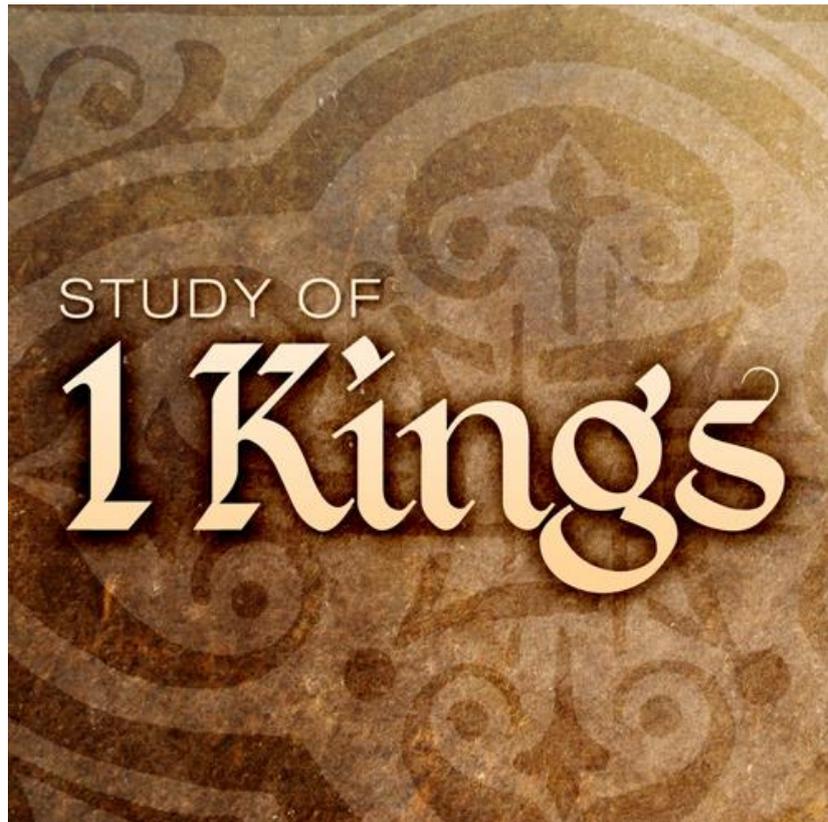


The Book of 1 Kings



Part 2
4 studies in 1 Kings

Introduction

The two books, 1 & 2 Kings, in the Hebrew Old Testament were one book. It was divided by the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) translators. They summarized these books as follows: I The Reign of Solomon; II Division of the Kingdom, and Parallel History of the Two Kingdoms; III Subsequent History of Judah to the Captivity.

1 Kings opens with the Hebrew nation in its glory. 2 Kings closes with the nation in ruin. Together they cover a period of about 400 years, from 1000-600 BC.

Author

The author is not known. A Jewish tradition says it was Jeremiah. Whoever the author is, he makes frequent reference to state annals and other historical records existent in his day, such as: "The book of the acts of Solomon"; "The book of chronicles of the Kings of Judah"; and "The book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel" (1 Kings 11:41; 14:19, 29; 15:7, 23, 31; 16:5, 14, 27 etc.).

Brief Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. The last days of David and Solomon's Accession | 1 Kings 1:1 - 1 Kings 2:46 |
| 2. The reign of Solomon | 1 Kings 3:1 - 1 Kings 11:43 |
| 3. History of the Divided Kingdom | 1 Kings 12:1 - 2 Kings 10:36 |
| 4. History of Judah and Israel to the fall of Northern Kingdom | 2 Kings 11:1 - 2 Kings 17:41 |
| 5. History of Judah to the fall of Jerusalem | 2 Kings 18:1 - 2 Kings 25:30 |

Alternative Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Golden Age | 1 Kings 1-11 |
| 2. The Torn Kingdom | 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17 |
| 3. The Last Days | 2 Kings 18-25 |

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
2. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP.**

Study 1 - What a discerning heart looks like

1 Kings 3:16-28

(Sermon on 05-Sept-21)

Before we begin: remind yourself of the what Solomon asked for in 1 Kings 3:1-15

Solomon has been established as King of Israel.

God appears to Solomon in a dream and says "Ask for whatever you want me to give you" (1 Kings 3:5)

Solomon asks God for "a discerning heart to govern God's people and to distinguish between right and wrong; for who is able to govern this great people of Yours?" (1 Kings 3:9)

God was pleased with Solomon's request.

God not only gave Solomon a wise and discerning heart (1 Kings 3:12) - but He also gave Solomon what he didn't ask for - both wealth and honour - so that they will be no king like Solomon (1 Kings 3:13)

God also promised Solomon a long life, if he walked in obedience and kept God's decrees and commands (1 Kings 3:14)

Read 1 Kings 3:16-22

1. What case is brought before Solomon for him to judge?

2 prostitutes came before King Solomon

The 1st woman asked Solomon to judge their case

The 1st woman explained that she had a baby and 3 days later the 2nd woman had a baby also. They were the only people living in the house. Therefore, no witnesses.

The 2nd woman's baby died because she lay on him during the night; so, she got up and took the 1st woman's baby from her and swapped the baby with the dead baby.

When the 1st woman woke up to nurse her baby - he was dead - but when she looked closely, she realized this wasn't her baby

The 2nd woman denied this version of events and said the living baby was hers. Solomon has to decide who is telling the truth.

2. Which woman are we meant to believe?

The author wants us to believe the 1st woman whose baby is alive and has been swapped by the 2nd woman.

Read 1 Kings 3:23-28

3. What does Solomon decide to do to resolve the case before him?

Solomon summarizes the dilemma in v23 - it's a question of 'she said A' and 'she said B'; i.e., one person's word against another and there were no witnesses.

So, Solomon decides to take a sword and shock horror, cut the living baby in half - and give each woman half a baby!

Solomon's reasoning is that the threat of death to the child would reveal the real mother's feelings in an urgent appeal to save the child's life.

4. How does Solomon's decision reveal the identity of the living baby's mother?

The 1st woman being the mother of the living baby; and out of love for her son (v26) pleads with King Solomon not to kill the child but give the child to the 2nd woman. The 1st woman would rather have the child live without her than to die.

Whereas the 2nd woman who is not the real mother of the living baby is okay with the King cutting the living baby in two.

From their responses, Solomon is able to determine that the love of the real mother means she would not want any harm to come to her child and is willing to give up (sacrifice) her child to the other woman. So, Solomon rules that the 1st woman is the mother of the living baby (v27).

5. How do the people of Israel respond to Solomon's wisdom?

When the people of Israel heard the King's verdict, they held him in awe because they had saw he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

God had answered Solomon's prayer from 1 Kings 3:9 - "So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

Read Isaiah 11:1-5

6. Who is Isaiah referring to?

In chapter 10:33-34 God left the people of Israel with the idea of Him chopping down the proud as if they were mighty trees - a picture of judgment on Israel by the invading Assyrians and Babylonians.

Even though they would be chopped down, there will be a shoot coming up from the remaining stump, the stump of Jesse (the Father of King David). This shoot will grow into a branch - a branch that grows out of one of them. In other words, a descendant of Jesse will rise up from what appears to be a hopeless situation. God's timing is perfect; and it took 600 years from the time of David, son of Jesse, to one of his descendants, Jesus, to come forth.

Why does Isaiah mention Jesse, and not David? Jesse was the much less famous father of King David. This emphasizes the humble nature of the promised stump, the Messiah, our Lord Jesus. It's far more humble to say "from Jesse" than "from King David".

7. What attributes does this "stump of Jesse" have:

a. In verse 2?

- He will have the **Spirit of the Lord** (see Matthew 3:16 and John 1:32-33 - at Jesus' baptism the Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove)
- He will have the **Spirit of wisdom and understanding** (see Eph 1:17 and Colossians 2:3) - and as 1 Cor 1:30 says - Jesus is the wisdom of God for us!
- He will have the **Spirit of counsel and might** (see Isaiah 9:6 - the government will be on his shoulders; and He will be called Wonderful Counsellor; Mighty God; Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace) - and He is our empathetic High Priest (Heb 4:15-16)
- He will have the **Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord** (see 1 Timothy 1:7 - God does not give us a spirit of fear)

b. In verse 3? What are the criteria for judging here? How does that relate to Solomon's judgment in the case of the two women?

- a. He will delight in the fear of the Lord. He won't judge by what he sees (by appearances) or decide by what he hears (listen to rumours or hearsay)
- b. Solomon judged like God - not by outward appearances but by the women's hearts - by seeing the love of the 1st woman and the callousness of the 2nd woman - Solomon knew who was telling the truth. He didn't listen to their rhetoric.

c. In verse 4?

- a. *He will judge with righteousness (i.e., being right with God and approved by God)*
- b. *He will give the poor and needy fairness and justice; something the world often fails to do; the poor and needy are often oppressed and don't receive proper justice.*
- c. *His Word will strike the earth - remember Jesus' word is alive and active and sharper than a double-edged sword that penetrates people's lives and strikes down nations (Heb 4:12 & Rev 19:15)*

d. In verse 5?

- a. *He will have righteousness (from God) as his belt*
- b. *He will have faithfulness (to God) around his waist*

Optional: Read Psalm 72

8. Who wrote the psalm?

Solomon - as the title says "of Solomon" - but note v20 says "this concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse"

To reconcile this - Psalm 72 is the conclusion of Book II of the Psalms - and it is thought that v20 was added to show that David is the chief author of entire Book II of the Psalms

9. Summarize what Solomon is asking of God.

- *Solomon asks God that he could have God's justice and God's righteousness, so He can judge God's people as God would do with righteousness and justice (vv1-2)*
- *He asks for prosperity for the people (v3)*
- *He asks that he will be able to protect those who are afflicted and in need (v4)*
- *He asks that his reign be a long fulfilling one where the righteous flourish (vv5-7)*
- *He asks that his kingdom be expansive (to the ends of the earth) and that his kingship and reputation would be known by all the world, so that foreign kings and queens would acknowledge and honour him (vv8-11)*
- *He promises to deliver the needy and afflicted; to take pity on the weak and rescue those who oppressed and victims of violence (vv12-14)*

- *He asks that he will have a long life, that many will pray for him and that he will be prosperous (gold from Sheba; abundant crops) and a "name" that endures forever and that many nations will be blessed through him (vv15-17)*
- *He concludes with praise to God and that the whole earth will be filled with his glory (vv18-19)*
- *Wouldn't it be great if our nation's leaders or any nation's leader could live up to Psalm 72?*
- *It should be noted that what Psalm 72 expects of a King - ultimately refers to the reign of King Jesus - whose reign fully corresponds to all the statements in this psalm.*

10. **Ponder:** the wisdom that we see from Solomon, in 1 Kings 3, points to greater **ONE** coming after Solomon, who will outstrip Solomon. (cf. Colossians 2:3 and Ephesians 1:20-22). How is this ONE described?

Solomon begins his reign very well in 1 Kings 3 - and the wisdom he shows in dealing with the two prostitutes is remarkable indeed.

However, by the time we get to 1 Kings 11 - we see Solomon's wisdom is not maintained. He intermarries with many foreign wives who turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not devoted to the Lord God (1 Kings 11:4)

Instead, we must look to one greater than Solomon (Matthew 12:42). Someone who always does God the Father's will; that is of course, King Jesus.

Colossians 2:3 describes Jesus as the one in whom "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"

Ephesians 1:20-22 describes Jesus as "seated at the Father's right hand in the heavenly realms far above all rule and authority, power and dominion" - and "God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church"

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 3:16-28?

What a discerning (God-listening) heart looks like



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

- *The wisdom and justice that Solomon applied in the case of the two prostitutes foreshadows the wisdom and justice that Jesus brings to our lives.*

- *The willingness for the mother to sacrifice her son - points to the willingness of God the Father, to sacrifice His only Son.*

How does this passage **apply to your life?**

- *We see in these two women the **result of The Fall** - when sin came into the world. We see this in their profession as prostitutes which meant they were mistreated by men and considered outcasts of society; we see it in the way one woman swaps her dead baby for a living one; we see it in the lies the woman tells to try to get the baby which is not hers; and we see it her willingness because of her own loss, to let the baby even die rather than the real mother keeping her baby! One lie leads to another and then to deceit and people will go to any lengths rather than be exposed. **Our lives are messy and God's wisdom is needed in our lives.***
- *In the action of the real mother, we see the **love, kindness and mercy that God has built into His world**, so that a mother loves her child even to the point of self-sacrifice*
- *The ways, works and even the **judgments of God can often at first seem strange, dangerous or even foolish. But time shows them to be perfect wisdom.** My ways are higher than your ways, says the Lord (Isaiah 55:8-9).*
- *Keep asking that the **God of our Lord Jesus Christ...may give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation**, so that we may know Him better - as Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:17. God answered Solomon's prayer for a discerning (God-listening) heart. We can ask for wisdom as James 1:5 tells us*
- *In **Jesus we have the ultimate wise King** - someone greater than Solomon (Matthew 12:42)*
- ***Solomon judges between sinful women in this case. It is a picture of a judgment to come**, where the only truly wise one, King Jesus, will judge all humankind. On that judgment day - Jesus will sit on His glorious throne (Matt 25:31) and He will separate the sheep and the goats (Matt 25:32-33)*

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*V28 - When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had **wisdom from God** to administer justice.*

Finish in prayer: Ask God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know Him better (Ephesians 1:17)

- Wisdom for the Kingdom

1 Kings 4:1-28

(Sermon on 12-Sept-21)

Last study we saw Solomon apply wisdom in the case of two women who came to him. This study we see the wisdom needed for the Kingdom.

Read 1 Kings 4:1-6

1. What is this list? (cf. verse 2). What is the point of the list?

This is a list of chief officials.

The point of the list is to show the wise way that King Solomon, having been blessed with great wisdom from God, surrounded himself with priests, secretaries, recorders, commanders, governors, advisers and administrators.

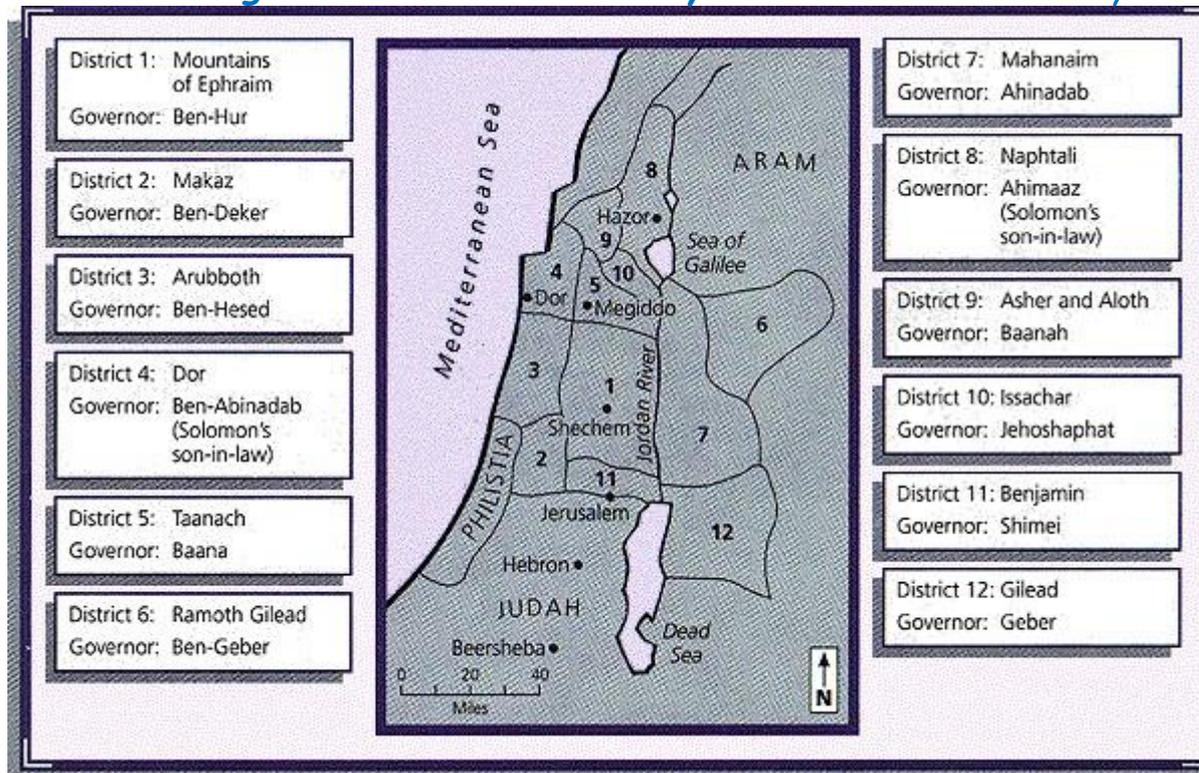
A successful kingdom needs wise leaders to ensure the kingdom functions as it should. There is also wisdom in delegation - to share the load.

Read 1 Kings 4:7-19

2. What is this list? (cf. verse 7). What is the point of the list?

There is a list of 12 district governors over all Israel, who supplied provisions for the King and his royal household.

Note: This organisation wasn't done by tribal lines. Which may be controversial.



Note: Judah is not included in these districts.

3. What is the purpose of these governors? (cf. verse 7)

The 12 governors were organized such that each one supplied provisions for one month of the year; i.e., royal taxes!

Note: could be the sowing of a seed of a problem between Israel (10 tribes) and Judah; if Judah not paying royal taxes!

4. What do verses 1 to 19 have to do with wisdom?

These verses are evidence of the wisdom God gave Solomon. The text implies that God's gift of wisdom extends to the ordering of life and affairs.

God's wisdom is not only concerned with moral and accurate judgments, like the 2 prostitutes in last week's study (1 Kings 3:16-28); God's wisdom is also concerned with efficient and orderly structure. God's order prevents chaos and disorder and prevents waste in running the kingdom. It shows God is a God of order - and He leaves nothing to chance.

The prophet Samuel had warned the people of the "cost" of having a king (1 Samuel 8). It seems this is a fulfilment of what it will cost to have such a king.

Read 1 Kings 4:20-28

5. What's the tone of these verses?

There is a tone of abundance, happiness and God's covenant blessing about these verses. Israel at this point is a land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8).

The tone is security and safety.

6. What do we learn about the people of Judah and Israel from verses 20 & 25?

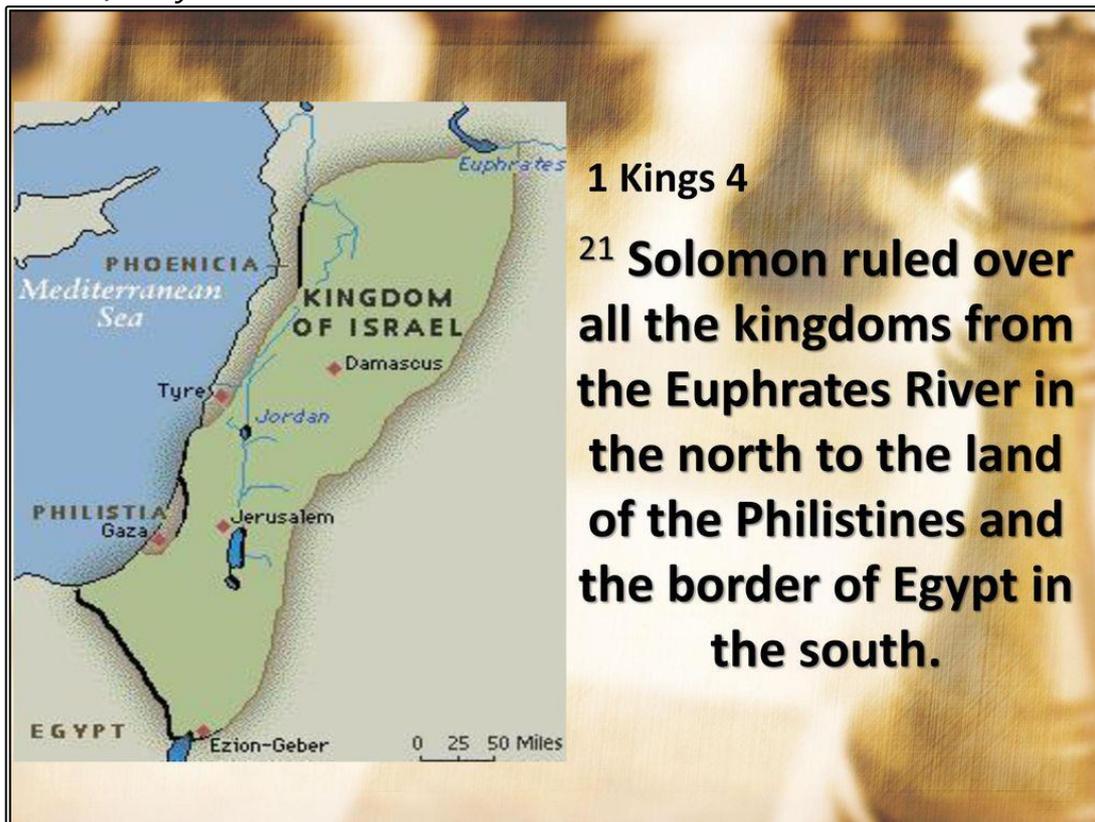
See v20 - Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore - which is a fulfilment of the promise God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:2 and 22:17.

See v25 - Everyone lived in safety and everyone lived under their own fig tree. Israel is living on the foundation built by David's reign where he defeated all Israel's surrounding enemies.

7. What do we learn about the **scope** of Solomon's rule in verses 21 and 24?

Solomon has a huge kingdom as per the map. This is a fulfilment of the promise God made in Exodus 23:31 for the provision of land - "I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the desert to the Euphrates River. I

will give into your hands the people who live in the land, and you will drive them out before you”



8. What do we learn about Solomon's **daily** provisions in verse 22 & 23?

5 metric tons of flour and 10 metric tons of meal (barley/rye), 30 cattle, 100 sheep and goats. Again, an abundance of provision. A modern example might be a cruise ship which needs to carry all the food for the entire journey.

9. What does verse 26 tell us about Solomon's kingdom?

*Having so many chariots and horses again **speaks of abundance** but also means the army is well equipped, which also means **protection**.*

10. What danger is there underlying verse 26? (cf. Psalm 20:7; 33:16-17; Isa 31:1; Deut 17:16)

*There is the **danger in trusting in chariots and horses** instead of trusting in the Lord. Isaiah 31:1 warns Israel not to go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses; they are to rely on the Lord. Deuteronomy 17:16 warns not to go back to Egypt (where the Israelites were slaves) for horses. God brought them out of Egypt for a reason!*

11. What do verses 26 to 28 tell us about the efficiency of Solomon's Kingdom?
Although Solomon had a vast number of chariots and horses (v26); they were also well taken care of (v28)

V27 shows it was a well-organized system to ensure King Solomon and his household were well supplied.

12. What does verse 20 have to do with the promise in Genesis 22:17?
A fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham about numerous descendants, as we mentioned before.

13. What do verses 21 & 24 have to do with the promise in Genesis 15:18-21?
A fulfillment of God's promise of the extent of the land of Israel, that God had promised Abraham. God always keeps His promises.

14. What do verses 24b & 25 have to do with the promise in 2 Samuel 7:10-11 and the future promise of Micah 4:4?

Back in 2 Samuel 7:10-11, God had promised David that there would be a time in the place of Israel when they would have rest from their enemy. Here in V24b says that in Solomon's reign they had peace on all sides.

V25 - Also has the idea of everyone having their own vine and fig tree - which speaks of peace and prosperity.

This same promise was made in the time of Micah 4:4.

Read John 15:9-17

15. The people of Israel and Judah in Solomon's time experienced joy (1 Kings 4:20); how do we experience joy, according to Jesus? (cf. John 17:6-19)

By remaining in Jesus' love and keeping His commandments.

And by loving each other as He has loved us.

And by bearing fruit for His Kingdom - fruit that lasts.

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Kings 4:1-28?

God's wisdom brings good order.

God's wisdom also leads to keeping His Kingdom promises of place, people, safety and peace and joy. Ultimately these are found in Jesus.

God's wisdom for Solomon's Kingdom provided physical abundance and peace and joy. This foreshadows God's wisdom for Jesus' Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven, where there is spiritual abundance, peace and joy.

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

All God's promises find their fulfilment in Jesus.

In Jesus we are children (people) of Abraham. In Jesus we have the place of Heaven. In Jesus we have ultimate security, peace and joy.

How does this passage apply to your life?

- a. *There is a danger in trusting in worldly things (our chariots and horses) instead of trusting in the Lord. Where is our peace? Where is our security? Where is our home?*
- b. *When life is peaceful and everything is going along really well; there is a danger of thinking we don't need God and we can get by all by ourselves. We see this particularly in prosperous Western nations; Covid19 might have us rethinking that right now!*
- c. *God always keeps His promises in His own perfect timing.*
- d. *Rely on God's wisdom to order our lives (as Solomon did)*
- e. *Godly leadership gives peace and security.*
- f. *True wisdom - comes by coming to Jesus who is the ultimate wise king*
 - i. *Remain in His love - staying connected to Jesus (the vine) and staying connected to each other*
 - ii. *The people in Solomon's time lacked nothing - this foreshadows the Good Shepherd Jesus - the Lord's my shepherd, I lack nothing (Psalm 23:1)*
 - iii. *Gain peace with God through Jesus (we can have our own vine and fig tree)*
 - iv. *Gain complete joy in Jesus - knowing we are forgiven and have Heaven to look forward to*
 - v. *Keep His command to love Him and love one another*
 - vi. *When we truly love as Jesus did - we receive complete joy. God wants Christians to enjoy life and His blessings.*
 - vii. *When we bear fruit for His Kingdom - fruit that lasts - we receive complete joy.*

g. The prosperity of Solomon's kingdom was temporary - Jesus' kingdom is everlasting.

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V25

Finish in prayer: Pray we would keep Jesus' commandments and remain in His love; and love one another, as Jesus loved us; so that our joy is complete. (John 15:10-12)

Study 3 - The Excellence of Wisdom

1 Kings 4:29-34

(Sermon on 19-Sept-21)

Last study we saw the wisdom needed for the Kingdom.

This study we look at the specific wisdom that God blessed Solomon with.

Read 1 Kings 4:29-34

1. How many times is the word "**wisdom**" used in these verses? What does that tell us?
 - *Six times (seven if we include the heading, which is not in the original text)*
 - *Also, in v31, the word "wiser" is used and in v29 synonymous terms like "insight" and "understanding" are used.*
 - *This tells us that God wants us to emphasize that wisdom is important*

2. What is the **source** of Solomon's wisdom? (Verse 29)
God is the source of Solomon's wisdom

3. What should be eliminated in us, knowing that God is the **source** of our wisdom?
If God is the source of our wisdom, then we can't claim it's all our doing and this should eliminate any pride we might have and we should humbly acknowledge that God has blessed us with this wisdom.

4. What do we learn about the **superiority** of Solomon's wisdom in verses 30-31?
 - *Solomon's wisdom is greater than the wisdom of the East (Eastern Countries like Mesopotamia); remember the wise men (magi) came from the East (Matthew 2:1)*
 - *Solomon's wisdom is greater than the wisdom of Egypt; remember that Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and powerful in speech and action (see Acts 7:22)*
 - *Solomon's wisdom is greater than **Ethan** (Psalm 89), the Ezrahite; **Heman** (cf. 1 Chronicles 6:33 and Psalm 88), **Kallol** and **Darda**, the sons of Mahol. We don't know anything about these guys but we can only assume they were the wise-heads of the time (they are mentioned in 1 Chronicles 2:6)*
 - *Solomon's wisdom became famous in all the surrounding nations.*
 - *I wonder if there is anyone people would flock to listen to today?*

5. What do we learn about the **scope** of Solomon's wisdom in verses 32-33?

- Solomon 3000 proverbs (see Proverbs 1:1; 10:1; 25:1 as examples - and assuming Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes - see Ecclesiastes 12:9)
- Solomon wrote 1005 songs (see Songs 1:1)
- He spoke wisdom about botany (scientific study of plant life) and flora
- He spoke wisdom about zoology (study of animal life) and fauna
- So, the scope of Solomon's wisdom is breathtaking - he covers all aspects of life!
- Like having the wisdom and knowledge of Shakespeare, Dickens, Einstein, Attenborough all rolled into one!

6. What do we discover about Solomon's wisdom in verse 34? (cf. 2 Chron 9:23) Solomon's reputation for wisdom was so great, that kings and queens (Queen of Sheba in 1 Kings 10) from other nations sent people to listen to Solomon's wisdom. 2 Chronicles 9:23 says: All the kings of the earth sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.

Who do people come to today? Dalai Lama? Dab Brown? Sports stars? Hollywood Celebrities?

Christian influences of our time, might be: Billy Graham? The Queen?

Read Matthew 7:28-29; 22:33; Mark 1:22; 6:2; 11:18

7. What do we discover about Jesus from these verses?

Matthew 7:28-29 - ²⁸When Jesus had finished saying these things, the **crowds were amazed at his teaching**, ²⁹because he **taught as one who had authority**, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 22:33 - When the crowds heard this, they were **astonished at his teaching**.

Mark 1:22 - ²²The people were **amazed at his teaching**, because he **taught them as one who had authority**, not as the teachers of the law.

Mark 6:2 - When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and **many who heard him were amazed**. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "**What's this wisdom that has been given him?** What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?"

Mark 11:18 - The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

In summary, everyone was amazed at Jesus' teaching and He taught with the authority of God! He was speaking from His own personal authority [as God] which none of the Rabbis or teachers of the law could do.

As John 7:46 says: "No one ever spoke the way this man does" – [since Solomon]. And as Matthew 12:42 [and Luke 11:31] reminds us: The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment

with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and **now something greater than Solomon is here.**

Read Philippians 2:1-11

8. List what attitude a Christian should have. Why?

- *Be united in Christ's love (v1)*
- *Sharing in the Holy Spirit (v1)*
- *Being like-minded (Christ focused) - having same love, being in one spirit and of one mind (v2) - like a symphony orchestra with all instruments working together to bring a harmonized sound*
- *Not selfish nor vain - but humble - valuing others above ourselves (v3)*
- *Other-person centred (v4)*
- *Same mindset as Christ (v5)*
- *Model Christ's humility and servant-like heart (vv6-8)*
- *Why? Because Christ humbled himself on a cruel cross, for us (v8) and so He deserves our thanks and praise and worship (vv10-11) as the King of Kings (v9)*

Read Philippians 2:12-18

9. List what our '**attitude in Christ**' should look like.

- *Work out our salvation in Christ in fear and trembling - in other words in thankfulness to God's salvation in Jesus, we should be in awe of God and want to please Him, in obedience (v12)*
- *Knowing that God is at work in us - to will us to obedience and to will us to act in a way that gives Him pleasure and will accomplish His purposes for our life (v13)*
- *Do everything without grumbling and arguing (v14)*
- *Our behaviour should be a shining light (stars) to the world we live in to encourage them to come into the light of Jesus (v15) by holding firm to God's Word, the Gospel (v16)*
- *Have the same attitude as the Apostle Paul who is more than glad to be persecuted and sacrificed for the sake of the Philippians (anyone) becoming followers of Jesus (v17)*
- *Paul wants them [and us] to rejoice in his sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel (v18)*

10. What's the connection between Philippians 2:13 like 1 Kings 4:29?

Just as God was working in Solomon to give him wisdom; God is working in us in order to fulfill his good purpose. God, through the Holy Spirit, gives us the words to say! To Him be the glory!

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 4:29-34?

*God is the source of our wisdom. He gives us wisdom and invites us to explore His creatures and His creation. Praise God for this wisdom and **share His wisdom** as Solomon did!*

As the doxology says:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow...



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

Just as everyone came to Solomon for his God-given wisdom; we can come to the one greater than Solomon, King Jesus, for wisdom.

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- *Acknowledge that God is the **source** of our wisdom and dump any pride we may have in how "wise" we are. What is our motivation with the wisdom we have - is it to develop our ego - or to share it with others?*
- *Give thanks to God for His wisdom.*
- *God has left the fingerprints of His wisdom everywhere, since there is no place where God does not lay down the raw materials for godly thinking. As Christians, we should be seized with curiosity to ponder and explore His works; those which are majestic and those more mundane. The task of wisdom is joyfully exploring all God's works. We might not have Solomon's insight, but we have the same data. What can we wisdom can we learn from God's creation, for example? (From birds we learnt how to build and fly an aircraft!)*
- *Share our God-given wisdom with others.*
- *People came to Solomon because He was the wisest man alive. Now, we have someone far greater than Solomon (Matthew 12:42 and Luke 11:31). It would be very wise to come to Jesus; He has the key to life everlasting life!*

- *Be mindful to reflect the wisdom of Jesus in our lives.*
- *Do everything without grumbling!*
- *Pray that we would have the same mindset as our Lord Jesus and humbly serve God by living out the Gospel in our relationships and in sharing the Good News of Jesus.*

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V29 - *God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore*

Finish in prayer: Ask God to help us imitate the humility of our Lord Jesus and to have His mindset in our relationships.

Study 4 - House Plans

1 Kings 5:1-18

(Sermon on 26-Sept-21)

Read 1 Kings 5:1-6

1. Why did Hiram king of Tyre send envoys to Solomon?

He heard that Solomon had succeeded his father, David, as king; and Hiram had good relations with King David and so wanted to maintain that good relationship. Back in 2 Samuel 5:11 King Hiram (perhaps father of current Hiram) sent wood for David to build his palace.

2. In Solomon's message to Hiram in verses 2-5

a. What does Solomon say about his father, David?

Solomon says that his father wrestled with wars with the surrounding nations, which made building a temple for the Lord not possible. David was a warrior king.

b. What does Solomon say about God? (cf. Matt 22:44; 1 Cor 15:25)

*That David could not build the temple until the **Lord put all David's enemies under his feet**. This is a quote from Psalm 110:1 and ultimately points to Jesus' putting all enemies of God (Satan and his army, evil, sin and death) under His feet. The same term "until I put your enemies under your feet" is also quoted by Jesus about Himself in Matthew 22:44 - and again quoted by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:25 when he talks about Jesus' resurrection and that Jesus will reign until He puts all His enemies under His feet; the last enemy being death (1 Cor 15:26) which is accomplished by His resurrection from the dead.*

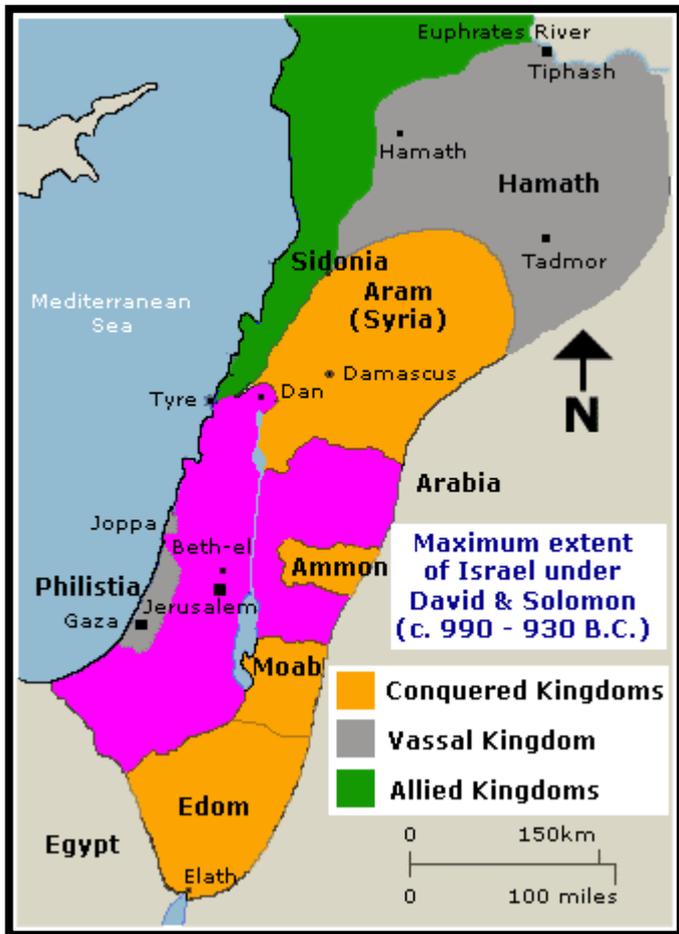
*Solomon also says that the Lord (v4) **has given him rest (from his enemies) on all sides**. This shows that Solomon sees this as God's timing to make plans to build the temple and fulfil what was said back in 2 Samuel 7:13 that David's son would build a house for the Lord.*

c. What does Solomon say his intention is and why?

V5 - Solomon intends to build a temple for the Name of the Lord as the Lord told Solomon's father, David: "Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name" quoting from 2 Samuel 7:13

3. What request does Solomon make in verse 6 and why?

Solomon requests that Hiram give orders to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to help build the temple. He also requests that his men work with Hiram's men and acknowledges that there are no men in Israel who have the skills like Hiram's men to fell trees. [Note: green on the map is Lebanon]



4. What promise is about to be fulfilled? (cf. 2 Samuel 7:13a)

As the Lord told Solomon's father, David: "Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name". Now Solomon is about to build this temple

5. What does that tell us about God's promises? (Joshua 21:45; Psalm 119:140; 145:13)

Joshua 21:45 - Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

Psalm 119:140 - Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.

God always keeps His promises in His own way and in His own time.

Read 1 Kings 5:7-12

6. How does Hiram respond to Solomon in verse 7?

Hiram was greatly pleased with Solomon being on the throne and with Solomon's proposal and he praises the Lord for giving David such a wise son as Solomon!

7. Is it surprising that Hiram is so complimentary towards Solomon? (cf. 1 Kings 4:34)

It's not surprising that Hiram compliments Solomon on his wisdom, as 1 Kings 4:34 tells us that Solomon's wisdom and reputation were such that kings came from all over to hear him.

It is surprising that Hiram uses the term LORD (YHWH) - this the name of God when talking about a covenant relationship with His people. For Hiram to refer to God this way - means that either David or Solomon - had witnessed (a light to the Gentiles) to Hiram about the Lord, their God.

God can use unconventional means for us to reach people - not just personal evangelism - but the way we conduct ourselves or the wisdom or kindness we show (as in David and Solomon's case).

8. What is Hiram willing to do in verses 8 & 9?

Hiram is willing to provide all the cedar and juniper logs that Solomon needs (v8) and his men will haul them down from Lebanon and float them on the sea down to Israel to whatever location Solomon specifies.

9. What does Hiram want in return in verse 9?

In return, Hiram requires food for his royal household.

10. What are the details of Hiram and Solomon's deal in verses 10 & 11?

V10 - Hiram keeps Solomon supplied with all cedar and juniper logs he wanted and Solomon supplied Hiram with 3250 (3,250,000 Kg) metric tons of wheat and 440,000 litres of olive oil each year!

11. What promise is fulfilled in verse 12 (cf. 1 Kings 3:12)

God had promised back in 1 Kings 3:12 to give Solomon a wise and discerning heart, so that there would not be anyone else like him. Here in v12 that promise is fulfilled.

Because Solomon asked for wisdom and God blessed him with it; Solomon used that wisdom for the greater good of His people; he had a heart for Israel and with the wisdom, God blessed him with, Solomon used it to glorify God in building the temple.

12. What is there a hint of from verse 7 and from the treaty made in verse 12? (cf. Isaiah 45:23)

There is a peace treaty between Solomon and Hiram. We get the sense that Hiram honoured and respected Solomon.

Read 1 Kings 5:13-18

13. What evidence of God's wisdom do you see in the organisation of Solomon's labour force? (cf. Eccl 10:10)

There is evidence of God's wisdom in the way Solomon organized:

- *His 30, 000 work force in shifts (modern day example would be "fly in, fly out workers")*
- *His 70, 000 carriers and 80,000 stonecutters*
- *His 3,300 foremen supervising projects and directing the workers*
- *The preparation of blocks of high-grade stone to be a foundation for the temple*
- *The preparation of timber and stone for building the temple.*

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20 and Rev 21:22

14. What do these New Testament verses have to do with 1 Kings 5?

1 Cor 3:16-17 - ¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Cor 6:19-20 - ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

The physical temple came at a cost. The spiritual temple of Jesus came at a cost!

Rev 21:22 - ²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

15. What does this passage have to do with 1 Kings 5?

We are part of a spiritual temple built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus as the chief cornerstone. We all join together with Jesus to be a holy temple in the Lord. So together, the church (not the building but the people) come together as a dwelling place where God lives with us by His Spirit. So, Solomon's physical temple for the Lord foreshadows the spiritual temple we belong to in Jesus.

What's the BIG IDEA of 1 Kings 5:1-18?

God keeps His promise that Solomon will be the one to build the temple and He provides all Solomon needs (wisdom, help and materials)

The purpose of the Temple is to focus people on the presence of God.



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

- *1 Kings 5:3 - refers to God putting David's enemies under his feet and alludes to Jesus doing this with Satan, sin and death (Matt 22:44 and 1 Corinthians 15:25-26)*
- *1 Kings 5:4 - The Lord gave Solomon (and Israel) rest from their enemies. Jesus, through His death and resurrection, gives us rest (Hebrews 4) from our enemies of sin and death.*
- *1 Kings 5:7 - Hiram's praise to the Lord - foreshadows that Jesus' kingdom is available to all (Jews and Gentiles) - to all who would believe - and foreshadows a time when all we bow to Jesus (Philippians 2:10-11)*
- *The temple foreshadows Jesus as the Temple and us as being the temple of the Holy Spirit.*
- *The temple was symbolic of the presence of God - that's why it was built. When Jesus came - John 1:14 - says The Word came flesh and made his dwelling (literally tabernacled) among us*

How does this passage **apply to your life?**

- *God always keeps His promises in His own perfect timing*

- *God gives us wisdom - we should use that wisdom to plan ahead as Solomon did - AND commit our plans to the Lord (Proverbs 16:3 and Psalm 127:1)*
- *We should plan and prepare ourselves to be God's "temple" and plan and prepare ourselves to do God's "temple work" by sharing the Gospel; this will require reading, studying and meditating on God's Word!*
- *God provides what/who we need to help us (as He did with Hiram and his supplies for Solomon)*
- *Solomon used the wisdom he gained from God, to glorify God by planning the building of the temple. With the wisdom we have from God, we must glorify God too, in our "temple" work.*
- *In Jesus we belong to a spiritual temple of the Lord. The church is not the building but the people. Like Kerrusso is a "virtual" church - our church family is all about connections which build the spiritual temple of God.*
- *The temple that Solomon builds gets knocked down in 587BC - is rebuilt in Ezra/Nehemiah's time and changed in Herod's time (circa 6BC) and knocked down again in AD70; our spiritual temple in Jesus can't get knocked down!*
- *The temple of Solomon came at a great cost. The spiritual temple of Jesus and us being part of it - came at a cost; it cost Jesus His life.*
- *The temple of Solomon required many skilled workers with different gifts working together. The church (not the building) has many different members with different gifts working together.*

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

1 Kings 5:5 and 7

Finish in prayer: Thanking God that He always keeps His promises and all His promises are Yes & Amen, in our Lord Jesus (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke
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Resources:

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

1 and 2 Kings (Donald J. Wiseman - Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)

1 Kings - The Wisdom and the Folly (Dale Ralph Davis)

Halley's Bible Handbook - New Revised Edition (Henry H. Halley)

Notes/Prayer Points