

A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK 2 Chronicles 1-9

"A chip off the old block!"

Helen's family Mike's walking style

This well-worn expression describes the similarity between David and his son.

Our # 1 priority should be to please God.

God is pleased when we dedicate ourselves to pursuing true wisdom.

David was the "man after God's own heart".

According to Chronicles, **Solomon followed in his dad's footsteps**.

Like David, Solomon recognized the importance of giving God first place in his own life, as well as in that of his people.

Solomon is given so much space because of his influence in building the temple, the center of true worship of Yahweh.

2 Chronicles picks up where 1 Chronicles ends.

David has just died.

As in 1 Chronicles, kings are evaluated on the basis of their faithfulness to Yahweh.

*Solomon's story, as told in **1 Kings 1-11**, shows his human side.*

There we see him with all his weaknesses—similar to his dad also.

Although he got off to a great start, he didn't accomplish all that he might have, because he turned aside from the proper priorities for his life—he let the women in his life distract him from pursuing God..

The division of the kingdom following his reign is presented as the result of Solomon's weaknesses and the imitation of his bad example by his son, Rehoboam.

However, relative to the issues in 2 Chronicles, these faults weren't so serious when taken in relationship to the total effect of his reign.

The most important aspects of Solomon's reign are positive. He assumes responsibility for building Yahweh's house and publicly affirms God's right to occupy first place in Israel.

SOLOMON'S WISDOM 1

His greatness 1:1

Solomon's reign begins well.

He observes his father's close personal relationship with God, and *decides that he too will follow Yahweh.*

Therefore God confirms his reign and exalts him (1:1-17).

1:1

"Solomon, the son of David" means more than just an observation about a relative –that he's David's *physical* son.

The meaning of **"son of . . . "** in Hebrew, and the significance given to Saul's children in 1 Chron. affirm that **Solomon follows David's example.**

= He's a "chip off the old block".

Therefore, God establishes his kingdom, remains with him, and exalts him.

His offering 1:2-6

Solomon wants to offer sacrifices to the Lord and decides to do it on the altar God established at the tabernacle.

He summons the people to a solemn assembly.

God blesses him for this public demonstration of submission to His authority.

This act prepares the way for a personal encounter between God and David's son.

His request 1:7-10

God offers him the opportunity to ask whatever he wishes.

1:7

What a tremendous opportunity!

I wonder what we would have asked for, without knowing the rest of the story.

(Or perhaps even now, *knowing* the end of the story!)

What if we had our own "magic genie"?

What would we ask for?

Man found genie in a bottle on the sea shore with only one wish left.

– His request: Next years stock list

– He turns it over and finds: THE OBITUARY COLUMN!

What will Solomon request? 1:8-10

Solomon recognizes the greatness of God's mercy, toward his father and him.

He also acknowledges his own lack of ability to govern this people.

Therefore Solomon asks for wisdom to govern God's people properly.

He couldn't have made a better request!

SOLOMON'S Above all else,

HE NEEDS GOD'S WISDOM

PREMISE: TO GOVERN GOD'S PEOPLE.

He asks for

KNOWLEDGE = knowledge, thought, *head knowledge*,

+ WISDOM = wisdom, *skill, ability to use . . . , discernment*

God's answer 1:11-12

God congratulates him for his request.

Most people would seek *personal* gain.

God mentions **alternatives others would ask for: wealth, possessions, fame, vengeance on their enemies, or long life.**

Solomon isn't thinking of such things.

He's thinking about his responsibility, and how to govern such a nation adequately.

Therefore, God promises him wisdom and material benefits as well.

Wisdom will help him use the prosperity he's about to receive wisely.

His wealth 1:13-17

Solomon has already demonstrated his ability to manage material possessions well.

He knows how to have an abundance of goods without being led astray by them, because his priorities are well defined. Therefore, God gives him great wealth.

He gets a huge quantity of carriages and horses, silver, gold, cedar and other goods.

Solomon prospers because he's seeking the right priorities in his life.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE 2-7

Solomon's greatness increases because he gives priority to building God's house.

David communicated his vision;

Solomon realizes that **he too should give first place to worshiping Yahweh.**

He could only accomplish that by providing a place that's worthy of Yahweh to remind people of His greatness and glory.

Preparation for the temple 2 2:1

The story reveals **two implications about what motivates Solomon:**

- 1) The decision to build a house for Yahweh's name is a result of God's blessing after he decides to seek God's wisdom.**

Building the temple is an act of gratitude, recognizing Yahweh's value.

As he makes plans, another aspect of his attitude is revealed:

- 2) Yahweh's house has to be great and marvelous. 2:5-6, 9b**

We get the idea that a magnificent structure is a waste of God's resources.

If we're doing it as a monument to ourselves, or to build *our* kingdom, that's a legitimate concern.

Solomon's desire is to build a house that is *worthy of the Name* of Yahweh.

He's greater than all gods!

He deserves a house worthy of God's name!

SOLOMON'S TO PLEASE GOD WITH HIS LIFE & PURPOSE: TO GLORIFY GOD WITH HIS TEMPLE

For Solomon, God's temple has to reflect God's greatness so the people will recognize His value and worship Him in truth.

If people get the idea that Yahweh is just another god, they won't give him importance He deserves and they won't follow Him faithfully.

Worship of the true God deserves the best we have!

Building of the temple 3-4

Solomon builds a magnificent structure for God's glory.

The building is covered with gold and precious stones, so that it will glow brilliantly.

Dedication of the temple 5-7

Preparation for the dedication of the temple 5

When everything's ready, Solomon summons the people to a dedication ceremony.

The priests leave the temple.

While all the people are singing and praising Yahweh,

the cloud fills the temple. 5:13-14

This is the seal of divine approval.

What an incredible time of praise and worship that must have been.

God Himself shows up for the service!

I wonder how different our worship would be if God were to show up here on Sunday a.m.?

Would it shock you to know that God *does* show up here every Sunday?!!!

How should that affect our worship?

Our worship statement says we want to encourage people to spontaneously express our praise and worship to **the God who is here, and who is worthy of our worship!** Do we really worship that way?

Dedication by Solomon 6

The ceremony begins with **a message to the people** (6:1-11).

After pointing out the reason for the assembly, and blessing the people, he reminds them of the historical background of the project.

He praises God for two things He has done for His people, to fulfill His promise to David: 6:2, 10-11

- 1) **He has established David's house to govern His people.**
- 2) **Even more important, He promises to remain among His people.**

Through the temple, He provides *a place to reveal Himself to them.*

Solomon praises God for His faithfulness in fulfilling His Word.

The message is followed by a dedication prayer (6:12-42). **6:14-21**

Solomon praises God for His greatness, His covenant, and His mercy.

Solomon asks God to fulfill His promise to hear the cry of His people . . .

Repeated theme: "When they pray, hear... and forgive..."

Answer from God 7

God answers the dedication prayer, filling the temple with His glory as an affirmation that He will always be with them.

7:1-3

The people draw near to worship and affirm again that He is good and that His mercy endures forever.

It took them several weeks to complete the large number of sacrifices.

It is a noisy (and smelly!) time of praise and sacrifice.

They worship God for three weeks straight—praising Him for what He's done.

THEN, they go back home, rejoicing over what God has done for them (7:4-10). **7:10**

When celebration's over, God appears to Solomon by the night (7:11-22), **7:11-16**

[Correct impression of 7:14! –Don't want to distract from worship scene!

Principle is true—but specific reference is to Israel

–the “people who are called by Yahweh's name.]

God indicates His satisfaction with Solomon's desire to build Him a temple and promises to communicate with His people there, as Solomon asked.

GOD'S EYES ARE OPEN

GOD'S EARS ARE ATTENTIVE

TO HEAR THE PRAYER OF HIS PEOPLE

At the same time He warns Solomon again of the importance of faithfulness.

If they aren't faithful, this temple will become a symbol of judgment.

Commentary on modern situation of Israel **7:19-22**

SOLOMON'S FAME AND GLORY 8-9

His achievements 8-9:28

Since Solomon accepts God's priorities as his own, God blesses him materially.

He seeks the best way to demonstrate wisdom and promote Yahweh worship.

> Therefore the kingdom grows and great wealth is accumulated.

The **Queen of Sheba** hears about Solomon and comes to see for herself.

She wants to meet him to see if what she heard is true.

2 Chron. 9:1-9

She brings him the hardest questions she can come up with.

She's prepared to pay him well, if his counsel is as good as she has heard.

She brings a heavy load of spices, precious stones and gold.

The gold alone is worth about \$85 billion (by 2006 prices).

She shares her concerns and Solomon answers her questions.

When she hears his answers and sees what God has given to him, she's amazed.

She leaves more than satisfied.

She affirms they didn't tell her half the story about Solomon.

Her testimony indicates that Solomon gives God credit for what he has.

Therefore, God continues to prosper Solomon in every way (9:1-12).

The author tries to indicate something of Solomon's fame and wealth, but he realizes he can never get everything down on paper (9:13-28).

Just the annual income in gold is about 800,000 ounces of gold (= 25 tons; = about \$480 billion (2006)).

That doesn't include his income from taxes, nor other materials. Chronicles attempts to explain how great Solomon's kingdom is but can't do it justice.

The author concludes with a summary statement:

Solomon is greater than any king had ever been in wealth and wisdom.

All the world rulers seek the chance to see him and hear his wisdom.

They can't believe what they're being told about him
9:22-23

**SOLOMON SURPASSES ALL OTHER KINGS
 IN WEALTH IN WISDOM**

His death 9:29-31

After 40 years as king, Solomon dies.

Never again would the kingdom achieve such glory, until
 Messiah comes.

By observing Solomon's life, we learn one of the most
 important secrets concerning prayer and the will of God.

Like his dad, Solomon wants to please God above all else.

Therefore, he can ask whatever he wants and receive it.

He asks in conformity with what God wants to give him.

Therefore, his wish is granted.

AND, God knows He can trust him with other kinds of
 things also.

=> James 1:5; 3:13-4:3 (3:18 => "Solomon")

Cp. 1 Chr. 22:8-9; Matt 6:33

Notice this principle in his prayer in both ch. 1 & ch. 7

SOLOMON'S SECRET: (+ a whole lot more!)

Desire to => Request => Wisdom => Peace
Please God for Wisdom + Riches "Solomon"

+ Wealth

+ Honor

Abraham Lincoln acknowledged the need for wisdom during the
 Civil War. A friend wrote, "I had been spending 3 weeks at the
 White House as the President's guest. One night I was restless and
 could not sleep. From Lincoln's bedroom I heard the low tones of
 his voice. Looking in the door, I saw a sight I have never forgotten.
 The tall Chief Executive was kneeling before an open Bible. He did
 not know I could hear as he pleaded, 'O Thou great God that heard
 Solomon in the night when he prayed and cried for wisdom, hear
 me. I cannot lead these people. I cannot guide the affairs of this

country without Thy help. O Lord, hear me and save this nation." James 1:5 is not an idle promise.

I wonder what would we have asked, if God gave us Solomon's opportunity.

Looking back from this side, we would probably give the *right* answer!

But what would we ask, if we could ask for what we want more than anything else?

Solomon learned one of the most important lessons in life: in the long run possessions, fame, power, vengeance, long life;

NONE of these things satisfy.

He wants something more lasting.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO LEARN FROM SOLOMON'S LIFE?

The negatives of 1 Kings 1-11

Even so great a king, "a chip off the old block"

–born to follow God–can get distracted and end in disaster.

And yet God uses his life for His glory.

We too are prone to fall.

We too can be used for God's glory.

WHAT SHOULD WE ASK GOD FOR?

Wisdom– –to please Him. –to glorify Him.

Solomon's summary:

When we want to please and glorify Him more than anything else...

We can ask for wisdom to accomplish that purpose.

He'll provide all we need to accomplish His purpose and glorify Him!

(Whether that be greater wisdom, riches, wealth, or honor)

He will supply "shalom" ("Solomon") –peace

As we seek to please and worship Him appropriately.

Relationship to worship? This is *the essence* of true worship!
True worship isn't about the order of service on Sunday a.m.
Or the beauty of the building.
Or the instruments or style of worship we follow.
True worship is about the attitude of our heart.
It's a heart that is grateful and submissive to God.
A heart that is thirsty to know God better.
A heart that is seeking to please and glorify God
as #1 priority in our life!
It's not about form or ritual.
It's acknowledging His worth, and giving Him the praise He
deserves, from hearts overflowing with gratitude for all
that He has done for us!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT IT?

Is that the desire of our heart?

Why don't we ask Him for it?