

We have been studying about David and what a great king he was. David sinned, and God punished him for those sins. David repented of those sins. David truly loved God.

King David was very old. His servants searched for a young girl to care for him. A girl named Abishag took care of King David in his old age. She fed him and kept him warm. (1 Kings 1:4)

As King David grew old, he had always thought that Solomon would take his place as king. God's plan was to put Solomon on the throne to take David's place as king. Adonijah was a son of David. He wanted to be king.

Adonijah decided it was time for him to be king. He prepared a great feast to announce that he was going to become king. Adonijah invited all the people who were his friends. He did not invite Solomon, Nathan, or the people who were with David.

When Nathan heard what Adonijah was doing, he went to Bathsheba and told her. Nathan and Bathsheba went to King David. (1 Kings 1:17-18) David promised Bathsheba that by the Lord God, Solomon would be king. (1 Kings 1:29-30) David called for Zadok, the priest, and started making plans to anoint Solomon as the new king. King David told Zadok and Nathan what to do to prepare.

Zadok and Nathan followed the instructions of King David. They told Solomon to ride the king's mule. That would show the people that he could be the next king. Then they traveled to Gihon. (1 Kings 1:38) Zadok anointed Solomon as king of Israel. They blew the trumpet and all the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon." (1 Kings 1:39)

The men at Adonijah's feast heard the trumpet and the people shouting. They did not know what the noise was. Then someone told them that King David had made Solomon king of Israel.

King David was thankful that God put Solomon in his place as king while he was able to see it. (1 Kings 1:48) Before David died, he called for Solomon. David told Solomon to continue to walk in the way of the Lord. (1 Kings 2:3) King David talked about the things that were written in the Law of Moses. David gave Solomon instructions on what to do about the enemies. When David died, Solomon was ready to do the duties of being the new king.

Soon after Solomon became king, he went to Gibeon to make offerings to the Lord. Solomon offered 1,000 burnt offerings to the Lord.

Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream. (1 Kings 3:5) God asked Solomon what He could give him. Instead of asking for money or riches, he asked for wisdom and understanding. (1 Kings 3:9) King Solomon asked for an understanding heart so he could be fair in judging people. The Lord was pleased with Solomon. The Lord told Solomon that if he stayed faithful, He would give him a long life. (1 Kings 3:14)

The Lord answered Solomon's prayer and made him very wise. God also gave Solomon riches and honor even though he did not ask for it.

King Solomon was very wise. Once there were two women living in the same house. They each had a baby. One baby died. Each one claimed that the living baby was hers. The two women were arguing over the living baby. (1 Kings 3:16-27)

The women went to Solomon. They wanted Solomon to solve the problem. King Solomon asked for a sword. He said that he would cut the baby in half and each one could have a half. One woman told king Solomon to go ahead. But, the other woman said no. She told Solomon to give the baby to the other woman so the baby could live. King Solomon knew this was the real mother. She was willing to give up the baby to allow it to live. King Solomon gave the baby to this woman.

When the people heard about King Solomon's decision concerning the baby, they could see how wise he was. (1 Kings 3:28) God said the good in Solomon's heart was like all of the sand on the sea shore. (1 Kings 4:29)

Remember that King David had wanted to build a temple for worshipping God. But the Lord told David no. God's plan was for Solomon to build the temple. David had left Solomon instructions on how God wanted the temple to be built. And, David had left many things to be used for the temple.

Solomon had a friend named King Hiram. He had huge cedar and cypress trees on his land. King Solomon gave King Hiram food in exchange for the wood needed to build the temple. (1 Kings 5:10) King Hiram also helped King Solomon by sending workers to help build the temple.

The work on the temple began. Solomon used the best of everything to build the temple. Thousands of men worked on the temple. It took 7 years to build it. (1 Kings 6:38) The temple was built in the same design as the tabernacle. But the temple was twice as big. The walls of the temple were covered with cedar. The floor was made with fir so no stone was seen. The Most Holy Place was overlaid with pure gold. The temple was beautiful.

When the building of the temple was completed, the Ark of the Covenant was brought into the temple. The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant and placed it in the Most Holy Place. (1 Kings 8:6) The other furnishings in the temple were the same as the tabernacle. The golden lampstand, the altar of incense and the table of showbread were in the temple.

When everything had been finished, Solomon had a great feast. King Solomon made a speech praising God for all He had done. God had made the promise to David that Solomon would build the temple. Solomon prayed thanking God for making it happen. The temple was their place of worship. Solomon asked God to forgive His people for their sins. Then Solomon offered sacrifices to the Lord.

People all over the world had heard about Solomon because he was so rich and so wise. Important people from far away wanted to see Solomon and hear the things he said.

The Queen of Sheba brought a caravan carrying gold, precious stones, and spices. The queen had heard how rich and how wise Solomon was. She traveled to see him so she could ask him some difficult questions to test him.

The Queen of Sheba wanted to see if what she had heard about Solomon was true. (1 Kings 10:1) She gave the gifts to Solomon. Solomon answered all her questions. The Queen of Sheba saw for herself that the things were true about Solomon.

King Solomon was richer than all of the other kings. God had promised that his kingdom would continue forever if he would keep an honest heart for the Lord. God warned him that if he or his sons worshipped idols, they would be cast out of their land.

Even though Solomon was a very wise man, he still turned away from worshipping God. Solomon married and was with people who worshipped idols. Solomon began to do what the others were doing. He began to worship their idols. He forgot his love for the true God.

King Solomon had many problems after he turned away from God. God was going to divide Solomon's kingdom because he was sinning by worshipping idols.

Solomon died in Jerusalem after he had been king for 40 years. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became the king after the death of Solomon.