

Lecture 28- Solomon & His Wisdom: 1 & 2 Kings (I)

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite-wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations.

1 Kings 4:29-31

Key Terms

One kingdom, Yahweh vs. Canaanite gods, Jedediah, come to power, taking God's charge

Lecture Objectives

- Briefly outline the flow of thought through First and Second Kings.
- Describe Solomon's background.
- Explore applications for all your Christian life and service of Solomon's checkered past and God's sovereign working.

Preliminary Questions

- What is your favorite story from First and Second Kings? Why? How does it further our understanding of God's character, man's character, and God's redemptive work in history?

Solomon & His Wisdom: 1 & 2 Kings (I)**1 & 2 Kings in Overview:**

A One kingdom: Rise of the Davidic dynasty	1 Kings 1:1-11:25
B Rise of the Northern kingdom	1 Kings 11:26-14:31
C Kings of Judah/Israel	1 Kings 15:1-16:22
D Yahweh vs. the gods of Canaan: Omride dynasty	1 Kings 16:23; 2 Kings 12
C' Kings of Judah/Israel	2 Kings 13-16
B' Fall of the Northern kingdom	2 Kings 17
A' One kingdom: Fall of the Davidic dynasty	2 Kings 18-25

1 Kings 1-11 in Overview:

A Solomon's great gain	1 Kings 1
B Solomon takes charge	1 Kings 2
C God appears to Solomon	1 Kings 3
D Solomon's glorious 'ministry' & building projects	1 Kings 4-8
C' God appears to Solomon again	1 Kings 9
B' Solomon's takes ...	1 Kings 10
A' Solomon's great loss	1 Kings 11

Why would the section about "Yahweh vs. the gods" be at the center of these books? What is the author trying to say?

I. Solomon's Great Gain (1 Kings 1)**A. What do we know about Solomon?**

1. Jedediah "beloved of Yahweh"
2. David Payne, "Solomon," *New International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*

It is not easy to assess the character either of Solomon or his reign. He is credited with great piety, but his apostasy does not go unremarked; his wisdom is proverbial, but his folly was responsible for the disintegration of his realm after his death; the surface peace and prosperity barely veiled considerable oppression and unrest. Since Solomon's reign was long, one may conclude that his character, ability, and farsightedness, and the state's economic security and political strength were impaired gradually, perhaps imperceptibly.

B. How did Solomon come to power?

1. Weak father
 - a. What is the nature of David's coolness?
2. Wayward brother
 - a. Is Adonijah a worthy son?
 - b. 1 Kings 1:10 - did not invite Solomon
3. Wise mother
 - a. Nathan
 - b. Did David make a promise?
 - 1) 1 Kings 1:10 - Adonijah did not invite Solomon
 - 2) 2 Samuel 12:25 - "Jedediah"
 - 3) 1 Kings 1:12 - Nathan knows
 - 4) 1 Kings 1:28 - David agrees
4. Wonderful God

What subtleties in the text help set the stage for the rest of the books?

C. Is 1 Kings 1 programmatic for the story of Solomon?

1. Human actions are perplexing, puzzling, sometimes even opaque
 - a. The questions raised in chapter 1 prepare us to look for subtleties
2. God remains faithful to his people.
3. Active or passive disobedience to God creates situations that bring trouble into our lives and causes us not to experience the fullness of blessing that God wishes for us, but still God holds on to his own.

Was David's charge to Solomon godly admonition or a mixture of godly and ungodly advice?

II. Solomon Takes Charge (1 Kings 2)

A. Proposition: Because God loves us, we should accept his charge and add nothing to it.

1. Accepting God's charge requires courage
 - a. 1 Kings 2:2-4
2. Accepting God's charge promises prosperity
 - a. 1 Kings 2:3-4
 - b. Joshua 1:5-9
 - c. Not necessarily financial prosperity
3. Adding to God's charge causes problems
 - a. 1 Kings 2:5-9
 - b. "Your wisdom"
 - c. Oliver Cromwell "Trust God and keep your powder dry."
 - d. Nehemiah 4, "We prayed and we posted a guard"
 - e. The key is action in obedience to God's leading.