1 Kings 7:1-12)
- Solomon brings Hiram of Tyre to work there because he is an expert with bronze and he makes a lot of the temple furnishings for Solomon. (I Kings 5: 13-51)
- Solomon sends for the Ark of the Covenant which contains only one thing – the ten commandments written by God on stone and given to Moses. He puts it in the “Holy of Holies: which is the most sacred part of the temple (I Kings 8:1-9) (II Chronicles 5)
- When Solomon puts it there the priests could not even stand to be in there because the glory of the Lord was so intense in the form of a cloud. (I Kings 8: 10-11)
- Solomon blesses the people, blesses the Lord, dedicates the temple, offers a closing benediction, then sacrifices (which are consumed by fire from the Lord) (I Kings 8: 12-66) (2 Chronicles 6, 7:1-9)
- God appears to Solomon, and tells him that He will be with him and Israel as long as they are keeping His commandments, but if they are not then He will not be with them. (I Kings 9: 1-9) (II Chronicles 7:10-22)
- Solomon does many more acts and continues to sacrifice to God. (I Kings 9: 10-28)
- A Queen named the Queen of Sheba (probably in Ethiopia) hears about Solomon's wisdom and goes to test him. She is impressed and they exchange very expensive gifts. (I Kings 10: 1-13)
- Solomon amasses great wealth. It is unparalleled in human history. (I Kings 10: 14-29)

Questions

1. Who was King Hiram?
2. What deal did Solomon and Hiram make?

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I Kings 5-10; 2 Chronicles 5-7

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3. How many men did Solomon send to Lebanon? How did he arrange the shifts?
4. How many men did Solomon draft to cut stones? To carry stones? To supervise?
5. How many men in total did Solomon draft?
6. How long does it take Solomon to build the temple?
7. How long does it take Solomon to build his palace?
8. Why does Solomon build a house for Pharaoh's daughter?
9. Why does Solomon ultimately have King Hiram brought to do work on site?
10. What does Solomon put in the Holy of Holies? What is in it?
11. What four things does Solomon do to consecrate the temple?
12. What happens to Solomon's sacrifices?
13. What does God tell Solomon after Solomon consecrates the temple?
14. Who is the Queen of Sheba?
15. What does the Queen of Sheba do with Solomon?

Originally developed by Madison Laird for high school study at the East Foothill Church of Christ in San Jose, CA following a curriculum outline by Aaron Curtis. Edited by Betty Brown of Jackson, TN. Material may be used free of charge without license or royalty. Questions or comments: madison@madisonlaird.com