




BIBLE STUDY

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE



<https://campus.cru.org/college/bsu/community-group-material/>

STUDY 

SOLOMON

SOLOMON

OVERVIEW

What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

1 KINGS 10: 1-13

Solomon was the third and last king of the united kingdom of Israel, following King Saul and King David. He was the son of David and Bathsheba, the former wife of Uriah the Hittite whom David had killed to hide his adultery with Bathsheba while her husband was on the battle front. Solomon wrote the Song of Solomon, the book of Ecclesiastes, and much of the book of Proverbs. His authorship of Ecclesiastes is contested by some, but Solomon is the only “son of David” to be “king over Israel” (not just Judah) “in Jerusalem” ([Ecclesiastes 1:1, 12](#)), and many of the descriptions of the author fit Solomon perfectly. Solomon reigned for 40 years ([1 Kings 11:42](#)).

What are the highlights of Solomon’s life? When he ascended to the throne, he sought after God, and God gave him opportunity to ask for whatever he wanted. Solomon humbly acknowledged his inability to rule well and unselfishly asked God for the wisdom he would need to rule God’s people justly. God gave him wisdom and wealth besides ([1 Kings 3:4-15; 10:27](#)). In fact, “King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth” ([1 Kings 10:23](#)). God also gave Solomon peace on all sides during most of his reign ([1 Kings 4:20-25](#)). Solomon wrote many proverbs and songs ([1 Kings 4:32](#)) and completed many building projects ([1 Kings 7:1-12; 9:15-23](#)).

There are many lessons we can learn from the life of Solomon. First, when we seek God with all of our heart, He will be found ([1 Kings 3:3-7](#)). Second, those who honor God will be honored by Him ([1 Kings 3:11-13; 1 Samuel 2:30](#)). Third, God will equip us to accomplish the tasks He calls us to if we will rely on Him ([1 Kings 3; Romans 12:3-8; 2 Peter 1:3](#)). Fourth, the spiritual life is a marathon, not a sprint. A good start is not always enough to finish well ([1 Kings 3; 11](#)). Fifth, we can sincerely ask God to incline our hearts toward Him ([1 Kings 8:57-58](#)), but we will wander off the path of righteousness if we choose to violate His revealed Word. Sixth, those closest to us will affect our spiritual lives ([Exodus 34:16; 1 Kings 11:1-8; Daniel 1; 3; 1 Corinthians 15:33](#)), and we must therefore be very careful of the company we keep. Seventh, life lived apart from God will be meaningless, regardless of education, fulfilled goals, the greatest of pleasures, and the greatest abundance of wealth ([Ecclesiastes 1:2](#)).

Group Context Questions

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY AND HOW?

Who: is Solomon in the Bible?

What: did Solomon do?

When: is Solomon seen in the Bible?

Where: is Solomon at in the Bible?

Why: should we know about Solomon?

How: does Solomon impact us?

VOCABULARY WORDS

Wisdom

- Wisdom and knowledge, both recurring themes in the Bible, are related but not synonymous. The dictionary defines wisdom as “the ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting.” Knowledge, on the other hand, is “information gained through experience, reasoning, or acquaintance.” Knowledge can exist without wisdom, but not the other way around. One can be knowledgeable without being wise. Knowledge is knowing how to use a gun; wisdom is knowing when to use it and when to keep it holstered.

CONTEXT QUESTIONS

Allow your group to share some of their prior knowledge of who this character is and their significance. Familiarize yourself with this character so you can also answer. Make sure to do this in a way that is inclusive of those who may not have any prior knowledge.

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Watch This Video With Your Group

VIDEO LINK HERE: [SOLOMON VIDEO](#)

This video is a general overview of the entire book of Kings. It will be very helpful regarding context and background info.

Allow your group to discuss what they gathered from the video. What stuck out to them? Eg. “If you were to take notes over this video what would be some of the main ideas you write down?”

VIDEO

- Feel free to share these videos with your group so they can also watch. You may also find any other outside sources that you might think to be valuable to their understanding of the Word.

What Are the Questions?

I KINGS 10: 1-13

LAUNCH

What is your personal opinion toward the idea of *wisdom*, or toward someone who intentionally seeks out wisdom? Have you ever pursued wisdom and if so, how has that impacted you?

I KINGS 10: 1-5

1. What is happening in this passage?
2. Who visits Solomon and for what reason? What can we infer about this person?
3. What does the Queen of Sheba bring with her upon her visit to Jerusalem?
4. How does Solomon meet her with her questions? What state does this leave her in?

I KINGS 10: 6-10

5. What is the Queen of Sheba's attitude toward Solomon's response?
6. How are wisdom and prosperity tied together in this passage? Is prosperity in this case a bad thing? What led to Solomon's prosperity (refer to **1 Kings 3: 1-15**)?

7. What does the Queen of Sheba say about the subjects of Solomon? What does this mean?
8. What is the Queen of Sheba's response toward God when witnessing Solomon's wisdom and prosperity? What does this mean?
9. Throughout Israel's history, how does God use their obedience (and even disobedience) to make Himself known to the world?
10. The Queen of Sheba can be called a *seeker*. Does she make a true confession of faith here?

I KINGS 10: 11-13

11. How does Solomon use the gifts from the Queen of Sheba?
12. What can we learn from the wisdom of Solomon?

SOLOMON

QUESTIONS

What Are the Questions? (Continued)

MATTHEW 12: 38-42

NEW TESTAMENT CORRELATION

In light of this passage, how can we look at these New Testament passages and better understand the character of Christ? How can we use these passages and interpret scripture using other scripture?

MATTHEW 12: 38-42

13. What sticks out to you? What's going on in this passage?
14. What were the Pharisees asking for? In what manner are they asking?
15. How does Jesus respond to their request? What OT events does he recall?
16. What point is Jesus trying to get across with the way he responds to the scribes and Pharisees?
17. How does Jesus relate Himself to Solomon? How can we connect the two passages we read and how does the OT passage help aid our understanding of the character of Christ?

APPLICATION

18. Like the Queen of Sheba, have you ever been impressed by someone's wealth, success, or outward splendor? How often do you value what someone possesses more than the condition of their soul—or your own?
19. How can you use the gifts that God has given you, like Solomon's gifted wisdom, to advance the Kingdom of Heaven and glorify God? What gifts do you think God has blessed you with?
20. Should we be living with the expectation that God will give us a sign? Why do you think the signs that God has given us never feel like enough when it comes to having a strong faith? Where can we find all of the necessary sign that God has given us for salvation? (Bible)

FALLEN CONDITION

“What do these passages reveal about our fallen condition?”

- Help your group understand and identify the broken state of humanity due to our sin and where we see that evident in these passages.

CHRIST CENTERED SOLUTION

“What do these passages tell us about Christ's response?”

- Amidst our broken, sinful nature, what does Jesus offer as a solution? Where do we see a solution in these passages?

GRACE ENABLED RESPONSE

“What do these passages teach us about how we should live?”

- How should we live now with these two truths in mind? Develop a one or two sentence long summary of each section to form a summary of what you can learn from these passages.

What Are the Answers?

1. Allow your group to discuss.
2. The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon intending to test him and witness his wisdom as well as his splendor. We can assume this Queen is very rich and extravagant, but more importantly, that she is not a believer.
3. She traveled in the manner of a queen bringing with her a very large retinue, holding gifts and goods for trade.
4. The Queen of Sheba had great—and seemingly difficult—questions for Solomon. He leaves none of her questions unanswered. When she witnesses this along with his splendor (do not forget that she had many riches herself) she is left without any breath in her. She was completely overwhelmed by the glory of the kingdom.
5. “And behold, the half was not told me...” (v.6) She praises Solomon and his kingdom.
6. No, Solomon’s wisdom is a gift from God and is used for the betterment of Israel, which results in great prosperity. In fact, when Solomon asks for wisdom, God blesses his servant-heart with not only great wisdom, but with a flourishing kingdom. Solomon asked for wisdom not for his own honor but to honor God and His people.
7. She claims that those who serve Solomon must be happy men and happy servants because they get to stand before his wisdom each day. It is a joyful thing to serve a wise and rich king. It is much more joyful to serve Christ.
8. God promised Israel that if they obeyed the Old Covenant, He would bless them tremendously, that the world would take notice and give glory to God. She is acknowledging the God of Israel as great. This might lead some to think she has made a confession of faith.
9. God uses Israel’s obedience to display to the nations His glory and does so by blessing their obedience with great flourishing for all to see. With disobedience He shows the world that He will punish even his own people, both cases, making Himself known.
10. Allow your group to discuss what they think. Generally, the answer to this question is no, because we do not clearly see any acknowledgment of her own decision to serve the God of Israel, but rather all she does is acknowledge His glory. You can believe that God exists and that He is glorious, but you must serve Him as Lord and Savior.
11. He uses these gifts to build stairs for the temple and instruments for singers. Advancing the Kingdom (making the temple more extravagant and instruments of worship) yet again with the gifts he has been given.
12. Allow your group to discuss.
13. Allow your group to discuss.
14. The Pharisees were asking Jesus for a sign, even though He had already given countless signs and marvels to the public. We can assume that they are asking this mockingly and that no matter what sign Jesus gave them, they would not believe.
15. Jesus responds by calling them evil and adulterous. Then He recalls the story of Jonah and of the Queen of Sheba. He connects the story of Jonah to His being in the tomb for three days and His resurrection. He then connects His majesty to the story from 1 Kings 10, and claims that His majesty is greater than the one that the Queen of Sheba marveled at in Solomon.
16. Allow your group to discuss.
17. He is the greater Solomon. He is a perfect King; more wise, more extravagant, perfectly faithful.
- 18-20. Allow group to discuss.

What's Next?**DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP:**

Should we continue discussion on this passage or move on through the text next week?

Do you guys feel confident in your understanding of what was discussed tonight?

Any questions? (Allow anyone to come to you in private if needed)

Announcements**WHAT'S GOING ON?**

Where is Cru at this week?

What upcoming events do we have?

Any other announcements? Should be in the slack.

Prayer**BREAK OFF AND PRAY**

Take this time as an opportunity to model prayer to those who are younger in their faith.

Provide opportunities for those who wish to pray.

Model different types of prayer like the ACTS model.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Jesus Greater than Solomon](#)
- [What does Matthew 12:42 Mean?](#)