



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leader Series: King Solomon

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King David had united Israel and Judah into one of the more powerful nations in the region. This elderly King, realizing that he was near death, ordered Zadok the priest to anoint his son Solomon as his successor. This continued the dynasty of King David over Israel. It would seem that Solomon was an unlikely successor. He was the second son born to Bathsheba, the product of an immoral union and not the eldest of David's sons. Some of us came to leadership by paths that were unusual, even surprising!

INTRODUCTION

Solomon was about twenty years old when he became king in 971 B.C.. This was not without challenge! David prevented the first coup by initiating a quick coronation ceremony for Solomon. The new King foiled the next veiled overthrow plan by banishing those involved. This example helps us to understand why new leaders use a loyalty test in establishing their executive team.

DAVID CHARGES HIS SON SOLOMON

*1 Chronicles 28:9-10 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father. Serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind. For the Lord looks into all hearts, and understands every plan and thought. If you look to Him, He will let you find Him. But if you turn away from Him, He will turn away from you forever. Listen now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a place of worship. Be strong, and do it."*¹

In a grand assembly, David exhorted his son to build Israel's first temple, starting off with a bold venture that would honor the LORD and bless the people. 1). Building the Temple was a privilege granted by God. 2). The task required total devotion, as most significant endeavors do. 3). The building of the Temple and organization of the Temple worship reflected Jehovah as a God of order: (1Chronicles 28:19 & 28:12). 4). God promised success of the building (28:20). 5). David set aside the much of the resources needed as well as all his personal wealth. This encouraged the people to give, amassing nearly 1,000 tons of gold and silver (29:1-9).² What of your treasure do you consecrate to the LORD?

DAVID PRAYS FOR HIS SON SOLOMON

*1 Chronicles 29:18-19a "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, our fathers, preserve this forever in the intentions of the heart of Your people, and direct their heart to You; and give to my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, and to do them all,"*³

David's prayer (1Chronicles 29:10-19) for the people and for his son is a glorious model of thanksgiving and praise. It reveals the Person of God, as well as the earnestness and humility of the one praying. Do you offer such sincere prayers for your family, your team, and your colleagues?

SOLOMON PRAYS FOR WISDOM

*2 Chronicles 1:7-10 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." Solomon answered, "You have been very kind to my father David, and you have made me king in his place. Now, LORD God, may your promise to my father David come true. You have made me king of a people who are as many as the dust of the earth. Now give me wisdom and knowledge so I can lead these people in the right way, because no one can rule them without your help."*⁴

The LORD expressed pleasure that Solomon did not ask for riches, honor, long life, nor death of his enemies, but for wisdom to lead. Jehovah answered, *"Therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. I will also give you more wealth, riches, and honor than any king who has lived before you or any who will live after you."*(2 Chronicles 1:12). Do you ask in prayer for personal things, blessings for yourself? We should seek wisdom to better serve and ask God's grace for others, even mercy for ourselves.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERSHIP STUDY WEDNESDAYS: 7 TO 7:50AM, CAPITOL ROOM 142 SOUTH

STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS: 12:05 TO 12:55 PM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM – CAPITOL 264WEST

Kansas

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THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS

*2 Chronicles 9:1-4 The queen of Sheba heard of King Solomon's fame, and she traveled to Jerusalem to test him with difficult questions. She brought with her a large group of attendants, as well as camels loaded with spices, jewels, and a large amount of gold. When she and Solomon met, she asked him all the questions that she could think of. He answered them all; there was nothing too difficult for him to explain. The queen of Sheba heard Solomon's wisdom and saw the palace he had built. She saw the food that was served at his table, the living quarters for his officials, the organization of his palace staff and the uniforms they wore, the clothing of the servants who waited on him at feasts, and the sacrifices he offered in the Temple. It left her breathless and amazed.*⁵

The Queen gave Solomon great gifts of gold, spices, and precious stones. She complimented Solomon: ***“How fortunate are those who serve you, who are always in your presence and are privileged to hear your wisdom”*** (2 Chronicles 9:7)! Do your colleagues and team members seek your advice and appreciate working close to you? Do people thank God for you? ***“Praise the LORD your God, who delights in you and has placed you on the throne as king to rule for him. Because God loves Israel and desires this kingdom to last forever, he has made you king over them so you can rule with justice and righteousness.”*** The Queen praised God and paid Solomon that very great compliment. She also spoke of God's qualified promise to David and to Solomon that this kingdom would endure forever.

SOLOMON ANGERS THE LORD

1 Kings 11:9-10 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. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command.

Solomon had married foreign women, many for political gain, daughters of other kings. God forbade having multiple wives (Deuteronomy 17:17) and marrying pagan women (Deuteronomy 7:1-4). This was common in secular nations, but these wives turned Solomon toward idol worship. He failed to remove high places of pagan worship, later building another in Jerusalem. Idol worship included Molech and Chemish, deities that required child sacrifice. We lose favor with the Lord when we violate His precepts.

CONCLUSION

Despite the great wisdom of Solomon, he failed to pay attention to things that seemed rather minor. These sins against God accumulated and took control of Solomon. Toward the end, he attempted to kill one of his key men who seemed a threat to his kingship. For David's sake, God did not take away the kingdom while Solomon was living. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, saw the kingdom broken up during his first year as successor (931 B.C.). What small sins do you see that are chipping away at leadership around you? Are you intent on finishing well in your career, in your life?

¹ The Holy Bible, New Life Version. (Christian Literature International). 1969.

² John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson Inc). 2005 p584.

³ The Holy Bible, New American Standard Version. (Lockman Foundation). 1995

⁴ The Holy Bible, New Century Version. (Thomas Nelson Inc.). 2005.

⁵ The Holy Bible, Good News Translation. (American Bible Society). 1992.