

Seven Bible Studies 2017

History

May 30: 1 Kings 1-4 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Kings 1-4

The first half of 1 Kings traces the life of Solomon. Under his leadership, Israel rises to the peak of her size and glory.

Chp. 1 In David's old age, Adonijah declares himself ruler of Israel, but David declares Solomon as the new king.

Chp. 2 David prepares Solomon how to handle the relationships with those he will be surrounded by. He spared Adonijah at first for declaring himself king but had him put to death when he oversteps his boundaries and requests Solomon's mother to ask him for Abishag to be given to marriage to him. He also has Shimei (the man who cursed David) to be put to death after he disobeyed his orders to remain in Jerusalem.

Chp. 3 is the infamous story of Solomon. He walks according to the instructions of David. He sacrifices a thousand burnt offerings on the altar at Gideon and in a dream God tells Solomon to ask for whatever he wants to be given.

Solomon, a humble young ruler, asks for a discerning heart and wisdom to rule over God's people. This pleases the Lord and his request is granted. God says, "I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be."

Solomon's wisdom is then tested. Two women come before him claiming the same baby. Solomon threatens to cut the child in two and the true mother begs to spare the child. Solomon gives the child to the correct mother and Israel is in awe of Solomon's "wisdom from God to administer justice."

Chp. 4 talks about Solomon's officials, governors, daily provisions, and especially Solomon's wisdom—

His wisdom was "greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone else..." and "his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. From all nations, people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom."

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
Thanks, Nick!

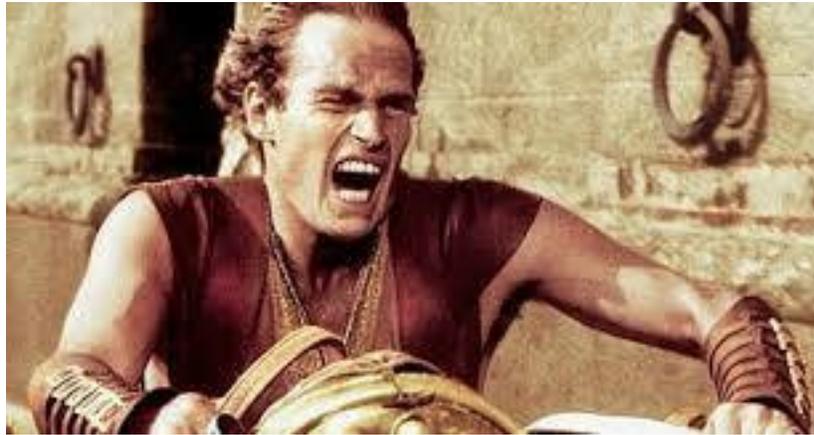
Comment:

Steven Wright:

Thank you Nick! I believe Solomon demonstrates for us the clearest example of how a person can be the epitome of everything worldlywise (especially "smarts") and still be lacking in Spiritual discernment and/or commitment.

Comment:

Marc Hermon:



June 6: 1 Kings 5-9 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Kings 5-9

The Building of the Temple

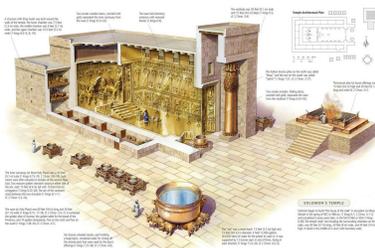
In chapter 5, Solomon prepares to build the temple for God. To do so, he arranges peaceful relations with surrounding areas. Chapters 6-7 go into detail on the aesthetic appeal of the temple (refer to the attached image as a general idea of what it'd look like). Here's also a video of a 3D model someone made: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiF-wObznds>

As you may notice, some of the descriptions of the temple can also be found in 2 Chronicles 4.

Chap. 8, the ark is brought to the temple and Solomon offers a prayer of dedication to God. He cries, "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!..."

He then has a festival in dedication to the completion of the temple. 22,000 cattle & 120,000 sheep and goat are sacrificed as they celebrated fourteen days.

Chp. 9, God reminds Solomon that the temple will stand as long as he and his descendants follow and serve Him only. Unfortunately, we know the temple is not still here today... so when was it destroyed? Well, we will get to that in 2 Kings 24.



Comment:

Marc Hermon:

I Kings 8: 23

<https://youtu.be/K9Gi94AbkkA>

“Covenant of Love”

Comment:

Marc Hermon:

In reference to Esau's wife (Gen 26:34) let's do some "basic math". In regards to the Sea in 7:23 it had a diameter of 10 cubits and a circumference of 30 cubits. Mathematicians long ago tried to calculate how many of a circle's diameter you could wrap around the circle's perimeter. This number is always a little more than 3 or what we call pi. (3.14.....) So how come if you calculate pi with the given dimensions of the Sea above you get exactly 3 and not pi out to some decimal place? Because both the diameter and the circumference are listed with only 1 significant digit which means they are not very precise estimates. Since both measurements are only listed with one sig fig when you divide 30/10 you can only write your answer to 1 sig fig also which means $\pi = 3$.

Also in 6:20 notice the shape of the inner sanctuary, The Holy of Holies. It is a perfect cube. 30 ft x 30 ft x 30 ft. Notice also the church/holy city of heaven in Rev 21 is also represented by a perfect cube. 12,000 st x 12,000 st x 12,000 st.

And finally the amazing math of Jesus: He chose to become nothing and thereby became our everything! Phil 2:7-10

Replies:

Charles Fry:

And the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle Moses built on Monday was also a cube, on a smaller scale. Nice to finish the tabernacle and build the temple in the same week. 😊

The proportionality of the dimensions, the symmetry and uniformity are, are sometimes overlooked or missed, but do reflect The mind and purposes of God.

Comment:

Marc Hermon:

Also interesting Solomon named one of the pillars after his great, great grandfather.

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thanks, Nick! I appreciate the illustration.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Such fond memories of building this with you and other kids from church. As always good job on the summary from our reading today. Thanks, Nick!



June 13: 1 Kings 10-13 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Kings 10-13
Everyone Has Their Weaknesses... even Solomon

In chp. 10 we have the Queen of Sheba visiting Solomon. She is in awe of Solomon's wisdom and gifts him bountifully. He receives 666 talents (or 25 tons) of gold per year and "King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth" (10:23). I looked around and a couple websites estimate his worth today would be in the \$1-3 trillion range... making him the wealthiest individual to have ever lived (which makes sense in reference to 2 Chronicles 1:11-12)

Shockingly, it appears Solomon's major flaw isn't in Earthly riches, but in a different form of temptation... his love for foreign women

Chp 11 says Solomon had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines. These women led him following idols and God became angry with him.

God decides He will cause Solomon's kingdom to fall (with the exception of one tribe), but not during his lifetime for the sake of David. Solomon dies after reigning 40 years and his son Rehoboam succeeds him as king.

Israel inquires of Rehoboam to lighten the tax. However, instead of following the advice of the elders who consulted Solomon, he foolishly chooses to follow the advice of his peers.

This causes a rebellion and Israel falls under the rule of Jeroboam instead, who builds two golden calves at Bethel and Dan.

Comments:

Butch O'Neal:
Thanks, Nick!

Comments:

Randy Ingle:
So we'll pleased with the roles you are taking on in the church! Keep up being a Christian role model.

Comments:

Kevin Crittenden:
The story of the man of God in Chapter 13 leaves me wondering what purpose the prophet had in lying to him. It brings to mind the temptations of Christ by the devil, the father of lies. Did the prophet not believe the man of God, that he was not to eat or drink in Bethel? Even after what happened with the altar? The man of God was a trusting soul, as we are as well, and believed the prophet when he said an angel had countermanded God's instruction. Is the lesson here to trust no one, especially one that claims godly authority?

On a completely different note, Solomon wrote Proverbs and in it, he writes about a father passing on godly wisdom to his son. I wonder if that conversation was a recording of an actual conversation between Solomon and Rehoboam. If so, it didn't take because Rehoboam acted

so foolishly although v 12:15 makes it seem like this was God's Will and Rehoboam was an actor playing his role.

Replies:

Charles Fry:

The old prophet wanted the "honor" of hosting the young man if God. I've seen similar name dropping and political maneuvering numerous times. The young man was naive, willing to think the best of others, but no one should ever lightly accept a contradiction to God's known command lightly. Probably the stricture against eating seemed too restrictive to him, and he welcomed a more comfortable message.

Charles Fry:

Oh, and Rehoboam, not fate or destiny. Prophetic judgment can be forestalled or delayed by wise responses to the message, as illustrated in Ex 32, in Jonah, and in the story of Ahab after the unjust death of Naboth. Prophecy is not necessarily destiny. Repentance changed outcomes many times.

Comments:

Kevin Crittenden:

Solomon is an interesting character. Here is a guy who lived better than anyone, always had food on the table (in abundance), entertainment, posh surroundings, hot and cold running women, and, for all I know, indoor plumbing. WHY would he be making sacrifices to idols? What did he lack in his life that he felt some god could provide? And why would his wives/concubines also be worshipping idols? Did they not already have everything they could want? Maybe children? Long life? Less competition?

June 20: 1 Kings 14-18 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Kings 14-18

You can't disguise yourself from God

Chp 14- The wife of Jeroboam goes to Ahijah in disguise because of their ill child. God forewarns Ahijah what is to come and the prophecy against Jeroboam is not good news for him- "you have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me." Disaster is to come on the house of Jeroboam...

Chp 15 "David had done what was right in the eyes of the Lord and had not failed to keep any of the Lord's commands all the days of his life— except in the case of Uriah the Hittite"

Because of this, his descendants still ruled Judah after him- Solomon, Absalom, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat.

They did evil, although Asa did well in the eyes of the Lord (with the exception of not taking down the high places).

Chp 16- Israel also has issues with bad leaders. Eventually getting to Ahab who "did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him." He married Jezebel and set up Asherah poles to arouse the anger of the Lord.

Chp 17- God provides!

Elijah announces a great drought to come. He drinks from a brook and is fed by ravens. But when the brook runs dry, he goes to a wide at Zarephath. He asks for a drink and bread and she tells him she only has enough for her and her son so "that we may eat it- and die."

But Elijah lets her know God will provide flour in her jar and oil in her jug until the rain comes again. Later on, the child dies, but Elijah cries to the Lord and stretches himself out on the boy THREE times (refer to @John Morris's post a few days ago for interesting stories on the number three in the Bible) and the boy's life returns to him.

Chp 18- A Challenge for the Ages!

Jezebel had been killing the prophets, yet Elijah presents himself to Ahab. He challenges him to bring 450 prophets of Baal to call fire down upon an altar. They cried and cut themselves pleading to their god, "But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention."

Elijah the had men pour water over the altar he built (once again) THREE times and when he prayed to God, not only did altar catch fire... it burnt the wood, the stones, the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
Thanks, Nick!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:
Love these last two chapters which give testimony of God's power! He is our God; worthy to be worshipped and praised!!! Thanks, Nick! Great summaries of each chapter.

June 27: 1 Kings 19-22 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Kings 19-22
You Are Not Alone

19- Following the unbalanced match between Elijah and the prophets of Baal, Elijah runs for his life from Jezebel. He comes to a cave and God asks Elijah what he is doing there. Elijah responds that he's been zealous for God but they've killed His prophets with the sword. He says, "I alone am left, and they seek to take my life."

God tells him to go out and stand on the mountain. A strong wind breaks the rocks, "but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice."

And God tells him, there are seven thousand in Israel whose knees have not bowed to Baal.

Do you ever feel lonely like Elijah?
Even in the wickedest of times and places, you are not alone.

So Elijah is told by God to go and appoint Elisha as prophet in his place. So as Elisha is plowing in the field, Elijah throws his mantle on him.

20-22 Every Knee Will Bow

Ahab Defeats the Syrians twice but is then tested and condemned by one of the prophets. He's also bummed Naboth would not sell him his vineyard... so his wife Jezebel devises a plan and has Naboth murdered so they could get his vineyard.

Elijah tells Ahab the dogs will lick his blood in the same place as Naboth and his wife Jezebel will be eaten by dogs by the wall of Jezebel. Ahab tears his clothes, fasts, and mourns.

Three years later, they went to war and even though Ahab is in disguise, is hit by an arrow drawn by a bow at random and dies.

His son Ahaziah takes over Israel after him while Jehoshaphat rules Judah.

Thus concludes the book of 1 Kings.

Comment:

Marc Hermon:

Micaiah is one of my favorite prophets. I wonder how long he had to stay in jail since Ahab never came back safely.

Comment:

Charles Fry:

I appreciate Elijah (a man like us, James reminds us) exemplifying how quickly we can turn from the heights of victory to the depths of despair. I appreciate how God's answer for Elijah included "get back to work", albeit tenderly directed. I appreciate how Elijah, not overly enthusiastically, recruited Elisha as his helper (and still made it challenging for Elisha in 2 Kings 2). And I appreciate how God took Elijah home to heaven after he had only done one of the three things God told him to do.

And then there's Ahab. <http://www.livwat.com/articles/10038.html>

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thanks, Nick!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

1 Kings would make a great video! ;-) Action-packed, that's for sure. Thanks for leading the study on history each week, Nick. P.S. Everyone!... We're halfway through the year! It's Week #26. :-)