

Young People's

# LETTER FROM GOD 16



**King Solomon**  
**Israel's Golden Years**

Study Guide  
*By*  
*Angeline Grysen*





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### WRITING “LETTER FROM GOD” 16

Never before had Israel been so great and united. These were the golden years for Israel!

We watched as King Solomon gathered supplies for the construction of the Temple of the Lord. We noted how happy the Jews were obeying the Law and doing their part for the Temple.

After 7 years of construction, the awesome Temple was completed. When all the preparations were made, the dedication service began. After the Ark was carried by the priests into the Holy of Holies, the music and the singing began. Then an exciting thing happened —

The large Glory cloud of the Lord filled the Temple! The Israelites now knew the Lord approved of the Temple and the Lord’s presence was there.

We noted with interest that the Temple was built on the same hill where Abraham was offering his son Isaac on the altar — when the Lord stopped him. In the future this will be the hill where God the Father would judge his Son, the promised Messiah, on the altar of the cross.

This also will be the same hill where the Lord will return as King of Kings to begin his 1,000 year reign on the earth.

We shared the excitement of the Sheba Queen when she visited King Solomon. The Queen loved the stories that Solomon told her about Israel’s God and the history of the Jewish race. Her favorite story was how Solomon’s father as a youth killed the giant Goliath with a small stone.

King Solomon went on to explain to the Sheba Queen how everything in the Temple pointed to the coming Messiah-Savior. After their many discussions, we were thrilled to hear about the Queen’s decision.

In the last half of his life, we followed King Solomon as he left the plan of God. Other things became more important in Solomon’s life. For many years he tried to find happiness with his many projects.

With weed-plants in his soul, Solomon was not obeying the Lord and made wrong decisions. Finally, Solomon realized without the Lord, he was miserable and bored.

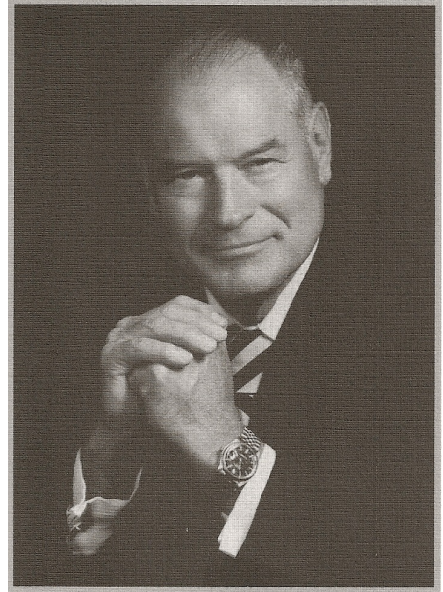
We are able to tap into Solomon’s wisdom from the beginning of Solomon’s reign in the Book of Proverbs. At the end of his life, Solomon again teaches us from the Book of Ecclesiastes. As with the life of King David, we noted that the lessons from the life of King Solomon are there to teach us.

**LETTER FROM GOD IS DEDICATED TO COL. R. B. THIEME JR.**

This Study Guide is dedicated to the memory of our dedicated pastor-teacher, Col. R. B. Thieme Jr. After faithfully leading the Berachah Battalion with God's messages for 53 years, Colonel Thieme departed to be face to face with his Lord-Savior. On August 16, 2009, the Colonel received his permanent change of station in heaven.

With love, Colonel Thieme left us more than 7,000 Biblical hours of his messages on tapes, videos and publications. Teaching effectively like a drill commander, the Colonel made the characters in the Bible become alive and exciting. They were real people we could relate to.

The Colonel dug deeply into God's letter and the history of the time it was written. He taught us the details of the angelic conflict, how to be filled with God the Holy Spirit, store God's messages in our souls, and use the messages in our lives.



Through the teaching of the Colonel, we learned the importance of the original languages of the Bible. We remember the way the Colonel led us through history, introducing us to great men and leaders of the past and explaining how our Lord Jesus Christ controls history. He gave our lives real purpose and meaning.

A final salute to the Colonel was given on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August at Berachah church in Houston, Texas. We knew it was not the Colonel, but the treasures he taught that were important! The Colonel loved us, his sheep, and gave us his best! These treasure-truths taught by the Colonel from God's Word motivate us to carry on.

We owe the Colonel a deep debt of gratitude. His messages changed our lives. It was after studying Colonel Thieme's teachings that I wanted to write the 'Letter From God' series. I can still hear his voice booming out, "The Word of God is alive and powerful."

We give a final salute to the Colonel and to the pastor-teachers today who are pressing on, studying from the original languages, and following in the Colonel's foot steps. Together the pastors lead us as we follow the colors to the high ground of serving the Lord as winner believers.

### THE TWO WOLVES IN ALL OF US

One evening, an older grandfather told his grandson Billy this story: “There is a battle that goes on inside of a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. The battle is between two wolves. One wolf is evil-wrong, and the other wolf is good-right.

“The evil-wrong wolf is filled with weed-plants of anger, envy, jealousy, revenge, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt and fear. When that wolf is winning, the believer is under control of the Sin Nature and is influenced by demons. That believer is a loser.

“The good-right wolf is filled with joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, generosity, truth, and faith. When this believer is winning, he is walking down God’s path and is using the power of the Holy Spirit. This believer is a winner.”



**TWO WOLVES**

Billy thought about the story for a minute and then asked his grand father, “Which wolf wins?” Billy’s grandfather replied — “Billy, it’s the wolf you feed! The choice is yours. Will you feed the good-right wolf?”

### Update on the Evangelistic classes of the Grace Christian Church in Boho, Phillippines

434 students ages 4-16 attended the Daily Vacation Bible School in Boho, Phillippines.

The overwhelming attendance of the students gave rise to additional needs for this ministry. The Daily Vacation Bible School has been extended to a weekly class in the public schools during the year. This picture is the teachers at a workshop with the ‘Letter From God’ books.







SOLOMON RECEIVING THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

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### Introduction

If you have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, the issue is faith alone, in Christ alone. "He who believes in God the Son has eternal life," John 3:36. In this moment in time when you believe, you have locked-in, forever, your eternal security in heaven. Nothing or no one can change this. This is the grace redemption (saving) solution. Grace is God doing all the work; it is nothing we earn nor deserve.

It is all important, before you begin your Bible study, to be sure you have named your sins privately to God the Father. Our sins are the wrong things we do, say, or think. "If we name our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to purify us from all our wrong doings," I John 1:9. Your soul will then be under the power of God the Holy Spirit, and ready to be taught from God's letter, John 14:26. This is the grace recovery procedure.

### Acknowledgments

To our Divine Teacher, God the Holy Spirit, who is our invisible teacher. "The Holy Spirit will teach you all things," John 14:26.

To our pastor-teacher, Col. R. B. Thieme, Jr., for his faithfulness and to those pastor teachers who carry on today, studying and revealing God's truths to those who desire to know.

To my son Walter, who shares his thoughts and doctrinal information for the "Letter From God" series.

**The reference verses** for "God's Letter" are listed at the end of the study messages for your reading. They are from the Living Bible, the New International Version, the New American Standard Bible and the King James Version. If there is no reference number listed, the verse is contained in the preceding words.

**Illustrations:** A window of thought, literature, and art suddenly opened in the fifteenth century. The awakening of art brought illustrations to the Biblical manuscripts. Highly regarded artists were commissioned to paint scenes in the German Bibles to make them not only more attractive, but useful as an educational tool for those who were unable to read God's Word. Some of the scenes, as well as woodcut engravings and plates from the Gustave Dore' Bible Illustrations, are included in the series.

### Message 1

#### The Fabulous Years of King Solomon

##### King David's Dying Instructions

**G**od wanted us to have these true stories from His letter to teach us many important lessons. God the Father is on His throne in heaven directing His perfect plan. The Lord Jesus Christ is carrying out God's plan as all things fit together perfectly. Despite the failure of the people of Israel and our failure to follow and obey the Lord, we see how God is always faithful to His contracts and promises. God the Father's plan continues to unfold today.



We remember how God's plan for the nation of Israel began with the call of Abraham in 2100 B.C., Genesis 12:1-2.<sup>1</sup> We are now studying the kings of Israel.

First we studied the life of King Saul. Although Saul was a believer, he was determined to go his own way.

Then we looked at King David, the king with God's thoughts and going God's way. Although David sinned, he confessed his sins and moved on.

Now we are following the reign of David's son, Solomon. Solomon was the son of David and Bathsheba.

Solomon was young when he was anointed king of Israel. Before David died in 971 B.C., he gave Solomon these special instructions, "Build God's temple on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. I paid Araunah 600 gold shekels for the site. This is the spot where I sacrificed to the Lord for the sin of numbering the warriors," II Chronicles 3:1.



(This is also the same hill where Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son Isaac on the altar — when the Lord stopped him. In the future, it will be on this same Moriah Hill where God the Father would judge His Son, the promised Messiah-Savior, on the altar of the cross. Here the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Messiah, would take care of the sin problem for humankind, John 3:16.<sup>2</sup> The future return of the Lord Jesus to the earth will also be on this same hill.)

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David continued on, “You know General Joab murdered my two generals. Deal with him in wisdom. As for Shimei, the stone thrower, I promised I would not kill him. That promise doesn’t hold for you. You, Solomon, are a wise man.”

“Solomon, the Lord has promised me that one of my descendants will be the coming Messiah — God’s promised Savior,” Acts 2:20.<sup>3</sup> David’s last words to Solomon were, “Obey God’s laws, and walk in God’s way. Do not go your own way, and guard your thinking.”

Solomon waited for good reasons to carry out his father’s instructions. After Shimei disobeyed Solomon’s instructions, and Solomon’s half-brother Adonijah again tried to regain the throne, Solomon ordered Commander Benaiah to kill both of them. Solomon also told Benaiah to kill General Joab who helped Adonijah in his attempt to become king.

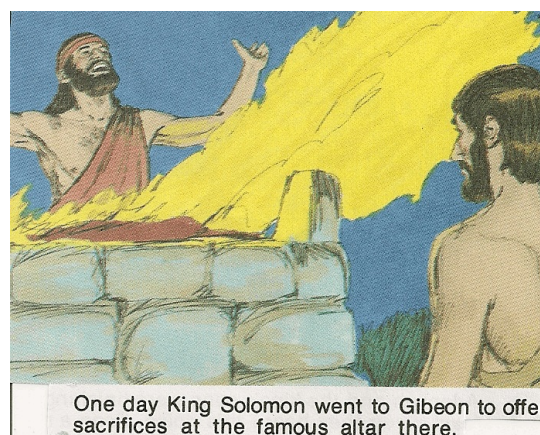
Solomon promoted Commander Benaiah to his general over Israel’s armies instead of Joab. Solomon also appointed Zadok as his high priest instead of Abiathar, who helped Adonijah. David ordered Abiathar to his home in Anathoth. Solomon’s throne was now secure, I Kings 2:46.<sup>4</sup>

Solomon made an alliance with the Pharaoh of Egypt and married his daughter, I Kings 3:1. Marriage between royal families was a common practice at that time. Although Solomon’s alliances built friendships with the surrounding nations, this was a wrong practice and not according to God’s laws.

God did not condone treaties with other nations nor marriages to Gentiles, unless they believed in the coming Messiah-Savior. God also did not want kings to have more than one wife, or his heart would be turned away from the Lord, Deuteronomy 17:17. These human solutions were outside of God’s plan and not necessary — as the Lord would provide for Solomon and Israel.

### Solomon Asks the Lord For Wisdom

Solomon loved the Lord and followed his father’s instructions, except he did continue to worship and sacrifice to the Lord in the hills instead of in the Tabernacle. King Solomon went to the hilltop altar at Gibeon and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings. That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a revelation dream and told him to ask for anything he wanted, and it would be given to him.





Solomon answered, “O Lord my God, You have made me king. I need to rule over so many people — they cannot be counted. Give your servant wisdom and knowledge to see what is right or wrong,” I Kings 3:9.<sup>5</sup>

The Lord was pleased with Solomon’s reply, *‘Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people, I will give you what you asked! I also will give you what you didn’t ask for — riches and honor. If you follow me and obey my laws as your father David did, I will give you a long life,’* I Kings 3:14.<sup>6</sup>



Solomon replied, “O Lord, you have made me king after my father, but I am still young. I do not know how to be a king. Give me the wisdom to rule your people in the right way.”

Solomon jumped for joy when he awoke. He remembered reading about Joseph’s revelation dreams in the Torah. He knew he too had received a revelation dream direct from the Lord. He now was aware the Lord would be with him helping him rule.

These words from the Lord gave young Solomon the confidence and courage he needed to carry on with ruling Israel and building the Lord’s temple. Today, instead of revelation dreams, we have the completed God’s letter to help us.

Returning to Jerusalem Solomon went into the Tabernacle. As he stood before the Ark of the Lord, Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings and made

confession or fellowship offerings. Then he invited all his court and servants to a great banquet, I Kings 3:15.

### The Case of the Two Mothers — We Will Name Them Josie and Onna

One day, the difficult case of Josie and Onna was brought before King Solomon. With them they carried a dead baby and a healthy baby, both of them boys. Onna explained the problem, I Kings 3:16.<sup>7</sup>







“Oh my lord, Josie and I live in the same house. My baby is just three days older than Josie’s baby. Josie laid on her son during the night and suffocated him. When Josie realized her son was dead, and while I was sleeping, she quietly exchanged her dead son for my living son!”

“When I awoke to nurse my son, I realized he was dead! I screamed! In looking closely at the dead boy, I knew this infant was not mine but belonged to Josie. I shouted to Josie, ‘Josie! This dead boy is yours! Where is my son?’ Josie claimed the son she has is hers.”

Josie interrupted, “That is a lie! It was Onna’s son who died in the night and this living child is mine!”

Onna said again, “The dead baby is hers and the living boy is mine!”

This was a difficult case to judge as there were no witnesses. Both Josie and Onna wanted the living child and refused the dead one. How could Solomon know who was telling the truth and who was lying?

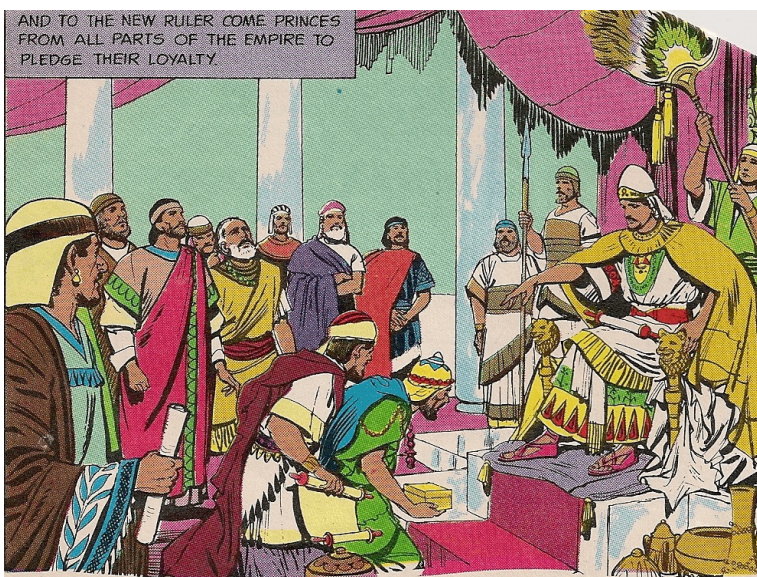
“Bring me a large sword,” he ordered. When a sword was brought to the king, Solomon said, “OK, divide the living child in two and give half to each of these women!”

Josie said, “That’s fine with me, the baby will be neither Onna’s nor mine. Divide it between us!”

A soldier picked up the baby, and as he raised up his sword to strike the child, Onna let out a piercing shriek, “Oh my lord, give Josie the living child! Do not kill my son!”

“Put down the sword,” ordered Solomon. “Give the baby to Onna who wants him to live. She is the mother!”

News of the king’s wise decisions spread quickly throughout Israel. All the people were awed as they realized the great wisdom the Lord had given to King Solomon, I Kings 3:28.<sup>8</sup> Kings from many lands sent their ambassadors to King Solomon for his judgements and advice.



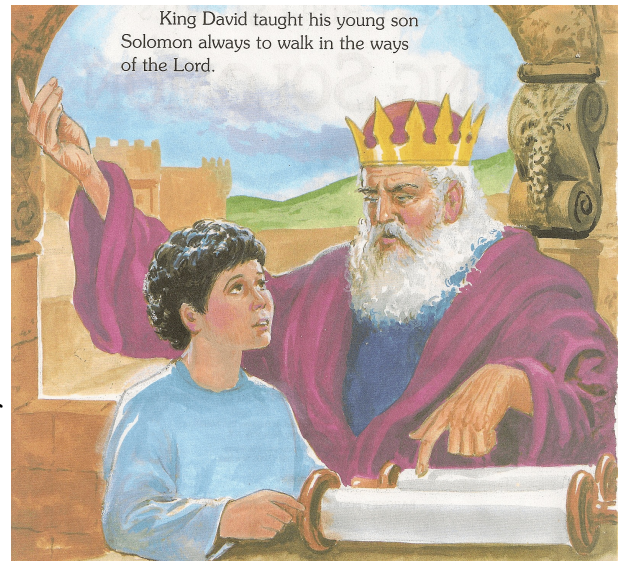
Solomon's kingdom spread from the Euphrates River in the north to the borders of Egypt in the south — all the land that King David conquered. The entire land was at peace under Solomon's rule. Solomon and Israel were under God's blessings.

### The Wisdom of Solomon Calls Out to us, Proverbs 20:1

Solomon was the author of 3,000 wise sayings from Proverbs and he wrote 1005 songs. His other writings include Psalms 72 and 127, the books of Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon, I Kings 4:32.

King David taught Solomon many things. Solomon's stored messages in his soul, combined with his gift of wisdom from the Lord, gave him these wise sayings.

We are able to tap into this great gift of wisdom of Solomon by reading the Book of Proverbs. Although these are not direct promises from God, they are the wise sayings from the wisdom of Solomon.



Some of the examples are:

Proverbs 1:23: If you had listened to my wake-up calls, I would have made my thoughts known to you.

Proverbs 3:6: In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct and guide your path.

Proverbs 3:18: Using God's stored messages in your soul will be like eating the fruit from the Tree of Life. Happy are those who keep eating from it.

Proverbs 4:6: Do not forget God stored messages in your soul, they will protect you. Love your stored messages and they will watch over you.

Proverbs 6:6-9: Take a lesson from the ants. Learn from their ways and be wise! For though they have no king to make them work, they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. But you — all you do is sleep.

Proverbs 8:17: I love those who love Me. Those who seek Me shall find Me.

Proverbs 12:15: The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to others.

Proverbs 12:16: A fool is quick-tempered. A wise man stays cool when insulted.

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Proverbs 12:18: Reckless words can pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 12:22: The Lord dislikes lying lips, but He delights in those who are truthful.

Proverbs 13:20: He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 13:24: If you refuse to discipline your son, it proves you don't love him. If you love him, you will be prompt to punish him.

Proverbs 14:30: A relaxed attitude lengthens a man's life but jealousy rots his bones.

Proverbs 15:1: A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:17: It is better to eat soup with someone you love than steak with someone you hate.

Proverbs 16:16: How much better is wisdom (God's messages) than gold, and understanding than silver!

Proverbs 16:24: Kind words are like honey — enjoyable and healthy.

Proverbs 17:22: A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 19: 11: A man's wisdom (stored messages) gives him patience, this is to his credit.

Proverbs 19:20: Listen to advice and accept instruction. In the end you will be wise.

Proverbs 20:15: Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.

Proverbs 21:1: The king's heart is like streams of water directed by the Lord. He turns them wherever He pleases.

Proverbs 21:23: He who guards his mouth and tongue keeps himself from disasters.

Proverbs 22:6: Teach a child to choose the right path, and when he is older, he will remain on it.

Proverbs 24:16: Although a righteous man fails seven times, he tries again, but the wicked are brought down by disasters.

Proverbs 25:17: Don't visit your neighbor too often, or you will outwear your welcome!

Proverbs 27:8: Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.

Proverbs 28:26: He who trusts in himself is a fool. He who walks in his stored messages is kept safe.



Proverbs 29:3: A wise son makes his father happy, but a companion of prostitutes (wrong sex) wastes his wealth, and health!

Proverbs 29:11: A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Proverbs 29:15: Scolding and spanking a child helps a child to learn. Left to himself, he brings shame to his mother.

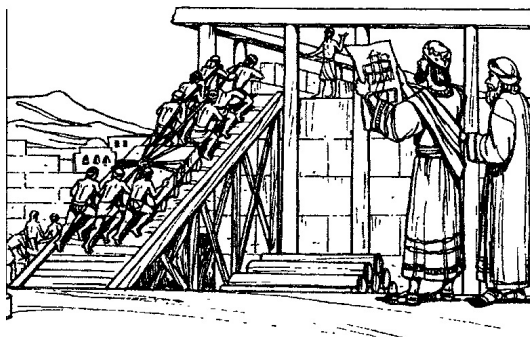
Proverbs 29: 17: Discipline your son and he will give you happiness and peace of mind.

Solomon's fantastic proverbs help us to choose either to stay in the plan of God or go our own way. The choice is ours!

### Preparing to Build the Lord's Temple

Solomon sent a message to King Hiram of Tyre asking for supplies and help with the Temple of the Lord, I Kings 5:5-6.<sup>9</sup> King Hiram and Solomon's father King David had been friends for many years. Hiram knew how important this Temple project was to David. For many years he helped David collect the supplies for the Temple.

King Hiram was pleased to hear from Solomon. He knew he had the skilled craftsmen and the best wood in the world from the cedar trees in Lebanon. King Hiram would do all he could to help David's son.



Using his wisdom, Solomon organized the work force of Israel to work on this project. The people in turn would do all they could to help Solomon complete the Temple for the Lord.

We remember when Moses built the Tabernacle and the way the people overwhelming responded to his requests. They brought Moses so many items that he had to order the people to stop giving, Exodus 36:6.<sup>10</sup> The temple would be a copy of Moses' Tabernacle only much larger.

### We Take a Look at a Family Living in Israel During the Temple Project

The Jews sensed the importance of the Temple and they wanted to be a part of it. Our imagination goes back to what it was like for a family living in Israel during those days of the Temple project. The

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father was away working on the log detail — guiding the log rafts from Tyre down to the seaport of Joppa in Israel. There, the logs were then carried or pulled to Jerusalem, I Kings 5:8-9.<sup>11</sup>



It seemed like everyone in Israel was helping with this huge project. Joseph, the ten-year old son, was weeding the wheat and corn on their land for payment to King Hiram for the cedar logs.

Joseph was a believer in the coming Messiah-Savior. He loved the Lord and was excited he could do his part. He had been to the Tabernacle many times with his father and always carefully listened as the priests gave their messages when the offerings were made. He also enjoyed the songs the priests sang as they performed their work. Joseph would sing these songs as he worked hard, pulling the weeds from the crops on their farm.

Looking at the other members of Joseph's family — there is Sara age 12. She is helping her mother, who is a seamstress, sew the clothes for the many workers from the tribe of Levi. These men would assist the priests with their work. Sara was happy to be a part of the Lord's Temple project. An older brother Aaron was busy taking care of the family and farm while the father was away.

Joseph knew his friend Joshua was helping his family work on the Temple project too. Joshua's family were shepherds. They had raised perfect lambs for the many offerings in the Tabernacle. Now they were happy preparing their perfect line of sheep for the offerings in the Temple.

These were exciting days for the people of Israel. They now numbered 9 million people. Although the people were working hard and long hours, there was the same community spirit as was in the first group of 2 million people that helped Moses complete the Lord's Tabernacle in the desert.

Because the people loved the Lord and were obeying the Law, the Lord directed the four weather angels to provide perfect weather for Israel. Just the right amount of rain and sun for the growing crops gave the Jews a huge harvest on their farms.

Israel was experiencing God's blessings. Today, while the Jews are under God's discipline, we know God is still protecting his people, and blessing those that are good to Israel, Genesis 12:3.<sup>12</sup> In the future, the Lord will be able to fulfill his contact promises to them, Jeremiah 31:31-34.





### Message 2

### Timing Was Right For the Spectacular Permanent Temple of the Lord

#### The Temple Construction Begins

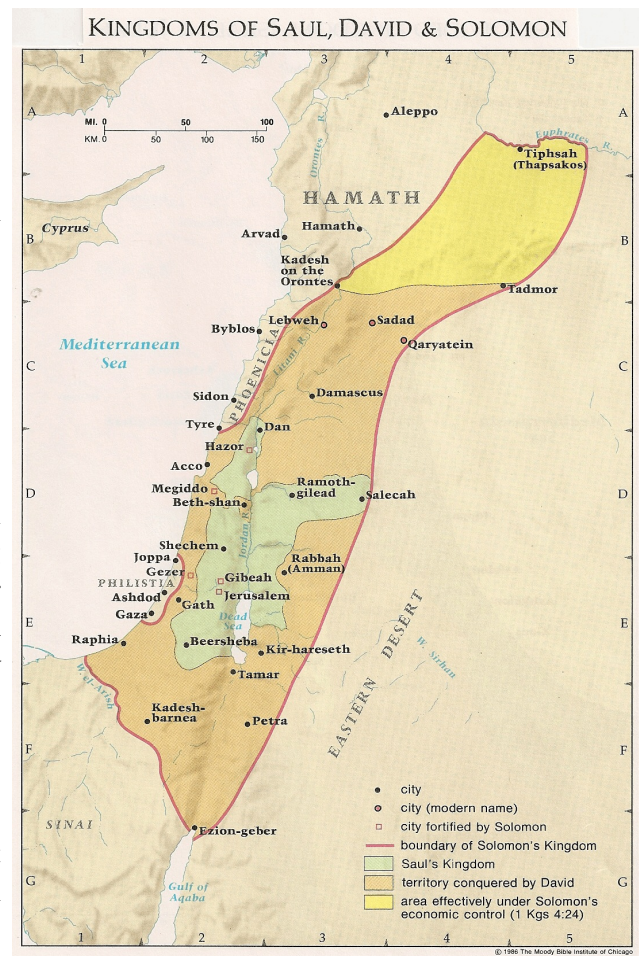
**K**ing Solomon and the Israelites loved the Lord. The Lord was blessing them.

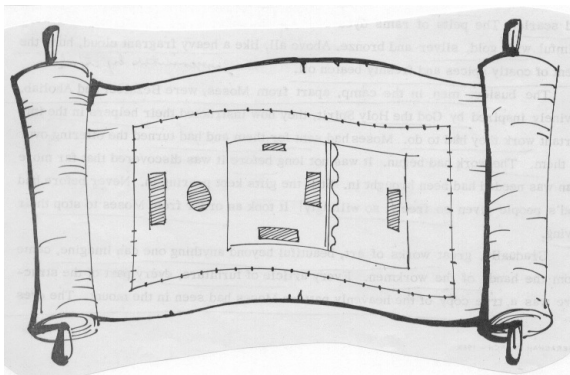
Never before had Israel been so great and united under their Lord King! (They knew the Lord was the divine King over Solomon.) These were golden years for Israel. Israel's enemies were not around, and the people were happy to be obeying the Law, I Kings 4:20.<sup>1</sup>

As with the Tabernacle, every part of the Temple taught a truth about the Lord as the coming Messiah and pointed to the Lord's sacrifice on the cross. King Solomon knew how important this Temple was for God's people. Solomon's father King David had taught the meaning of everything to Solomon as they worshiped in the Tabernacle.

As when Noah built the ark, the Tabernacle's blueprints and patterns were followed exactly. The Tabernacle that Moses built was a portable tent that moved with the Israelites as the Shekinah cloud guided them. The Shekinah Glory in the cloud over the Tabernacle showed the Israelites that the presence of the Lord was there with them. The lid on the Ark, called the mercy seat, was the Lord's throne on planet earth, Exodus 25:21-22.<sup>2</sup>

When the cloud moved, the tribe of Levi carefully packed the Tabernacle with its furniture and the people packed their belongings. Then — the procession moved out! When the cloud stopped, the procession halted and the priests and assistants began to set up the Tabernacle.





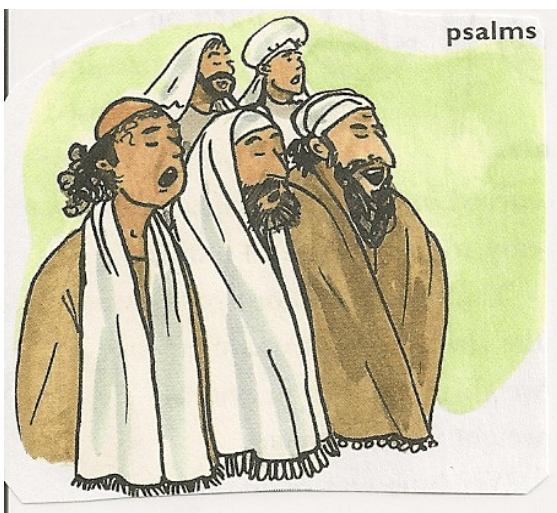
The design and detailed patterns for the Tabernacle and Temple were designed before time began during the “Planning Conference” of the Godhead (God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, and God the Son). The Tabernacle and the permanent Temple served as a worship-center for Israel and was a meeting place to bring the Lord God and the people together in a special way.

Solomon wanted the Temple worship-center to be a building of great beauty with each piece of furniture clearly teaching a truth about the Lord. The blueprints and patterns for the Tabernacle and Temple were all designed to communicate something. The clothing for the priests and the high priest Zadok were also made according to the patterns.

Solomon was in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of his reign when the Temple project began on Mount Moriah. The plans and supplies collected by his father were there. With his gift of wisdom, and the Lord’s help, Solomon was confident he could complete the Lord’s Temple.

Many of the psalms written by King David were intended to be sung during the worship service in the Tabernacle and Temple. A new group of singers from the

tribe of Levi were recruited and began

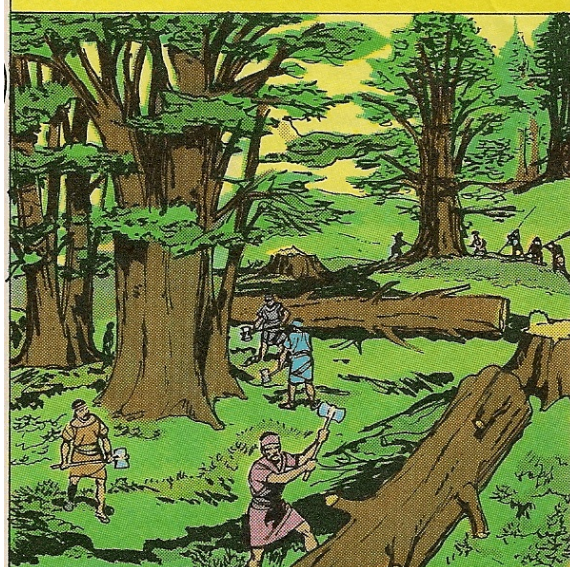


practicing for the worship in the Temple of the Lord. They were well organized with an orchestra of cymbals, harps, and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests — sounding trumpets.

King Hiram said he would send all the cedar logs that Israel needed to any place where Solomon wanted them. King Solomon sent the remaining Canaanite men left in Israel to work with King Hiram’s men.

King Hiram also said he was sending Hiram-Abi. He was a man of great skill, whose mother was from the tribe of Dan and whose father was from Tyre. King Hiram said Hiram was trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple, blue and crimson yarn, fine linen and carving wood, II Chronicles 2:13-14.<sup>3</sup>

**THE DEAL IS MADE--AND SOON MEN BY THE THOUSANDS ARE ORDERED TO WORK IN THE FORESTS OF LEBANON, CUTTING CEDAR TREES FOR SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.**





## Timing Was Right For the Spectacular Permanent Temple of the Lord

The stones for the Temple were chiseled at a quarry. They were cut to fit together perfectly. No hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while the Temple was being built, I Kings 6:7.<sup>4</sup>



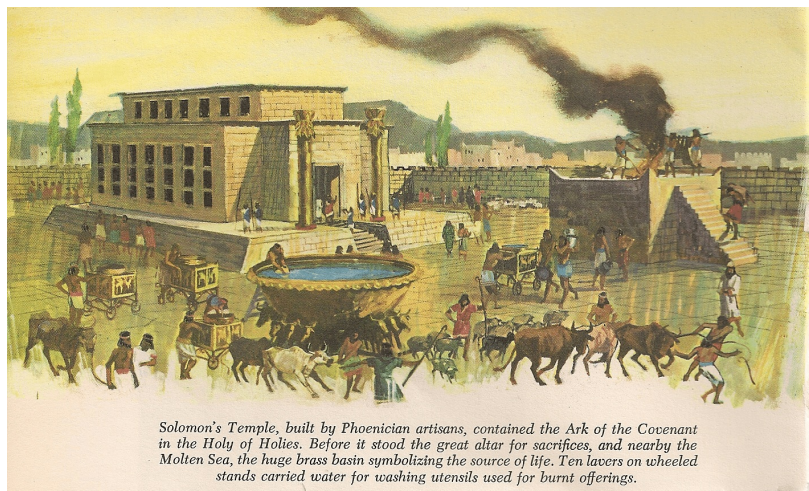
For seven years, Jerusalem was filled with busy workers. They began leveling the site and laying the foundation. The Temple would be 90 feet long and 30 feet wide. The roof was 45 feet high, I Kings 6:2. The walls and doors were carved with cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers.

The Holy Place and the Holy of Holies were set up in the same way as in the

Tabernacle, but were much larger. The wood was covered with pure gold both inside and out.

In the courtyard was the large Bronze Altar, 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 15 feet high, II Chronicles 4:1.<sup>5</sup> The Altar, with the perfect sacrifices, pointed to the perfect Messiah-Savior and his sacrifice on the altar of the cross.

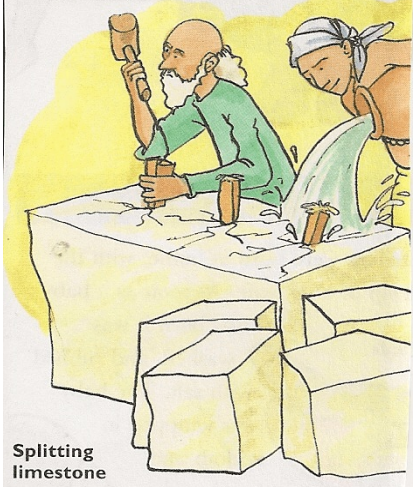
Also in the courtyard was the huge Laver of water resting on the backs of twelve bronze bulls, II Chronicles 4:4-5. The Laver was for the priests to wash their hands and feet under the running water before their priestly work. The rim was 15 feet across and stood 7½ feet above the ground. It held 3,000 barrels of water. This washing was a picture of the recovery procedure, Psalm 66:18.<sup>6</sup> There were 10 smaller movable basins for the washing of animals and utensils.



As believer-priests in our Christian-age, we use this same recovery procedure by naming our sins to God the Father, I John 1:9.<sup>7</sup> This procedure always should be used before prayer, before receiving the teaching of God's words, before participating in our communion service, and any other time we feel we have sinned and are out of the plan of God for our lives.

### STONE BUILDINGS

Workers in stone made city walls, storage silos, wells, cisterns (pits for holding rainwater), arches, tunnels, and important buildings. It was hard, skilled work.





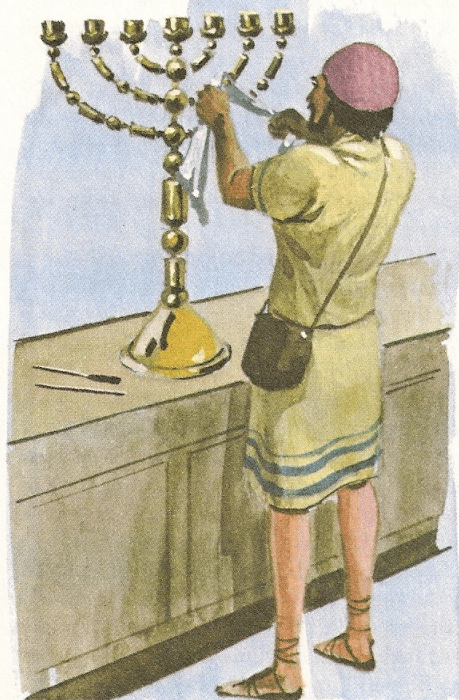


Today, the bread or crackers we eat in our communion service take the place of the perfect lamb offered in the Old Testament and is the picture of the Lord Jesus. The cup of grape juice or wine replaces the blood of the animal and is a reminder of the perfect work of the Lord on the cross.

All the rituals and holy days in the Old Testament were replaced with the communion service we have today. We look back and remember the complete and final sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for all of us. The purpose of our communion service, first

started by the Lord Jesus Christ, is the same as the purpose of the rituals and holy days in the Tabernacle and Temple time.

The walls of the two inner rooms were of carved cedar wood and were overlaid with gold. In the Holy Room were ten lamp stands or Candlesticks made of solid gold, II Chronicles 4:7. The light from the Candlesticks was a picture of the Lord providing light — the light for the world, John 8:12.<sup>8</sup>



Every skill, every beauty, went into the Temple.

In the Holy Room was the Golden Incense Altar. The Altar of Incense was a picture of the prayers of believers going up to God the Father, Psalm 141:2.<sup>9</sup> Today as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our High Priest, the prayers of the believer-priests go directly to God the Father.



Craftsmen of all kinds came: carpenters and carvers.

In the Holy Room were ten Tables for the Show Bread, II Chronicles 4:8. The teaching of the unleavened Show Bread was to show the perfect body of the Lord Jesus, I Corinthians 10:16.<sup>10</sup> Today our bread or crackers also point to the perfect body of the Lord Jesus Christ.



## Timing Was Right For the Spectacular Permanent Temple of the Lord



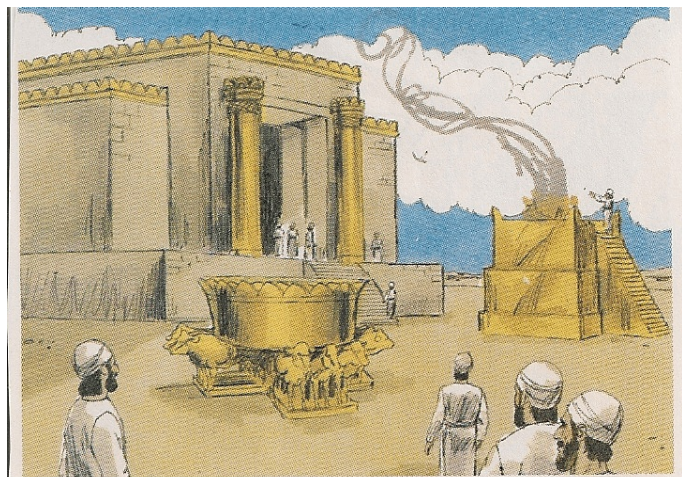
Inside, the walls of the two main rooms were covered with carved cedar overlaid with gold. In the larger room, the Holy Place, were ten lampstands, an altar, and a table — all of gold.

In the smaller room called the Holy of Holies, were two large winged-angels carved of olive wood and covered with gold, II Chronicles 3:10-11. They stood on their feet with their wings spread. This room was called the Holy of Holies because the Ark of the Lord or Covenant was there. The light in this room came from the presence of the Lord. The Holy of Holies was a picture of the true Holy of Holies in the third heaven — God's throne room.

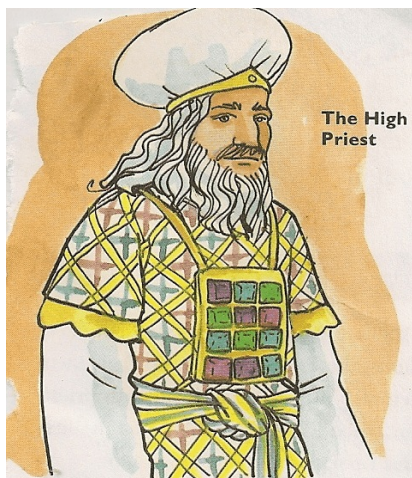
The Temple section was divided into two separate rooms by a beautiful curtain called the "veil." The curtain was made of blue, purple and crimson cloth.

This heavy one-foot thick veil split in two at the death of the Messiah-Savior on the cross, Matthew 27:51.<sup>11</sup> The torn veil opened the way into God's presence for everyone. There would be no more rituals, Holy Days or laws! New marching orders with rules would be given by God for the Christian-age believers.

Two huge brass pillars, 40 feet high and 20 feet around, stood in front of the Temple. The Temple was the most impressive and magnificent building in the land!



It took seven years to complete the Temple. In the courtyard were a bronze altar and a huge tank of water resting on the backs of twelve bronze bulls. A tall pillar stood on each side of the doorway.



The High Priest

### The Ark of the Lord

You could feel the excitement in Jerusalem as the finishing touches were made for the Temple. Solomon waited until the Feast of Tabernacles, a feast of rejoicing, for the dedication of the Temple. This was in the 7<sup>th</sup> month and people from every part of the kingdom would assemble at Jerusalem. It was now 966 B.C. The Temple building had taken 7 years to build.

#### CYMBALS

'Loud cymbals' were two shallow metal plates which were clashed together. 'High sounding cymbals' were hollow metal cups.





## Letter From God 16

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King Solomon invited the leaders of Israel, the heads of the tribes, and anyone who was interested to watch as the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant from the Tabernacle to the Temple, I Kings 8:1.<sup>12</sup> Many of the Israelites planned on attending.



Our imagination again goes back to our special family living in Israel. Joseph was now 17. He was so proud to have been a part of the beautiful Temple. He heard the dedication was going to take place during the Feast of Tabernacles. He knew this was the feast for rejoicing. Joseph wanted to be part of the excitement.

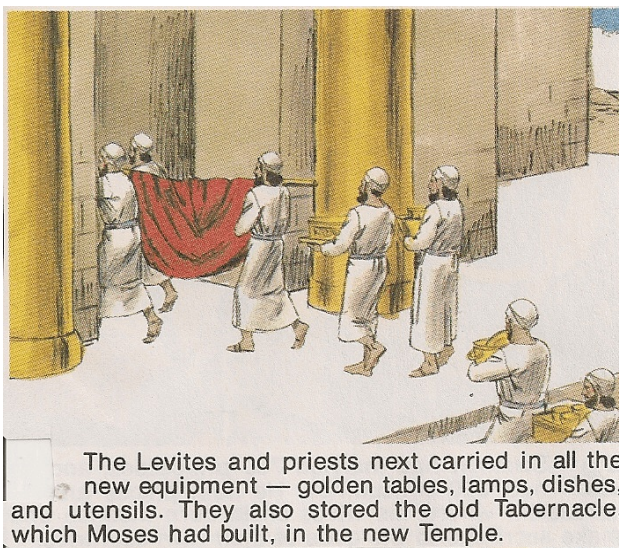
Joseph found out when the priests were going to move the Lord's Ark and the furniture from the Tabernacle to the Temple. Joseph's friend Joshua and his father brought their perfect lambs for the first offerings on the new Altar.

Joseph and Joshua could hardly wait for the big event. They had watched the magnificent Temple going up — it was unbelievable. They were counting the days. They both loved the Lord. They knew the temple was for the Lord and for their worship of the Lord.

Finally the Dedication Day arrived, II Chronicles 5:4-5.<sup>13</sup> The golden guardian angels with their spread wings were waiting for the priests to place the Ark of the Covenant into the Holy of Holies. Early in the morning the priests went to the Tabernacle and began preparing everything for the transport. Joseph and Joshua arrived just as the procession began moving toward the Temple and they followed behind.

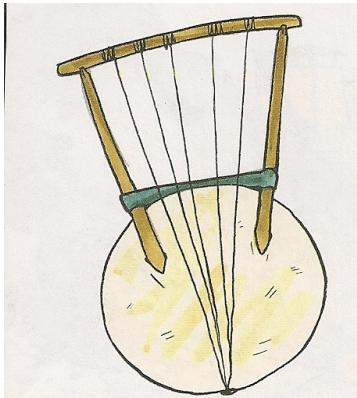
All the priests were dressed in pure white linen. Joseph knew his sister and mother had worked on their special clothing. Joshua thought he saw some of his family's sheep in line for the offerings. It was a proud and happy moment for both of these young men.

Joshua went to check on the offering lambs and found their family lambs sleeping. He knelt down by them and with a feeling of pride and happiness stroked their heads. He knew these lambs would soon be the offerings on the Brazen Altar. Joshua's father had not let anyone in the family name the lambs, as he knew it would be more difficult for them to give them up. But as Joshua took care of the lambs, he gave them secret names and talked to them.





## Timing Was Right For the Spectacular Permanent Temple of the Lord



LARGE LYRE

The sound box of this instrument was probably round and flat, and it would have made a low, rich sound.

Now Joshua explained to the lambs what was going to happen. As the sacrifices were going on, the people would think about their sins and how they, the innocent lambs, were the payment for the sins of the people.

Joshua told the lambs their sacrifices pointed the way to the perfect sacrifice of the promised Messiah-Savior on the altar of the cross. The lambs seemed to understand how important they were and were happy to do their part. With one last pat, Joshua called each lamb by name and left.

### The Ark is in Place and the Temple Dedication Begins

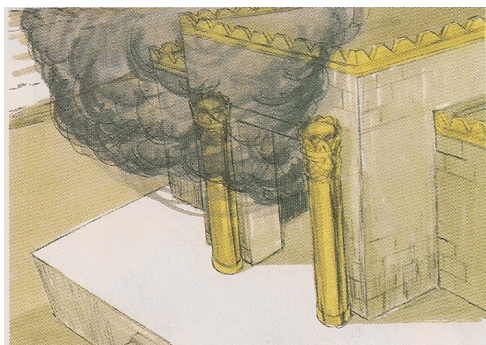
When everyone was present, the priests carried the Ark of the Lord to its place in the Holy of Holies, I Kings 8:6. The priests also carried the folded Tabernacle and all its furnishings into the Temple.

All the Levites, who had been practicing the songs written by David, stood on the east side of the Atar. As the priests came out — the sound of the trumpets broke the silence. Then the choir joined in with the song, “The Lord is good: his love endures forever.” The scene was stunning, and the sounds were incredible!



FOI Image Archived Stan Stein

While the singing was going on, a large cloud came and filled the Temple! It was the Shekinah Glory of the Lord! I Kings 8:10-11.<sup>14</sup> The people now knew God had accepted the new home for the Ark and the presence of the Lord was there. This cloud was also there when Moses set up the Tabernacle, Exodus 40:34-35.<sup>15</sup>



As the priests left the Temple, it was suddenly filled with a cloud. This was a sign that the Lord was present. Thousands of animals were offered as sacrifices to the Lord that day.

In front of the Brazen Altar, Solomon placed a bronze platform, 7½ feet square and 4½ feet high, II Chronicles 6:13. Now, as the people watched, King Solomon knelt down, reached his arms toward heaven, and prayed this prayer:

“O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven and earth. You are loving and kind and if your people do their best to obey, You will keep your promises.

Please watch over this temple night and day. As we face toward the Temple and pray, please listen to us and answer our requests. When You hear, forgive.



King Solomon prayed: "Lord God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or earth."

"When your people sin and their enemies defeat them, hear them from heaven. If they confess that You are their God, forgive them and bring them back to this land that You have given to their fathers.

"When the skies are shut up and there is no rain because of their sins, Deuteronomy 11:17,<sup>16</sup> hear them and forgive them when they pray toward this place. After You have punished them, help them follow the way they should walk and send rain on the land that You have given to your people.

"If there is a famine in the land caused by plant disease or locusts, or if Israel's enemies besiege one of

her cities, or if there is a plague, hear them. When the people confess their sins and pray toward this Temple, forgive them.

"When you send your people out to battle and they pray to You, looking toward your City of Jerusalem and this Temple, hear their prayers and help them. If the people sin and You let their enemies lead them away as captives and they cry to You, hear their prayers and come to help them.

"Make their captors merciful to them. May your eyes be open and your ears listening to their pleas. Hear and answer them for You brought our fathers out of the land of Egypt. You told your servant Moses that You chose Israel from among all the nations of the earth to be your own special people," I Kings 8:23-53.



"Watch over this Temple day and night," he prayed. "And hear your people when we face in the direction of this Temple and pray. In your home in heaven hear us and forgive us."

As King Solomon finished this prayer, he rose from in front of the Altar and cried out this blessing on all the people of Israel. "Blessed be the Lord who has fulfilled his promise and given rest to his people. May the Lord our God be with us as He was with our fathers. May He never forsake us. May the Lord give us the desire to stay in God's plan and obey all the instructions and rules He has given to our ancestors.

"May people all over the earth know that the Lord is God and that there is no other god. O my people, may you live good lives before the Lord our God and may you always obey his laws, just as you are doing today," I Kings 8:56-61.



## Timing Was Right For the Spectacular Permanent Temple of the Lord

There were offerings lying on the Altar and when Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and burned the offerings! This also happened when the Tabernacle was set up, Leviticus 9:24. All the people who were watching knelt with their faces to the ground, worshipping and thanking the Lord saying, “God is good and his love endures forever,” II Chronicles 7:3.<sup>17</sup>

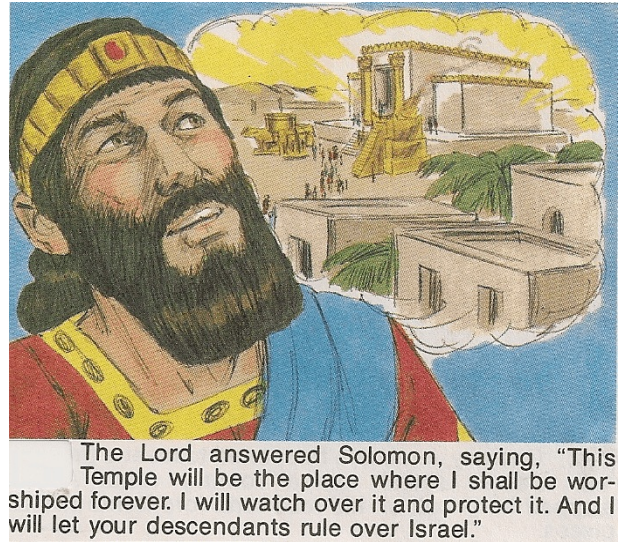
The burnt offerings were for the sins of the people. The peace offerings were a means of giving thanks to the Lord. The meat of the peace offerings was eaten during the festival. King Solomon gave 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep and goats for the peace offerings, I Kings 8:62-63. A huge grill was placed before the Altar to grill the meat for the people.

A great crowd came from one end of the land to the other. This celebration festival lasted for fourteen days. The people were overjoyed with all the blessings the Lord had shown them.

The worship crowd could not stop talking about the events and how happy they were to have this beautiful temple where they could worship and hear God’s messages from the Law by the priests. Joseph and his friend Joshua were so happy they could attend the dedication and enjoy the festival. They would never forget seeing the Glory cloud and the fire from heaven that came down to burn the offerings!

### **The Lord Speaks to Solomon**

One night the Lord again appeared to Solomon and assured him that his work on the temple and its dedication pleased Him. *‘I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place where I want you to sacrifice to Me. If I shut up the heavens, or if I command the locust swarms to eat up all your crops, or send an epidemic among you — and my people will humble themselves and turn from their wicked ways, I will forgive their sins and heal their land,’* II Chronicles 7:12-15.

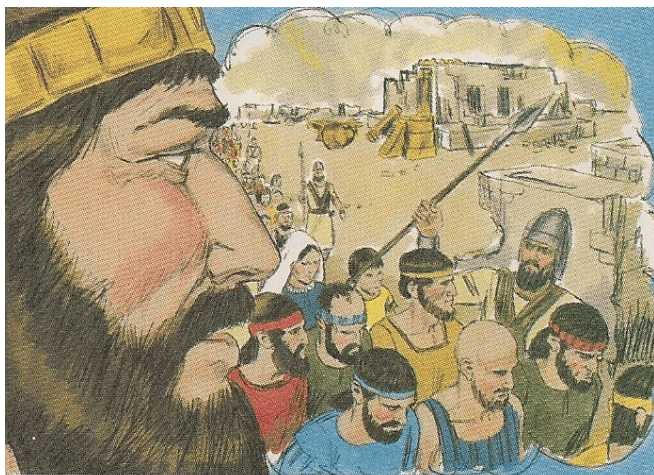


*‘But, if you go your own way and refuse to obey the laws I have given you and worship idols, then I will destroy my people from this land, and this Temple will be destroyed!’*

*‘If people pass by and ask, why has the Lord done such a terrible thing to the land and to the Temple? The answer will be, because the people rejected the Lord God of their fathers and worshiped other gods!’*

### **Blessings or Cursings**

Israel was the special channel that God used to reveal Himself and the truth to the human race. God chose the Jews to be the caretakers of God’s letter to us. From the Israelites is traced the ancestry of the promised Messiah-Savior, Romans 9:4-5.<sup>18</sup>



"But if you or your descendants disobey me and worship other gods, I will move my people Israel from this land and depart from this Temple. I will leave it in a heap of ruins."

God established a system of law and order for his people to protect the Israelites. These laws were given to Moses and written by Moses in the first five books of the Old Testament. If the people obeyed the laws, the Lord promised them blessings, Deuteronomy 28:1. If the Israelites did not obey the Law, the Lord promised cursings and discipline, Deuteronomy 28:15.<sup>19</sup>

Moses said to the people, "Look, today I have set before you life and death, depending on whether you obey or disobey. I have commanded you today to love the Lord your God and go the Lord's way and keep his laws. Then You will become a great nation. The Lord will bless you and the land you are about to possess," Deuteronomy 30:15-16.

"But, if you go your own way and worship other gods, you will not have a long and good life in the land you are going to possess," Deuteronomy 30:17-18.<sup>20</sup> "Chose to love the Lord and obey Him, for He is your life. You will then be able to live safely in the land the Lord promised to your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

### Blessings

The Lord told Moses on Mount Sinai, *'Speak to the Israelites and say to them — if you obey all of my commandments, I will give you regular rains and the land will yield bumper crops. The trees will be loaded with fruit long after the normal time. I will give you peace, and you will go to sleep without fear. I will chase away the dangerous animals.'*

*'You will be able to defeat your enemies and they will die beneath your swords. I will walk among you and will be your God and you will be my people,'* Leviticus 26:3-7.

### Cursings

*'If you go your own way, I will punish you with terror and panic and with diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and drain away your life. You will plant seeds in vain, because your enemies will eat your crops. You will be defeated by your enemies. I will send wild animals to kill your children and destroy your cattle.'*

*'I will scatter you among the nations, destroying you with war as you go. For those who are left alive, I will cause them to be dragged away to distant lands as prisoners and slaves. Your land will be desolate and your cities will be destroyed,'* Leviticus 26:14-16 & 33.

## Timing Was Right For the Spectacular Permanent Temple of the Lord

Today, the rules for obeying the Lord are different, but the blessings and cursings are the same. Our blessings depend on obeying the rules God gives us in the New Testament. The cursings depend on if we reject God or go our own way.

With the forever contract promises the Lord gave to Abraham, Genesis 12:1-3, we know the land will always belong to Israel, Jeremiah 31:33 & 36.<sup>21</sup> But today, because most of the Jews are still rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah-Savior, they are under God's cursing. As part of their discipline, the Jews are scattered throughout the world. They have no right to the land of Israel unless they conquer or purchase it.

During the future 1,000 year reign of the Lord King on planet earth, Israel again will be God's special people. Their King of kings and Lord of lords will reign in Jerusalem, the capital city of his Kingdom.

Israel will then receive the land-grant that was first promised to Abraham. From all over the world, the scattered tribes of Israel will be gathered by the Lord King. The large land-grant will be divided among the twelve tribes, Ezekiel 47:21.<sup>22</sup>



The Jewish Holy Days and rituals from the Old Testament will begin and be celebrated as a memorial to the provisions of God. The Levites will be the spiritual leaders and will take over their former priestly duties. The descendants of the high priest Zadok will again serve in the Millennium Temple.

God the Father has future plans for the Jews and will not let them be destroyed. As Moses shouted at the Red Sea, "Watch and see how God will save you!" Exodus 14:14. The shepherd David shouted as he faced Goliath, "The battle is the Lord's and He will hand you over to us!" I Samuel 17:47. May we remember these words of the winner believers in the Old Testament as we face the battles in our lives!



### Message 3

#### Solomon's Projects and the Sheba Queen

##### Solomon Builds His Palace Complex

**A**fter the Temple project, Solomon began to work on his palace. Because the Palace Complex was much larger than the Temple, it took 13 years to build. It was paneled with cedar from the floor to the rafters.

These buildings were constructed from huge expensive stones, cut to size. The foundation stones were twelve to fifteen feet across. Solomon wanted the Temple and his Palace Complex to be the most beautiful buildings in the world — the wonder of the world.



Part of the Palace Complex was the Throne Room, where Solomon heard legal matters. Inside the Throne Room, King Solomon designed his magnificent throne of ivory, covered with pure gold.

There were six wide steps leading up to the throne. On each step there were two carved lions, one on each side, so that there was a row of lions on each side of the steps, twelve lions — the number of the twelve tribes of Israel. In all the world, there was not another Throne Room as fabulous as Solomon's.

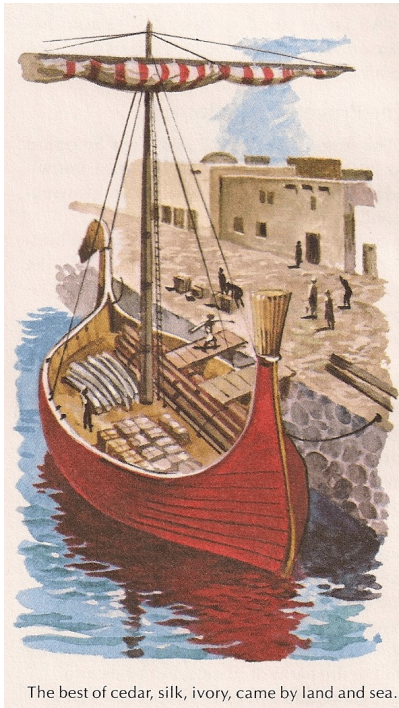
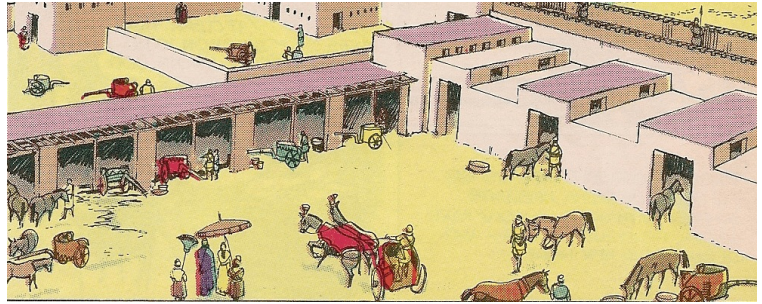
The Lord had instructed Israel's kings not to multiply gold for themselves, Deuteronomy 17:17b.<sup>1</sup> In the Palace Banquet Hall all the goblets and serving plates were made of pure gold. None were of silver for silver was as common as stones in Jerusalem.

A building was also in the Complex to store Solomon's treasures — solid gold shields and spears, I Kings 10:16-17.<sup>2</sup> He extended the fortified walls of Jerusalem to protect the Temple and Palace Complex.



## Solomon's Projects and the Sheba Queen

Although the Lord had instructed Israel's kings not to have a great number of horses for themselves, Deuteronomy 17:16<sup>3</sup>, Solomon gathered a huge army of chariots and horses to defend his kingdom. Solomon loved horses and according to Josephus had 40,000 stalls for his horses and 12,000 horsemen! Each month the taxes from the people provided food for King Solomon and his court and barley and straw for the royal horses in the stables, I Kings 4:27-28.<sup>4</sup>



The best of cedar, silk, ivory, came by land and sea.

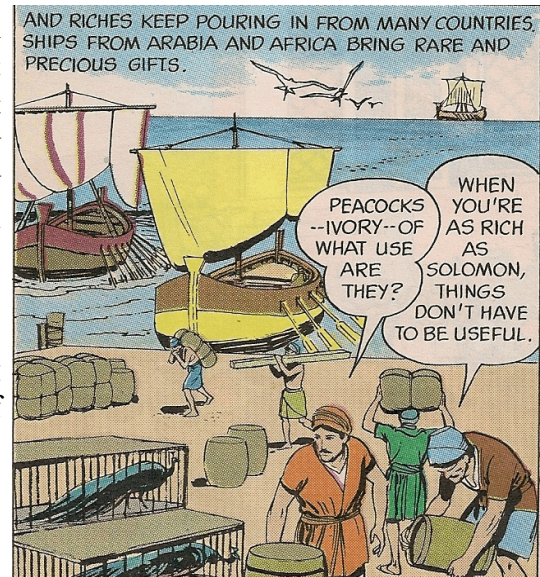
In the land of Edom on the Red Sea, King Solomon built a shipyard for his fleet of ships that he used for trading purposes and for his navy. King Hiram supplied experienced sailors to train Solomon's crews, I Kings 9:26-27.<sup>5</sup> The ships brought back millions of dollars worth of gold and rare treasures. They also carried precious stones and almug wood, a rare wood out of which King Solomon made harps and lyres for the Temple singers.

Once every three years, Solomon's ships went to India, bringing back gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. In the complex's pleasant gardens, peacocks strutted, spreading their gorgeous tails, while chattering monkeys swung from palm-trees.

The Lord had instructed that Israel's kings must not have too many wives, lest their hearts be turned away from the Lord, Deuteronomy 17:17a.<sup>6</sup> Solomon made an alliance with the Pharaoh of Egypt and married his daughter.

The Palace Complex included housing for Solomon's mistresses and a palace for his wife, Pharaoh's daughter. King Solomon thought he established good relations with many of the neighboring countries by marrying princesses of these nations.

Instead of trusting the Lord for his security and protection, Solomon was looking for peace with other countries. When Solomon married a daughter or sister of the foreign kings, it made the foreign kings think they were related to Solomon. It was not likely that their countries would go to war against Israel. But the Lord was not pleased with this practice.





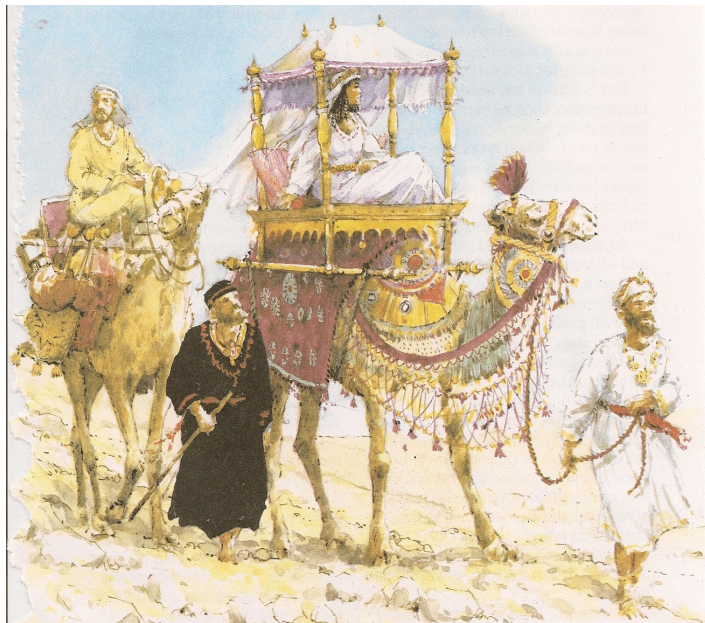
From distant countries came kings and leaders to pledge their loyalty to King Solomon and hear his wisdom. These kings and leaders brought expensive gifts. From this source more than a million dollars in gold and money came to Solomon every year. The many countries conquered by King David were also still paying taxes to Solomon.

### The Sheba Queen Visits King Solomon

Far away from Israel, at the far end of the ancient trade-routes on the Red Sea, a Queen ruled in the kingdom of Sheba. Sheba was in the Arabian peninsula and is now the country of Yemen. Visitors brought stories to her court of the wealthy king from Israel called Solomon who was famous for his great wisdom and blessings from Israel's mighty Lord God.



The more stories the Queen heard about Solomon and his Temple and Palace Complex the more curious she was. She also wanted to learn more about Solomon's true Lord God.



Try to imagine the Queen's thoughts: "I keep hearing these stories about the fabulous City of Jerusalem, the beauty of the Temple and Palace and the great wisdom of King Solomon. But are these stories really true about how Israel's Lord God is blessing the Israelites? I've always wondered if there is a *true* God. I not only want to go to see the beauty of Jerusalem, but I need to question King Solomon about his Lord God.

"But, do I really want to travel on the long trip through the hot and dusty desert? YES, I need to go! I wonder what King Solomon looks like?

"First, I have to prepare for the trip. I need to give instructions to the second in charge here

who will govern the country while I am gone.

"In Sheba, we have the finest spices in the world. I have to prepare the spices and gifts to take along. According to legend, the Queen brought a natural healing plant that is still growing in Israel today.



## Solomon's Projects and the Sheba Queen



“On the trip, I’ll have time to list the difficult riddles and hard questions I want to ask King Solomon,” I Kings 10:1.<sup>7</sup> “I wonder if there is a connection between the wealth and wisdom of King Solomon and the Lord God he serves.”

Sheba was a country with great wealth, and the elegant Queen was an intelligent and well-educated woman. After many preparations, the huge caravan with the Sheba Queen and her traveling group of servants, guards, and attendants began their long journey — 1,300 hot miles. Dozens of camels were loaded with saddlebags containing spices, gold, and precious stones as gifts.

As the Queen’s caravan made their way through the hot desert, the Sheba Queen became more and more eager to meet King Solomon. Finally, they arrived in Jerusalem. She could scarcely believe her eyes. “The city sits on the hill like a gleaming crown!” the Queen exclaimed.

King Solomon made the Sheba Queen welcome. After the Queen bowed low before him, Solomon showed the Queen his Palace Complex.

When Solomon showed the Sheba Queen his building projects, the Queen remarked that the one foreman seemed to know what he was doing. King Solomon told her, “That is Jeroboam, my chief labor foreman.” Then King Solomon ushered her into the Banquet Hall for dinner.

The Sheba Queen was in shock. The scene of the food on the gold plates with the gold goblets and — the sound of the beautiful music coming from the Levi musicians and singers was awesome. She thought Solomon’s palace must be the wonder of the world — another world.







Sitting down on the pleasant porch surrounding the living quarters, the Sheba Queen began her difficult questioning. As the peacocks were strutting and the apes were swinging, Solomon answered all her riddles and questions. Nothing was too difficult for King Solomon. The Queen soon realized everything she had heard about Solomon's wisdom was true. It left her speechless!

"All that I heard about you, King Solomon, is true!" she exclaimed. "I thought the traders told far-fetched tales, but now I find that the visitors to my court did not tell me half about your wealth and wisdom," I Kings 10:6-7.<sup>8</sup>

During the questioning time, King Solomon was aware that the Sheba Queen was interested in the Lord. Next stop — Solomon gave her a tour of the Temple, carefully explaining how each piece of furniture clearly taught a truth about the Lord. Again, the Queen was overwhelmed! She had never heard or seen anything like this!

In the Temple courtyard, while some of the priests were teaching their messages, other priests were singing their messages as they made sacrifices. The Sheba Queen had tons of new questions for King Solomon. King Solomon enjoyed the Queen's difficult questions.

King Solomon invited the Queen to stay as long as she could. Daily the King and Queen spent time talking together. Solomon told her about the creation of the world by the Lord God and explained the mysteries of nature. Their discussions were fantastic!

Solomon also taught the Queen all he knew about the Lord and the history of Israel. The Sheba Queen loved the story about how Solomon's father, as a youth, killed the giant Goliath with a sling shot and a stone. As a result of these discussions, the Sheba Queen became a believer in the Lord as the coming Messiah-Savior! Matthew 12:42.<sup>9</sup>



WHEN HER CURIOSITY IS SATISFIED, THE QUEEN OF SHEBA PRESENTS SOLOMON WITH GIFTS OF GOLD, RARE SPICES, PRECIOUS STONES — AND DEPARTS FOR HER HOME.

The Sheba Queen told King Solomon, "Blessed be the Lord your God who is delighted with you and has placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's love for Israel, He has made you King to maintain righteousness and justice for his people," I Kings 10:9.<sup>10</sup>

At last, the Queen knew it was time for her to go back and rule her country. Solomon was very generous to her and when her caravan left, her camels were as heavily loaded as when they came.

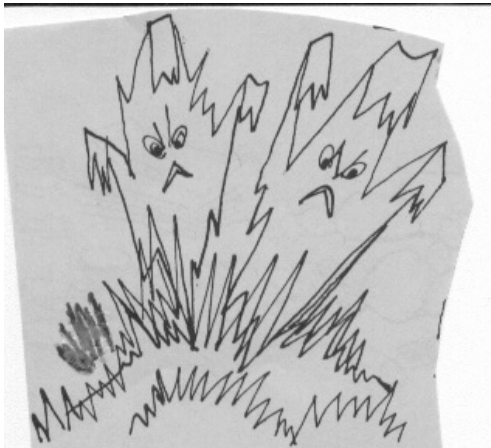
As King Solomon and the Sheba Queen parted, Solomon told her if they didn't see each other again, they would one day meet with the Lord in Paradise. Solomon also told the Queen that if she wanted to know more about the Lord God, her now Lord God would provide her with the information, Jeremiah 29:13.<sup>11</sup>

There is no further reference to the Queen of Sheba in the Bible. But today, the people of Ethiopia trace their roots back to her.

### Problems in Israel

The peace and happiness of Israel depended on the Israelites obeying the Law of Moses, and on Israel's response to the warnings of God's prophets. One of the laws for Israel's kings was that they should daily read and carefully follow the entire Book of Deuteronomy. This practice would give the kings a long and successful reign, Deuteronomy 17:18-19.<sup>12</sup>

King Solomon neglected reading the Torah scrolls. He seemed to be too busy with his other interests. This lack of interest in God's messages left an opening for weed-plants of sin.



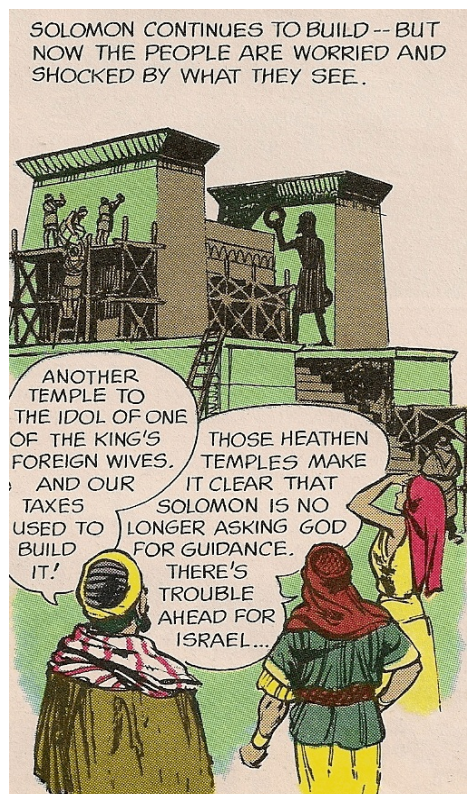
Small weed-plants of pride and greed slowly began sneaking into Solomon's soul. We know it is harder to stay in the plan of God in prosperity than to stay in the plan of God in adversity. When in trouble, a believer tends to keep his eyes on the Lord and look to Him for help.

As Solomon grew older, he wanted to be more like the surrounding kings. They all showed off their great riches by having a variety of wives. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 mistresses! The mistresses were the workers in the complex.

While Solomon was still going to the Temple to worship the Lord, his foreign wives persuaded him to build temples and altars for their idols on the high places, I Kings 11:7-9.<sup>13</sup> In the pagan religions of that day, the worship and rituals were done on the mountaintops.



### Friends Joseph and Joshua



In our imagination, we again take a peak into the lives of the two friends Joseph and Joshua. Many years have passed. The last time we saw them was at the dedication ceremony of the Lord's Temple. Both Joseph and Joshua are now married with families of their own. They are aware something was very wrong in Israel.

Joseph said, "Another temple for the gods of one of King Solomon's wives! And to think that our tax money is used for this. And we wonder why our taxes are so high. Building these temples is against God's Law. King Solomon is no longer following God's rules. Our country is in deep trouble Joshua!"

Joshua — "God will surely discipline King Solomon and Israel. We will be under the Lord's cursing instead of blessing. As for me and my family, we are going to love the Lord, obey his laws, listen to God's messages, and use them in our lives."

Joseph answered, "Joshua, my family also will keep on worshipping the Lord in the Temple. We need to continue to love the Lord and trust the Lord will provide and protect our families."

### More Problems in Israel

The sad thing was, Solomon also led Israel into this evil worship of idols. The Lord was no longer #1 in Solomon's life nor in the lives of many of the people!

Instead of teaching his wives about the true Lord God, Solomon's wives turned his head. Solomon began — idol worshiping to please his wives! I Kings 11:3-4.<sup>14</sup> The people found the worship in the high places was exciting and fun. This displeased the Lord.

King Solomon had greatly increased the size and wealth of Israel. Israel was now the most powerful country in the world. The Lord wanted his people to be witnesses of the Truth to the world! Instead they were the same as other nations.

Solomon rejected the plan of God for his life. Even though Solomon was into idol worship in the high places, God permitted Solomon to reign over the kingdom for the rest of his life for the sake of his father David.





Solomon's eyes were on what he had accomplished and on his possessions instead of on the Lord. Solomon wanted all the credit for himself — no credit to the Lord for blessings. He trusted in the security of his huge army instead of in the protection of the Lord. It was all "I, me, and mine."

### Solomon Fails the Prosperity Test

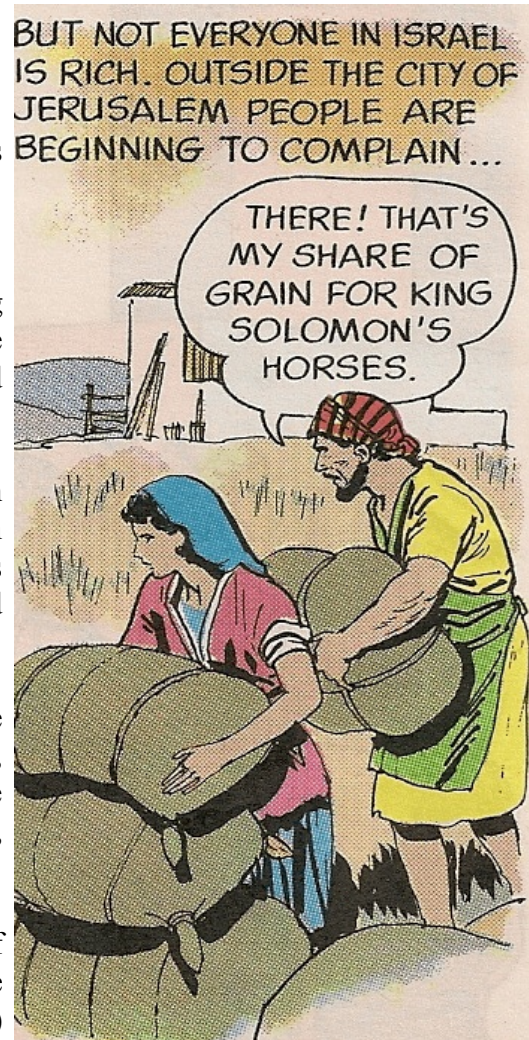
As Solomon grew older, he was no longer happy with his great wealth, his beautiful possessions, and his many wives. Solomon became unhappy and completely bored.

The people also were unhappy working so hard and paying higher and higher taxes. And for what? — building more temples and altars for Solomon's wives? God would send warnings to Solomon through the prophets.

Solomon had been blessed with the gift of great wisdom from God. When he was out of God's plan with weed-plants in his soul, Solomon did not make wise decisions. Because of his unwise choices, Solomon's life was filled with misery and boredom.

At this time, the Lord had a message for Solomon, 'Since you have not kept our agreement and have not obeyed my laws, I will tear the kingdom away from you and your family and give it to someone else. However, for the sake of your father David, I won't do this while you are alive.

'I will let your son be king of one tribe, for the sake of Jerusalem, my chosen city,' I Kings 11:11-12. (Later the tribe of Benjamin joined Judah and there were two tribes in Judah.)



### Message 4

#### Solomon's Last Years

##### Friends Joseph and Joshua

**W**e again check in with our imaginary friends Joseph and Joshua. When they met, Joseph spoke first, “King Solomon built these temples for his wives’ gods — now God’s people are following King Solomon and worshiping idols in these same temples! This is evil! I’m afraid for our country, Joshua! King Solomon needs to wake up.”

Joshua comforted Joseph with these words, “We know that no country that turns away from God can remain strong and free. Israel is in deep trouble! We need to be strong in the Lord and keep our eyes on Him. We need to keep teaching God’s messages to our families. The Lord will continue to provide and protect us.”



##### Jeroboam

We now take a look at the able young man named Jeroboam. Jeroboam’s father was from the northern tribe of Ephraim.

We remember the Sheba Queen remarked to Solomon how capable Jeroboam looked as he worked as a foreman on Solomon’s building projects, I Kings 11:28.<sup>1</sup> We also recall that in His message to King Solomon, the Lord said He would tear the kingdom away (as discipline) from his family.





One day as Jeroboam was walking outside Jerusalem, he met a prophet named Ahijah from Shiloh. Ahijah stopped him. The prophet was wearing a new robe. Ahijah took off his robe and tore it into twelve pieces, I Kings 11:29-30.<sup>2</sup>

Jeroboam was very surprised to see the prophet do this strange thing. Jeroboam was even more surprised when Ahijah said to him, "Take ten of these pieces, for the Lord is going to take the kingdom away from King Solomon. The Lord will give ten tribes of Israel to you, and you will be king over them.



"The Lord said, 'I have promised my servant David that his sons shall be kings forever in Jerusalem. Only a small part (the two pieces) of the kingdom of Israel will remain under the rule of David's family,' I Kings 11:32.<sup>3</sup>



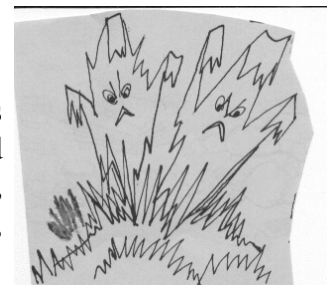
*'I will do this because the people have forsaken Me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molech the god of the Ammonites. The people have not walked in my ways, nor obeyed my laws,' I Kings 11:33.*

*'I will place you on the throne of Israel and give you absolute power. If you listen to what I tell you and walk in my paths and obey my laws, as King David did, then I will bless you. I will make your descendants rulers after you,' I Kings 11:38.*

When Solomon learned what had been prophesied by Ahijah, he attempted to kill Jeroboam. Jeroboam escaped to Egypt, where he remained safe under the Lord's protection. Were the words of God's prophet a wake-up call for Solomon?

### Solomon and Israel are Disciplined

Strong weed-plants of pride, greed, and fear had taken over King Solomon's soul. Because he became proud of his possessions, he kept building more and more beautiful palaces and buildings. When the weed-plant of greed took over, Solomon wanted more and more wealth. Because of the weed-plant of fear, Solomon married the foreign women who brought along their idols.



Solomon missed out on so many blessings by waiting until the end of his life to recover and get back in God's plan for his life. At times we all take our eyes off the Lord. When David discovered how miserable he was out of God's plan, he kept short accounts. David's life was filled with both excitement and blessings because of his recovery procedures and moving on.

## **Letter From God 16**

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When Israel rejected God and worshiped pagan idols, we know that God gave power to other nations to discipline Israel. We know that Solomon's kingdom will be torn from him and his son will take his place as ruler over the southern part of Israel. As his father King David was punished for his sins, so King Solomon was disciplined. God uses evil to punish evil.

Solomon's discipline — Solomon's line will not continue through to the promised Messiah-Savior. The Lord's line will go through Solomon's brother, Nathan, Acts 2:30-31.<sup>4</sup> Mary's husband Joseph would be from the line of Solomon, Matthew 1:16.<sup>5</sup>

### **Solomon Has Final Wisdom and Words From the Book of Ecclesiastes**

Solomon as a youth and in the early half of his years as King of Israel, loved the Lord and wanted to please Him. It was during these first years that Solomon gave us his wise sayings in the Book of Proverbs. In the last years of his life, Solomon again desires to teach us with his words from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

From the years of his life when he was out of the plan of God and rejecting the Lord, Solomon has wise warnings for us. He tells us how empty his life was without God and how meaningless his life became without a relationship with the Lord.

King Solomon did change as we read in the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon could now stay focused on the Lord as he knew the distractions were not his source of happiness. He lists all the ways he tried to find happiness and left us with important messages.

The Book opens with Solomon searching for happiness, Ecclesiastes 1:1-2.<sup>6</sup> He thought studying and education was going to make him happy.

He tells us he discovered the earth is round, Ecclesiastes 1:5.<sup>7</sup> Solomon also shows us the cycles of the wind, Ecclesiastes 1:6.<sup>8</sup> He found that education and study were meaningless without the Lord, Ecclesiastes 1:16-17.<sup>9</sup> He explains that he discovered there is nothing new under the sun, Ecclesiastes 1:9.<sup>10</sup>

Next, he tried big building programs — homes, vineyards, gardens, parks, and orchards. He also invented a system of irrigation to water his plantations, Ecclesiastes 2:4-6.<sup>11</sup> These things only brought him happiness for a short time.

Solomon speaks: "I gathered many servants and acquired great herds of animals. I obtained huge amounts of silver and gold. I organized fantastic music with many instruments and choirs. At first I was happy with these things — then I became bored as they did not give me happiness. I was miserable and — no sleep at night," Ecclesiastes 2:23.<sup>12</sup>

"To the man who pleases God, the Lord gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness with capacity for life. That man enjoys life, work, food, and his sleep is relaxed," Ecclesiastes 2:24-26.



“I found that only through the knowledge of God and using God’s messages are we able to enjoy our work and the pleasures of life. There is a right time for everything.

“A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant (work) and a time to harvest that which is planted; a time to kill (battle) and a time to heal (medicine); a time to break down and a time to build up (construction); a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance (play); a time to cast away stones (clear a field) and a time to gather stones (to build).

“A time to hug and a time not to hug; a time to find and a time to lose; a time to save and a time to cast away (get rid of things). A time to tear and a time to repair; a time to be quiet and a time to speak up; a time for loving and a time for hating; a time for war and a time for peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Solomon discovered whatever has been, and whatever is going to be, and what has happened before, God will again bring it to pass. History always repeats itself, Ecclesiastes 3:15.<sup>13</sup>

At this point, Solomon began to recover and slowly began to remember God’s messages, Ecclesiastes 4:13.<sup>14</sup> Solomon used the recovery procedure of confession of his sins. His thoughts were again on the Lord. Perhaps he was reading God’s letter (as much as was available) including the Psalms that his father David wrote.

Solomon tells us that much dreaming and many words are meaningless. “Therefore rest in the Lord and stand in awe of God,” Ecclesiastes 5:7.<sup>15</sup>

Solomon teaches us that money and riches are not to take the place of a relationship with the Lord. “Without the Lord, money and riches do not bring happiness,” Ecclesiastes 5:10.<sup>16</sup>

“The sleep of a working man is peaceful and it restores him. He is at peace and has no worries,” Ecclesiastes 5:12.<sup>17</sup> “When the Lord blesses a man with wealth and possessions, he enjoys them — this is a gift from the Lord!” Ecclesiastes 5:19.

“We all have times in our lives when life seems hopeless. Only God knows what the future brings. If we love the Lord, follow his rules, and place our lives in his hands, He will give us hope. With our eyes on the Lord and in the plan of God, we will have a content and happy future,” Ecclesiastes 6:12.<sup>18</sup>

“The wise man who uses God’s messages will have the capacity to enjoy life. His life will be meaningful to himself and others. Wisdom alone without the Lord does not bring happiness,” Ecclesiastes 7:23.<sup>19</sup>



## Letter From God 16

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“When a man is using God’s messages, he will be changed from the inside,” Ecclesiastes 8:1.<sup>20</sup> “When a man falls into a pit (through gossip and lying), he makes his own troubles,” Ecclesiastes 10:8.<sup>21</sup> “After a horse is stolen, it is too late to lock the barn door. It is pleasant to listen to the words of a winner believer, but a loser believer’s speech brings him ruin,” Ecclesiastes 10:12.<sup>22</sup>

“If a person lives to be old, let him rejoice every day of life, but let him remember that eternity is far longer. Follow the way of your heart (thinking God’s messages). Put away evil — (recovery procedure for wrong thoughts). The solution to unhappiness is using God’s messages in your soul,” Ecclesiastes 11:9-10.

“Don’t let the excitement of being young cause you to forget about your Lord Creator in your youth. Honor God, obey his rules and store God’s messages. Don’t waste your youth on meaningless activities that could become bad habits,” Ecclesiastes 12:1.<sup>23</sup>

“As the Lord is with us in our youth, so He will be with us in our old age. God knows what the future holds for us and directs the future. When we are old, it is difficult to remember God’s messages unless we have stored them when we were young,” Ecclesiastes 12:2-7.

“The words of the wise are like goads. They jump into action to guide when used by the Shepherd. Be warned of any addition to the truth (God’s letter),” Ecclesiastes 12:11-12.<sup>24</sup>

The final verses teach us the importance of our relationship with God as we live in this unfair world. Solomon’s last words to us are —



“Fear God and obey his rules, for this is the duty of man. God will evaluate (for our rewards) everything we do, including every hidden thing,” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

“If the Lord God is #1 priority in your life, you will discover what God has planned for you. Trust Him, love Him, and you will find happiness all the days of your life!”

Today, we are the Josephs and Joshuas representing the Lord on this earth. Our temple is inside of us. In addition to the help of the Holy Spirit, we have the Shekinah Glory within us, guiding us. We need to encourage each other and others.

### Plans For Israel

God still has great plans for his nation, Israel. We know the Lord's promise to David was a forever contract, II Samuel 7:12,16.<sup>25</sup> In Revelation 22:16,<sup>26</sup> our Lord Jesus Christ tells us, *'I am a descendant of David,'* and it is almost as if the Lord is closing the Letter From God with, *'I'm coming back to sit on David's throne and fulfill the contract I made with him many years ago.'*



God's plan for our lives is all-important. It is amazing to see how God works out his plan in human history. If a ruler and the people are out of God's plan, God can't use them and He will discipline them to try to bring them back to Him. As goes the believers in a nation, so goes the nation. The stage is now set for Israel to be divided.

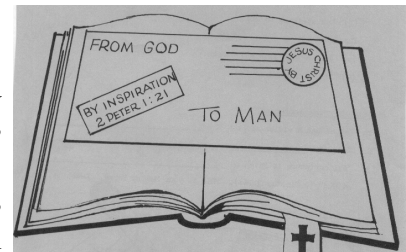
These important lessons from the life of Solomon are in the Old Testament for us. They were written as examples for us to stay in God's plan with our eyes on the Lord, I Corinthians 10:11.<sup>27</sup>

We need to carry on with confidence and shout the battle cry, "The Battle is the Lord's." He will guide and protect us. We need to teach the lessons from God's letter to our children and encourage them to make the Lord God #1 priority in their lives. They need to have the thinking of the Lord in their souls in order to have the courage to make right decisions.



The Lord has provided his thinking for us in God's letter, I Corinthians 2:16.<sup>28</sup>

Our children need to see us using the Lord's thinking in our lives. The family is crucial and all-important today! One of the rules for our Christian-age is to grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, II Peter 3:18.<sup>29</sup>



King Solomon reigned for forty years over Israel. When he died, he was buried in Jerusalem. His son Rehoboam reigned in his place, I Kings 11:42-43.<sup>30</sup>



### **MESSAGES TO REMEMBER AND USE IN YOUR DAILY LIFE**

**1. The original creation:**

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**2. The contents of God's letter to us:**

I Corinthians 2:16 - We have the mind of Christ.

**3. Our Divine Teacher:**

John 14:26 - The Holy Spirit will teach us all things.

**4. Our salvation messages for the grace-redemption solution:**

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His uniquely born Son that whoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:18 - He who believes in Christ is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the uniquely born Son of God.

John 3:36 - He that believes in the Son has eternal life, those who do not believe will never see heaven, for God's judgement remains on them.

**5. Our grace-recovery procedure the power of God the Holy Spirit:**

I John 1:9 - If we name our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**6. The first sinner and his destruction:**

I John 3:8 - The devil has sinned from the beginning; the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.

**7. Our God is always fair:**

Psalms 50:6 - For God will judge them with complete fairness.

**8. Our substitute and our righteousness:**

11 Corinthians 5:21 - God made the Lord Jesus who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

**9. We need to thank God the Father for His Son:**

II Corinthians 9:15 - Thank God for His Son-His gift too wonderful for words.

**10. Our risen Lord:**

Matthew 28:6 - Christ is not here, for He is risen, just as He said.

**11. Our direction, confidence and defense:**

Psalm 27:1 - The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**12. When we feel alone in this world:**

Hebrews 13:5 - God has said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you."

**13. The message to take care of our problems:**

I Peter 5:7 - Casting all your cares on Him; for He cares for you.

**14. A message to remember when we have trouble falling asleep:**

Psalm 4:8 - I will lie down in peace and sleep, for though I am alone, O Lord, you will keep me safe.

**15. Peter tells us how to stay on God's path:**

II Peter 3:18 - Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**16. The message for those who have love for God:**

Romans 8:28 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good for those who LOVE GOD and are following HIS PLANS.

**17. Our defense against Satan and his force of demons:**

Ephesians 6:11 - Put on the full armor (stored messages) from God (His letter), that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil (rocks and weed-plants in our soil-soul).

**18. Our weapon is the sword of God's Words:**

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword.

**19. For those who LOVE GOD, He gives a shield of protection:**

Zechariah 2:5 - "For I" declares the Lord, "will be a wall of fire around her."

### Essence of God

**G**od has no beginning and has no ending and will always be there, "I AM," Exodus 3:14. If a person anywhere in the world is interested in learning more about God and desires to know how to go to heaven, God will provide them with that information, Acts 17:27.

The Bible is our letter and a gift from God. We have the thinking of God in our letter, "We have the thoughts of Christ," I Corinthians 2:16. God has given us all we need to know from the Word of God. It contains the answers to our questions. A letter from someone you love is like they are there with you, sharing what they want you to know.

The Word of God tells us that the Essence of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is:

1. Sovereignty - KING "God is King over all the earth and sits on His holy throne," Psalm 47:7-8.
2. Righteousness - NO SIN "God is faithful, without sin," Deuteronomy 32:4.
3. Justice - ALWAYS FAIR "God will judge them with complete fairness," Psalm 50:6.
4. Love - PERFECT LOVE "I have loved you with an everlasting love," Jeremiah 31:3.
5. Eternal Life - NO BEGINNING OR ENDING "You are God without a beginning or ending," Psalm 90:2.
6. Omniscience - ALL KNOWING "O Lord, you know everything about me," Psalm 139:1.
7. Omnipresence - EVERYWHERE PRESENT "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go," Joshua 1:9.
8. Omnipotence - ALL POWERFUL "Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength," Psalm 147-5.
9. Immutability - Always the SAME "For I, the Lord, do not change," Malachi 3:6.
10. Veracity - TRUTH "Full of loving-kindness and truth," Psalm 86:15.



**REFERENCE VERSES FOR STUDY MESSAGES**

**STUDY MESSAGE 1**

1. Genesis 12:1-2 God told Abraham, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and bless you. I will make your name great and you will be a blessing."
2. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have forever life.
3. Acts 2:20 But David was a prophet, and knew the Lord had promised with an unbreakable oath that one of David's own descendants would be the Messiah and sit on David's throne.
4. I Kings 2:46 Then the king gave the order to Benaiah and he took Shimei outside and killed him. The kingdom was now firmly established for Solomon.
5. I Kings 3:9 "Give me an understanding mind so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who is able to govern these great people of yours?"
6. I Kings 3:14 "I will give you a long life if you follow Me and obey my laws as your father David did."
7. I Kings 3:16 Soon afterwards, two young prostitutes came to the king to have an argument settled.
8. I Kings 3:28 Word of the king's decision spread quickly throughout the entire nation. All the people were awed as they realized the great wisdom God had given to King Solomon.
9. I Kings 5:5-6 "I am planning to build a Temple for the Lord my God, just as he instructed my father that I should do. For the Lord told him, 'Your son, whom I will place on your throne, will build Me a Temple.' Now please help me with this project. Send your woodsmen to the mountains of Lebanon to cut cedar timber for me. I will send my men to work beside your men, and will pay your men whatever wages you ask. As you know, no one in Israel can cut timber like the Sidonians."
10. Exodus 36:6 Then Moses gave an order and they sent it throughout the camp: "No one is to bring anything else as an offering for the Tabernacle." The people stopped bringing more.

## **Letter From God 16**

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11. I Kings 5:8-9 Hiram sent word to Solomon, “I have received your message and will do all you ask. I can supply both cedar and cypress. My men will bring the logs from the Lebanon mountains to the Mediterranean Sea and build the logs into rafts. We will float the rafts along the coast to wherever you need them. Then we will separate them and you can haul the logs away. You can pay me with food.”
12. Genesis 12:3 “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. The entire world will be blessed through you.”

### **STUDY MESSAGE 2**

1. I Kings 4:20 The people of Judah were as many as the sand of the seashore. They ate, drank, and were happy.
2. Exodus 25:21-22 Place the mercy seat on top of the Ark and in the Ark you shall put the tablets of stone I shall give you. I will meet with you there and give you my commands for the Israelites.
3. II Chronicles 2:13-14 I am sending you Hiram-Abi, a man of great skill, whose mother was from Dan and whose father was from Tyre. He is trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, and with purple, blue and crimson yarn, and fine linen. He is experienced in all kinds of engraving and can execute any design given to him.
4. I Kings 6:7 The stones used in the construction of the Temple were finished at the quarry, so the entire structure was built without the sound of hammer, axe, or any other tool at the building site.
5. II Chronicles 4:1 Solomon also made a Bronze Altar 30 feet long, 30 feet wide and 15 feet high.
6. Psalm 66:18 God would not have listened if I had not confessed my sins.
7. I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to purify us from all our wrong doings.
8. John 8:12 Later, in one of his talks, Jesus said to the people, “I am the Light of the world. If you follow Me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, for living light will flood your path.”
9. Psalm 141:2 Regard my prayer as my evening sacrifice and as incense going up to you.



## REFERENCE VERSES FOR STUDY MESSAGES

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10. I Corinthians 10:16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And does not the bread that we break from the loaf to eat together, show that we are sharing together in the benefits of his (perfect) body.
11. Matthew 27:51 At that moment the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.
12. I Kings 8:1 King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to watch the bringing of the Ark of the Lord from Zion, the city of David, to the Temple in Jerusalem.
13. II Chronicles 5:4-5 As the leaders of Israel watched, the Levites lifted the Ark with the poles and carried it out of the Tabernacle, along with all the other sacred vessels. King Solomon and the others sacrificed sheep and oxen before the Ark in such numbers that no one tried to keep count.
14. I Kings 8:10-11 When the priests came out from the inner room, the cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. The priests could not perform their services because of the Glory cloud of the Lord that filled the temple of the Lord.
15. Exodus 40:34-35 When the cloud covered the Tabernacle and the Glory of the Lord filled it, Moses was not able to enter because the cloud was standing there. The Glory of the Lord had filled the Tabernacle.
16. Deuteronomy 11:17 Then the Lord's anger will burn against you. He will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and there will be no harvest. You will quickly perish from the good land the Lord has given you.
17. II Chronicles 7:3 All the people who were watching fell flat on the ground and worshiped and thanked the Lord.
18. Romans 9:4-5 The Lord has given you so much, but still you do not listen to Him. He took you as his own special people and led you along with the bright cloud of Glory, and told you how very much He wanted to bless you. He gave you his rules for daily life so you would know what He wanted you to do. Great men of old were your fathers, and Christ Himself was one of you. Christ now rules over all things.
19. Deuteronomy 28:15 If you obey the Lord your God and carefully follow his commands, God will make you into the greatest nation in the world.

## **Letter From God 16**

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20. Deuteronomy 30:17-18 If your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow and worship other gods, I declare that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long and good life in the land you are going in to possess.
21. Jeremiah 31:33 & 36 This is the (new) covenant I will make with the house of Israel, declares the Lord. I will put my law in their minds. I will be their God and they will be my people. Only if these decrees vanish from my sight, declares the Lord, will the descendants of Israel cease to be a nation before Me.
22. Ezekiel 47:21 Divide the land within these boundaries among the tribes of Israel.

### **STUDY MESSAGE 3**

1. Deuteronomy 17:17 The King must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.
2. I Kings 10:16-17 Solomon had some of the gold beaten into two hundred pieces of armor (gold worth \$6,000 went into each piece) and three hundred shields (\$1,800 worth of gold in each). He kept them in the Hall of his Palace Complex.
3. Deuteronomy 17:16 Be sure that the king doesn't build up a large stable of horses for himself, nor send his men to Egypt to raise horses there. For the Lord has said never to return to Egypt again.
4. I Kings 4:27-28 Each month the tax officials provided food for King Solomon and his court, and also the barley and straw for the royal horses in the stables.
5. I Kings 9:26-27 King Hiram supplied experienced sailors, who knew the sea, to serve in the fleet with Solomon's men.
6. Deuteronomy 17:17 A king must not have too many wives, lest his heart be turned away from the Lord.
7. Kings 10:1 When the Queen of Sheba heard how wonderfully the Lord had blessed Solomon with wisdom, she decided to test him with some hard questions.
8. I Kings 10:6-7 The Queen explained to Solomon, "Everything I heard in my own country about your wisdom and the wonderful things going on here are all true. I didn't believe it until I came, but now that I have seen it for myself, the half had not been told. Your wisdom and wealth are far greater than anything I've ever heard."

## **REFERENCE VERSES FOR STUDY MESSAGES**

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9. Matthew 12:42 The Lord Jesus Christ said, “The Queen of Sheba shall rise against this nation and condemn it for she came from a distant land to hear the wisdom of Solomon.”
10. I Kings 10:9 “Blessed be the Lord your God who chose you and set you on the throne of Israel. How the Lord must love Israel — for He gave you to them as their King. You give your people a just and good government.”
11. Jeremiah 29:13 You will find Me if You seek Me with all your heart.
12. Deuteronomy 17:18-19 When a king takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write on a scroll a copy of these laws from the scrolls kept by the priests. That copy of the laws shall be his constant companion. He must read from them every day of his life so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of his commands.
13. I Kings 11:7-9 On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.
14. I Kings 11:3-4 Solomon had 700 wives of royal birth and three hundred mistresses. His wives led him astray.

### **STUDY MESSAGE 4**

1. I Kings 11:28 When Solomon saw how well the young man did his work, he put him in charge of the whole labor force of the house of Joseph.
2. I Kings 11:29-30 About that time as Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, he met Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh who was wearing a new robe. Ahijah took hold of his robe and tore it into twelve pieces.
3. I Kings 11:32 “I will leave one tribe for the sake of my servant David and for Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes.”
4. Acts 2:30-31 David was a prophet and knew that God had promised him, on an oath, that He would place one of his descendants on his throne. David was looking into the future and predicting the Messiah’s resurrection and saying that the Messiah’s soul would not be left in hell and his body would not decay.
5. Matthew 1:16 Jacob was the father of Joseph, who was the husband of Mary, the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ the Messiah.



## Letter From God 16

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6. Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 The words of the teacher, Solomon, son of David, king in Jerusalem: Meaningless! Meaningless! Everything is meaningless.
7. Ecclesiastes 1:5 The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.
8. Ecclesiastes 1:6 The wind blows to the south and turns to the north. Round and round it goes, getting nowhere.
9. Ecclesiastes 1:16-17 Look, I am better educated than any of the kings before me in Jerusalem. I have greater wisdom and knowledge. I worked hard to be wise instead of foolish. But now I realize that even this was like chasing the wind.
10. Ecclesiastes 1:9 What has been, will be again. What has been done will be done again. There is nothing new under the sun.
11. Ecclesiastes 2:4-6 I undertook great projects. I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.
12. Ecclesiastes 2:23 In all his days his work is pain and grief. Even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless.
13. Ecclesiastes 3:15 Whatever is, has been long ago. Whatever is going to be, has been before. God brings to pass again what was in the distant past and disappeared.
14. Ecclesiastes 4:13 Better a poor but wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to take warning.
15. Ecclesiastes 5:7 Dreaming instead of doing is foolishness. There is ruin in a flood of empty words. Fear (trust) God instead.
16. Ecclesiastes 5:10 He who loves money shall never have enough. This is the foolishness of thinking that money brings happiness.
17. Ecclesiastes 5:12 The man who works hard sleeps well, whether he eats little or much. The rich man worries and suffers no sleep.
18. Ecclesiastes 6:12 For who knows what is good for a man in life, during his few and meaningless days he passes through like a shadow? Who can tell him what will happen under the sun after he is gone?

## REFERENCE VERSES FOR STUDY MESSAGES

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19. Ecclesiastes 7:23 All this I tested by wisdom and I said, I am determined to be wise, but this was beyond me.
20. Ecclesiastes 8:1 Who is like a wise man who knows the explanation of things? Wisdom brightens a man and causes his stern face to beam.
21. Ecclesiastes 10:8 Whoever digs a pit may fall into it. Whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.
22. Ecclesiastes 10:12 It is pleasant to listen to wise words, but a fool's speech brings him to ruin.
23. Ecclesiastes 12:1 Don't let the excitement of being young cause you to forget about your Creator. Honor Him in your youth before the evil years come when you'll no longer enjoy living.
24. Ecclesiastes 12:11-12 The words of the wise are like goads, they nail down important truths given by one shepherd. Be warned of anything in addition to them.
25. II Samuel 7:12, 16 "For when you die, I will put one of your sons on your throne, and I will make his kingdom strong. He is the one who shall build Me a temple. Your family shall rule my kingdom forever."
26. Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you to tell the churches all these things. I am both David's Root and his Descendant. I am the bright Morning Star."
27. I Corinthians 10:11 All these things happened to them as examples — as object lessons for us — to warn us against doing the same things. They were written down so that we could read about them and learn from them in these last days as the world nears its end.
28. I Corinthians 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord that He may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.
29. II Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.
30. I Kings 11:42-43 Solomon ruled in Jerusalem for forty years. Then he died and was buried in the city of his father David. His son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

**CONTEST QUESTIONS FOR BOOK 16**

**STUDY MESSAGE 1**

1. Was the first king of Israel, King Saul, a winner or a loser believer? (King Saul was a loser believer who went his own way.)
2. How much did King David pay for the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite? (600 shekels)
3. What happened on this same hill many years before? (This is the same hill where Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son Isaac when the Lord stopped him.)
4. What will take place on this Moriah hill in the future? (This will be the same hill where God the Father will judge His Son, the promised Messiah, on the altar of the cross.)
5. After Shimei, the stone thrower, disobeyed Solomon, and Solomon's half-brother Adonijah again tried to regain the throne, what did King Solomon order Commander Benaiah to do? (Kill both of them.)
6. Whose place did Commander Benaiah take? (General Joab, who was in charge of Israel's army.
7. When the Lord appeared to King Solomon in a revelation dream and told him to ask for anything he wanted, what did Solomon ask for? ("Give your servant wisdom to see what is right or wrong.")
8. Today, we no longer have revelation dreams from the Lord. What do we have to help us with our decisions? (We have the completed God's letter and help from God the Holy Spirit.)
9. What was King Solomon's wise decision regarding the two mothers who both claimed the baby boy was theirs? (Solomon said to divide the living child in two and give half to each mother! When the true mother screamed to give the baby to the other mother — Solomon knew she was the mother.)
10. How many wise proverbs did Solomon write? (He wrote 3,000 wise sayings.)
11. What did Solomon say about visiting your neighbor too often? (You will wear out your welcome to his home.)
12. What was the name of the trees that King Hiram offered to Solomon? (Hiram offered his cedar trees for the Temple which were the strongest in the land.)



13. What songs did young Joseph sing as he pulled the weeds on their farm? (They were the songs the priests sang as they made the offerings in the Temple.)
14. How would they get the cedar logs down from Tyre to Jerusalem? (They tied the logs together as rafts and guided them down the sea coast to the seaport of Joppa. They then carried or pulled them to Jerusalem.)
15. Because the people loved the Lord and were obeying the Law, what did the Lord provide? (Weather angels gave just the right amount of rain and sun for a huge harvest of crops.)

### **STUDY MESSAGE 2**

1. Who were the members of the Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit)
2. What did the Shekiah Glory in the cloud over the Tabernacle show the people? (That the presence of the Lord was there with them.)
3. What did the teaching of each piece of furniture in the Tabernacle show? (Each piece told something about the coming Messiah-Savior.)
4. What happened during the fourth reign of King Solomon? (The construction of the Temple for the Lord began.)
5. Why were the stones for the Temple chiseled at the quarry? (King Solomon did not want the noise of the construction at the site.)
6. What did the large Bronze Altar point to? (To the perfect Messiah-Savior and his sacrifice on the altar of the cross.)
7. What was the purpose of the huge Laver of water? (The Laver was for the priests to wash their hands and feet before their priestly work.)
8. What was the washing of the priests a picture of? (It was a picture of the recovery procedure — rebound.)
9. What do we do in the recovery procedure? (We name our sins to God the Father which puts us back in the plan of God with our eyes on the Lord.)
10. Today, what takes place of the perfect lamb offered in the Old Testament? (The bread or crackers we eat in our communion service.)

## Letter From God 16

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11. What do we have today that replaces the blood of the animals offered in the O.T.? (The cup of wine or grape juice)
12. In the Holy Room, what was the meaning of the lights from the candlesticks? (The lights were a picture of the Lord God the Son providing light and truth for the world.)
13. What did the Golden Incense Altar show? (The prayers of the believers going up to God the Father.)
14. What else was in the Holy Room? (The ten Tables of Show Bread which showed the perfect body of the Lord Jesus Christ.)
15. What was in the Holy of Holies Room? (The important Ark of the Lord was there.)
16. In the future, what caused the split in the one-foot thick veil in the Temple? It tore when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross.)
17. What did the split veil show? (It showed that the way to God's presence was open. There would no longer be a need for the temple offerings.)
18. How many years did it take to construct the Temple? (The temple had taken 7 years to build.)
19. Why didn't Joshua's father let anyone in their family name the sheep they cared for? (He thought they would become too attached to the sheep and it would be difficult for them to give them up for the offerings.)
20. Joshua knew the lambs he raised would soon be the offerings on the Altar. What did he tell them? (That they would be the offerings for the sins of the people and would point the way to the final offering of the promised Messiah-Savior. The lambs were happy to do their part.)
21. As the priests returned from placing the Lord's Ark in the Holy of Holies Room, what broke the silence? (The sounds of the trumpets — then the choir joined in with their singing.)
22. What appeared during the singing? (A large cloud came and filled the Temple!)
23. Because of the cloud, what did the Israelites now realize? (God had accepted the new home for the Ark and the presence of the Lord was there.)
24. What was the warning the Lord gave to Solomon when the Lord appeared to Solomon again? (If Solomon went his own way and did not obey the Law, the people would no longer be in the land and the Temple would be destroyed.)

25. When will the Israelites again be God's special people? (During the future 1,000 year reign of their Lord King, the Lord Jesus Christ in Israel.)

**STUDY MESSAGE 3**

1. How long did it take to build the Palace Complex? (Because it was much larger, it took 13 years to build.)
2. How many steps led to King Solomon's throne? (Six wide steps)
3. What was on each step? (Two carved lions, one on each side, for the twelve tribes.)
4. What did King Solomon have to defend his kingdom that the Lord did not approve? (King Solomon had 40,000 stalls for horses and 12,000 horsemen.)
5. Why did Solomon build a seaport on the Red Sea? (He wanted a shipyard for his fleet of ships he used for trading and his navy.)
6. What did Solomon's ship bring back from India? (Gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.)
7. How did King Solomon establish good relationships with the neighboring countries? (By marrying princesses of these nations.)
8. How did the Sheba Queen hear about King Solomon? (Visitors and traders brought stories of the wealthy king of Israel who was famous for his wise decisions.)
9. How many miles did the Queen need to travel through the hot desert? (1,300 miles with her traveling group.)
10. Why was the Sheba Queen in shock when she came into Solomon's Banquet Hall? (The scene was unbelievable with the golden dishes and the awesome music from the musicians and singers from the tribe of Levi.)
11. The Sheba Queen was very interested in the Temple of the Lord and listened carefully as King Solomon explained the meaning of the Temple furniture. What happened as a result of their discussions about the Lord and the history of Israel? (The Queen of Sheba believed in Solomon's Lord as the coming Messiah-Savior!)



## Letter From God 16

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12. What happened to Solomon when he no longer read the Torah scrolls everyday? (With an opening in his soul, weeds-plants began to grow.)
13. Why did God permit king Solomon to continue to reign when he was worshiping idols in the high places? (God permitted Solomon to reign for the rest of his life because of his father David.)
14. King Solomon left the plan of God and went his own way with his eyes off the Lord. He trusted in the security of his army.
15. Who should Solomon have trusted in? (He should have trusted in the Lord's protection and provisions.)
16. What was the Lord's important warning message for Solomon? (Since you have not kept our agreement and obeyed my laws, I will tear the kingdom from you and give it to someone else. I will let your son be king over two tribes.)

### STUDY MESSAGE 4

1. What does Solomon tell us about the years when he was out of God's plan with weed-plants growing in his soul? (Solomon tells us his life was empty and meaningless without the Lord in his life.)
2. Did Solomon change at the end of his life? (Yes, he began to recover and slowly began to remember God's messages he had stored in his soul.)
3. What did Solomon say about what is new under the sun? (Solomon explains to us that there is nothing new under the sun.)
4. What did Solomon invent to help with the crops? (He invented a system of irrigation to water his plantations.)
5. Did the huge amounts of gold and silver and fantastic music bring Solomon happiness? (No he became bored with them and could not sleep.)
6. What was the wise saying of Solomon after a horse was stolen? (It is too late to lock the barn door — the horse is gone.)
7. What does Solomon say is the solution to unhappiness? (To be happy, we should stay in God's plan, going God's way, and using God's stored messages in our soul.)

8. What are goads? (Goads are eight-foot pointed sticks used to guide oxen.)
9. What was Jeroboam's job in the construction of the Temple and Palace Complex? (He was a foreman or boss in a section of the building process.)
10. What did the prophet Ahijah tell Jeroboam after he tore his robe in twelve pieces? (Ahijah told Jeroboam to take ten of the pieces, for the Lord was going to take the kingdom away from King Solomon and give ten tribes to Jeroboam — he would be king over them.)
11. What did Solomon do after he heard what the prophet Ahijah told Jeroboam? (He tried to kill Jeroboam.)
12. Where did Jeroboam go? (Jeroboam escaped to Egypt.)
13. What weed-plants were growing in Solomon's soul? (Weed-plants of fear, pride, and greed)
14. What did King David remember to do that King Solomon did not do? (When King David was miserable out of God's plan, he used the recovery rebound and moved on.)
15. How was King Solomon disciplined by God? (Solomon's line would no longer continue to the promised Messiah-Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.)
16. Why does God discipline us when we sin? (To try to bring us back into the plan of God and going God's way, instead of our own way.)
17. Does God still have plans for the nation Israel? (Yes, the Messiah, our Lord Savior, will come back to reign in Israel for 1,000 years as King of kings and Lord of lords forever.)
18. What does the life of Solomon teach us? (To stay in God's plan with our eyes on the Lord.)
19. Where can we find the Lord's thinking? (In God's letter, the Bible)
20. How long did King Solomon reign? (For 40 years)

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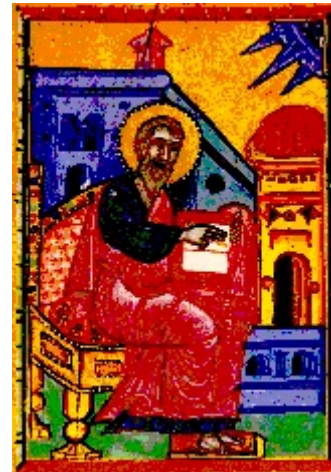
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How God sent us His Letter  
Four Types of Hearers and the Lost Sons

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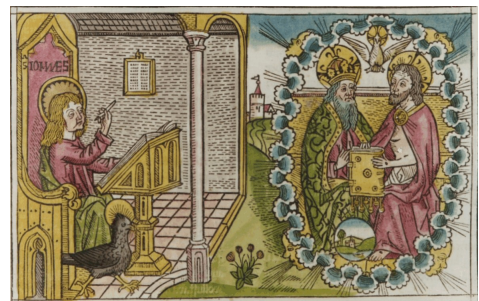
**Letter From God 11**



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## Letter From God 16

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### Letter From God 13



**Samuel as Prophet Priest & Judge  
Saul as King & David as the Shepherd Warrior**

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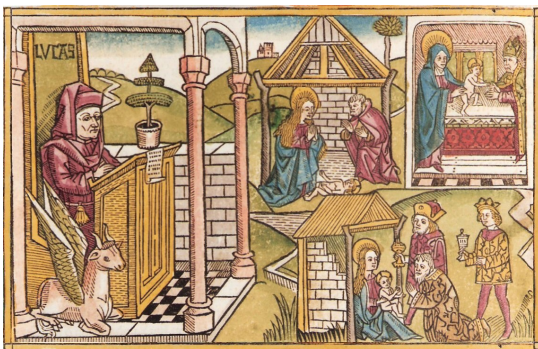
### Letter From God 14



**King David  
A Man After Our Lord God's Heart**

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### Letter From God 15



**Contest and Discussion  
Questions for Books 11, 13, 14**

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### Letter From God 16



**King Solomon  
Israel's Golden Years**

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