

Week Twenty-One

Days 141–147



Royal Kingdom Narrative: 2 Samuel 23–24; 1 Kings 1–5 | Supplemental: 1 Chronicles 28–29; 2 Chronicles 1–8; Psalms 30, 42–43, 62, 64–66

KING SOLOMON IS WISE AND IMPERFECT



Dream of Solomon
by Luca Giordano

King David's reign comes to an end in this week's readings. He proclaims Solomon as his successor. Solomon's reign begins with great promise. God is pleased that Solomon asks for wisdom to rule well, and he says Solomon will live a long life if he remains obedient. But despite having great wisdom, Solomon does not remain completely faithful. He takes many wives and participates with them in the worship of their false gods. But Solomon builds the Temple in Jerusalem, his greatest achievement.

- David imparts his hard-earned wisdom to his son in his final words to Solomon.
- We often hear that children pay more attention to the example we set than the advice we offer. David advises Solomon to stay close to the Lord and heed his commands, but his example to his son was that of a divided heart and a distant father.
- Scripture will show Solomon following his father's example, not his advice.
- Our reading from 2 Chronicles reveals the greatest work of Solomon's life—the building of the holy Temple of the Lord.
- The Temple is essential because the presence of the Lord will abide there, and it is where the people will offer worship.
- In 2 Chronicles 7, God responds positively to Solomon's prayer of dedication at the Temple. God sends fire from heaven to consume the sacrifices Solomon has offered.
- The Lord also tells Solomon that he will be with him, as he was with David, his father—if he follows him. If he serves other gods, however, God will “uproot the people from the land” (2 Chronicles 7:20).
- Though the Lord has given Solomon a direct warning to remain close to him, this king does not.
- While wisdom is a great virtue, obedience is more powerful. Disobedience to the Lord will be Solomon's downfall.
- Like Solomon, we might know the right thing to do, but this does not mean we will always do the right thing.
- We need God's grace both to know the truth and choose to live it.

Dive Deeper

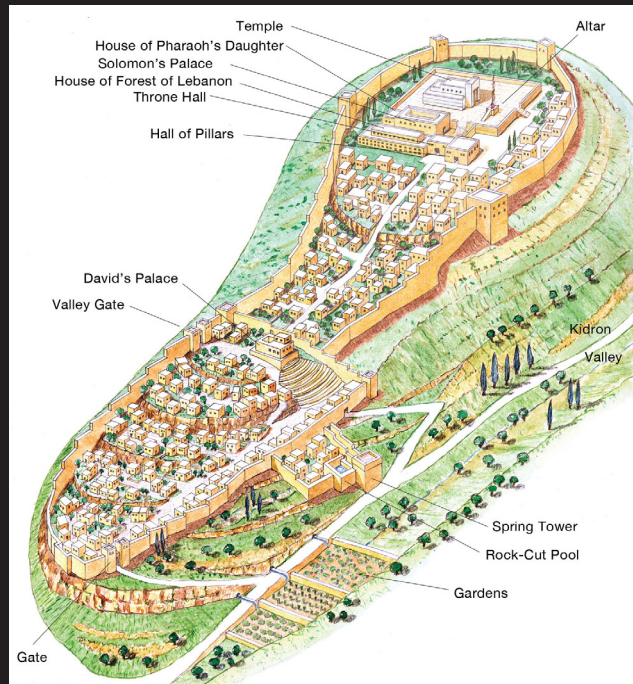
Knowing the right thing is one thing; choosing to do it is another. Pray for the strength to choose the right thing even when it is difficult.

Bible Answers

Why was Solomon selected from among all of David's sons to be his successor? Did Bathsheba have something to do with this?

When King David's son Adonijah makes himself king, the prophet Nathan asks Bathsheba to remind David of his promise that her son Solomon would be king. When Bathsheba does so, David orders Zadok the priest and Nathan to anoint Solomon ruler over Israel and Judah.

This shows Bathsheba's power of intercession. Since she is the mother of the king (the *Gebirah*, in Hebrew), Bathsheba becomes queen. A little later, in 1 Kings 2, we will see that she, as queen mother, intercedes during her son's reign as well. In this way, she is a type of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, who intercedes for us with her Son, Jesus, the King.



JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF SOLOMON

This reconstruction drawing shows Jerusalem at the time of Solomon. Solomon built the Temple to the north of the City of David, on top of Mount Moriah.



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