

A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF KING SOLOMON

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“So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.”

I Kings 2:10-12

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THE BIRTH AND ACCESSION OF SOLOMON

When God called Abraham out of the Ur of the Chaldees it was His intention to form a people in Israel unique to Himself. He governed them in His wisdom with several different methods. He used chosen priests, judges and then kings to lead His people. The people requested a king and God gave them their desire in the person of King Saul. In the course of history Saul was replaced with the great King David. The “Man after God’s own heart” ruled the people of God for 40 years. When David passed off the scene God had a specially chosen man to take his place. David’s son, Solomon was an amazing man whose life holds many important lessons for believers today. We have record of his life in the Scriptures from his birth till his death. He was born at a time in Israel’s history when God’s peace was sorely needed. His name, “Solomon”, Means ‘peace’. ‘Perhaps the conferring of this name signified that David was now at peace with God. Another view is that Solomon was born at the end of the

hostilities with Ammon, when the peace was declared. Solomon was His royal name. Jedidiah (beloved of the Lord) was his family name.” (Wycliffe. P. 297)

We read of the birth of Solomon after the story of David’s sin with Bathsheba. The baby that was conceived in that circumstance was stricken with a severe sickness (II Samuel 12:14) and died. There was great sadness at this time and God sent comfort with the conception of the child, Solomon. (II Samuel 12:24-25)

The conclusion of the book of II Samuel deals with the last part of David’s reign.

I Kings begins with the transition of the monarchy from David To Solomon. “The history of this reign commences with the account of the manner in which Solomon had received the kingdom from his father, and had established his own rule by the fulfilment of his last will and by strict righteousness (ch. i. and ii.)” (K&D. Vol. 3. P. 15) The book of

I Kings begins with the attempt of Adonijah to assume the throne of his father, David. “Adonijah, believed that as the eldest living son of David he had right to the throne. But

if so, he ignored the theological implications of God's having already chosen Solomon, David's son through Bath-sheba, wife of Uriah the Hittite (II Sam 12:24)." (Wycliffe. P. 310) Nathan, who had likely been the tutor of Solomon in his early life, went to Bathsheba and informed her of the plan of Adonijah to be crowned king of Israel. She hurried to David and reminded him of his promise. *"And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king. And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou? And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne. And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest it not: And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee,*

that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.” (I Kings 1: 15-21) David commanded that Solomon should be immediately crowned as king. (I Kings 1: 39-40) Adonijah heard that Solomon was crowned and *“feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me today that he will not slay his servant with the sword. And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die. So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.”* (I Kings 1:51-53) In his charge to Solomon David gave Solomon advice as to how he should establish the kingdom ((Vs. 2:1- 9)

“Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.” (Vs 2:12)

Thus, the will of God was accomplished in the establishing of Solomon on the throne of his father David. Solomon was Just a youth of probably about 18 or 20 years old when he began to reign (I Kings 3:7). He was God’s choice for this job. (I Kings 3:1-15) The Heavenly Father planned to send great blessing and prosperity to Israel and it would become the greatest nation on earth. King Solomon would be God’s instrument to accomplish this great work. He was a man of great wisdom and ability who had the blessing of God upon him. He was a man of faith but also a man of failures. His life is a profitable study for the believer today.

Commentary on the Old Testament in Ten Volumes. C.F. Keil and F. Delitzsch. Vol. III. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1982.

The Wycliffe Bible Commentary. By Charles F. Pfeiffer and Everett F. Harrison. Moody Press, Chicago, Il. 1962.