

Royal Lessons for Life

Solomon

Solomon's Biography

- Solomon is born around 1035 B.C., is made king at age 20, reigns for 40 years, and dies at age 60 – II Samuel 12:24-25, I Kings 1:32-40, I Kings 11:42-43.
- He is the first king to be “born in the purple” and seems destined to rule.
 - David's reign was one of war, but his son would be one of peace – I Kings 5:3-4
 - David named him Solomon, meaning “peaceful”, and the prophet Nathan named him Jedidiah, meaning “beloved of the Lord” – II Samuel 12:24-25
- Before he was born, God promised David that:
 - Solomon would build the Temple – II Samuel 7:13
 - The Davidic dynasty would flow through Solomon – II Samuel 7:13
 - Solomon would not be removed like Saul, even if he deserved it – II Samuel 7:14-15
- He ascends to the throne amidst intrigue – I Kings 1-2
- He rules over the peak of Israel's power and wealth – I Kings 15:20-25, 9:10-28, II Chronicles 8:1-18
 - The apex is the construction and dedication of the Temple – 1012-1004 B.C. – I Kings 6-8, II Chronicles 3-7
- He writes three books of the Bible:
 - *Song of Solomon*, at the beginning of his life – 1017 B.C.
 - *Proverbs*, collected throughout his life – ~1004 B.C.
 - *Ecclesiastes*, at the end of his life – 975 B.C.
- He fails to be faithful in the end of his life and it appears God took him home early at the age of 60 – I Kings 11
 - He fails the three great commands for kings in Deuteronomy 17:14-20: he multiplied horses (used in war, I Kings 4:26-28), he multiplied wives (lust and/or alliances, I Kings 11:1-8), and he multiplied wealth (I Kings 10:14-29, II Chronicles 9:13-28)

Lessons from the Life of Solomon

- One source of Solomon's success was God answering an unselfish prayer – I Kings 3:5-15, James 4:2-3
- Solomon's life is an example that God seeks faithfulness above great moments among his followers – II Timothy 4:6-8, Philippians 3:13-15
- Solomon's experiences show us the truth of the “two paths” of Psalm 1 and that God blesses those that follow Him – Ecclesiastes 12