

2 Chronicles 1-9
Solomon and the Temple
Lesson 5

Key Verse

Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD; *and* the people *whom* he hath
chosen for his own inheritance.

—Psalm 33:12

Key Verse Thought: After reading the key verse, understand that God has promised to bless the nation who acknowledges God as supreme, and where the people establish a relationship with Him. How can one have a relationship with God? (i.e.: first, ask Jesus in one's heart; spend time with Him; pray; read the Bible; obey God's commands and encourage others to obey Him as well; etc.) In this lesson, we will see how God blessed the nation, Israel, who made God the Lord of their nation – and obeyed Him!

Emphasis: Christians are to choose to obey God, doing what He wants over what self wants, understanding that God will bless those who put God first.

Lesson Summary: In our last lesson, we learned that David prepared greatly for the building of the Temple. He declared that his son, Solomon, would succeed him as king, and Solomon would build the house of the Lord. In this lesson, we will learn about Solomon as he becomes king of Israel.

Solomon returned to the tabernacle Moses had built in the wilderness and offered great sacrifices to God. God came to Solomon that night, asking what he desired. Solomon took his father's advice and asked for wisdom to rule God's people. God not only promised him wisdom, but riches and fame as well.

Solomon immediately set about to build the Temple for God. Once it was completed (and the furnishings were made and placed inside), he had the Ark of the Covenant brought into the Temple, addressed the people, and prayed to God. When Solomon finished praying, God answered his prayer by sending fire from heaven that consumed Solomon's sacrifice. The glory of

the Lord so filled the Temple that no one could enter. God then gave many promises, and warnings, to Solomon.

Solomon's kingdom increased, and his fame extended. The Queen of Sheba heard of King Solomon and came to meet him herself. She recognized that God had given him this great wisdom. Solomon's fame continued to spread, and many kings gave him great gifts – increasing his wealth.

Remember: The books of the Chronicles do not dwell upon the wrongdoings of the kings, but what good they accomplished for Judah.

Suggested Bible Reading to Prepare for This Lesson

- Monday: 2 Chronicles 1-2
- Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 3-4
- Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 5-6
- Thursday: 2 Chronicles 7
- Friday: 2 Chronicles 8
- Saturday: 2 Chronicles 9

2 Chronicles 1-9

Solomon and the Temple

1. Solomon Builds the Temple (1 Chronicles 1-4)
 - King Solomon's offering, and God's gift
 - Building begins
 - Temple furnishings
2. The Temple Completed (2 Chronicles 5-6)
 - The Ark of the Covenant brought into the Temple
 - Solomon addressed the people
 - Solomon's prayer to God
3. God Answered King Solomon's Prayer (2 Chronicles 7)
 - Fire fell from Heaven
 - God's promise, and warning, to Solomon
4. The Greatness of King Solomon (2 Chronicles 8-9)
 - Solomon built cities, and appointed the priests
 - The Queen of Sheba meets King Solomon
 - Solomon's fame wealth, and wisdom world renowned

Note: In our last lesson, remember how we left the nation of Israel. “22b. ... And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed *him* unto the LORD *to be* the chief governor ... 23. Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him” (1 Chronicles 29:22b-23). Reading further, we see what God did: “And the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him *such* royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel” (1 Chronicles 29:25).

1. Solomon Builds the Temple (2 Chronicles 1-4)

As we ended our last lesson with the majesty bestowed on King Solomon at the end of First Chronicles, Second Chronicles begins with King Solomon’s reign in the first verse of the first chapter. “And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God *was* with him, and magnified him exceedingly” (2 Chronicles 1:1).

Stop for a minute and remember King David’s excitement about the future building of the Temple. He was excited about just being able to give of his substance in preparation for it, knowing that his son would be building it very soon. He was able to excite his son, Solomon, as well. Keep this in mind as we continue in Second Chronicles. The third verse begins to reveal something interesting. “So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that *was* at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness” (2 Chronicles 1:3). They went back to the tabernacle that Moses had made in the wilderness. It was located at Gibeon. Solomon found the brazen altar that was located at the front of the tabernacle and offered a thousand burnt offerings there.

Once again, it is important to remember back to something important David had emphasized to his son, Solomon. Read the following important words, words with promise, that David gave to Solomon. “12. *Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God.* 13. *Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed*” (1 Chronicles 22:12-13). After remembering those important words of David to Solomon, read 2 Chronicles 1:7-12. This event took place the night of the thousand burnt offerings Solomon made

upon the brazen altar in front of Moses' tabernacle. God came to Solomon in a dream on this night, asking what Solomon wanted. Read God's answer to Solomon's request. "Wisdom and knowledge *is* granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that *have been* before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like" (2 Chronicles 1:12). God granted Solomon's request above and beyond what he asked.

Solomon reigned over Israel. Notice the beginning of the wealth that God promised. "And the king made silver and gold at Jerusalem *as plenteous* as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that *are* in the vale for abundance" (2 Chronicles 1:15).

Read what Solomon determined to do. "And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom" (2 Chronicles 2:1). This was what his father, David, had wanted to do, but God wanted Solomon to build this house. Moreover, Solomon determined to do just that.

Solomon began to enlist workers, telling them:

5. And the house which I build *is* great: for great *is* our God above all gods. 6. But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who *am* I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him? 7. Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that *are* with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide. (2 Chronicles 2:5-7)

Solomon understood the importance of the house of the Lord. He wanted to do the best job possible. That is the same exact approach each and every Christian should take to any task God wants us to do – do the best job possible. After seeking help and organizing the workers, see what King Solomon did. "Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where *the LORD* appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite" (2 Chronicles 3:1). God sent David to this same place. It was the place where David saw the angel of the Lord with a sword drawn against

Jerusalem. David had bought this place for the future building of the Temple – the place where Solomon was now building (also, where Abraham offered Isaac in Genesis 22:2).

Second Chronicles chapter three gives the dimensions of the Temple and the costly ornamentation.

Second Chronicles chapter four describes the furnishings of the Temple (see also First Kings chapter seven).

A Deeper Path: Remember again, what we have learned. “6. *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up*” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). David did this with his son, Solomon. He encouraged him to obey God’s commands. Also, see that Solomon asked for wisdom – just as his father counseled him to do. “*Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end*” (Proverbs 19:2). Remember that Solomon was a *very* wise man!

2. The Temple Completed (2 Chronicle 5-6)

“Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in *all* the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God” (2 Chronicles 5:1). King Solomon completed the task God had wanted him to do. Once completed, Solomon assembled all of the people, and the Levites took up the ark and carried it into the Temple (2 Chronicles 5:2-10). Read what happened. “13. *It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; 14. So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God*” (2 Chronicles 5:13-14). (See also 1 Kings 8:10-11 that we read before when we looked at King Solomon.) Remember back to the tabernacle in the wilderness, once it was completed. “34. *Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent*

of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle” (Exodus 40:34-35). Once again, God showed His pleasure of the accomplished building of his house by filling it with his glory – so much so that no one could enter.

After the completion of the Temple and God’s glory filling it, Solomon declared to the people that he had built this house as a habitation for the Lord – forever. Solomon did not build the Temple for his glory, but for God’s. He then addressed the people, turning their hearts and minds to God, the God who had been with them, brought them from Egypt. God had never asked for a house to dwell in, but placed the desire in David’s heart.

5. Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build an house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I any man to be a ruler over my people Israel: 6. But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel. 7. Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 6:5-7)

David acted upon that desire, wanting to build a house. Nevertheless, as we have learned, God only allowed David to prepare for that house. However, God allowed David’s son, Solomon, actually to build it. Solomon understood the workings of God in the life of his father, and now in his life as well. Solomon shared these events with all of Israel – for they too, needed to understand that God was working among His people. Sometimes, even today, we may begin a work and God may have somebody else to complete that work, or vice versa (just like David prepared, and Solomon completed it). The same thing may happen today. See an example of this in the New Testament. “37. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. 38. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours” (John 4:37-38).

Second Chronicles 6:14-42 records one of the most beautiful prayers you will read in the Bible. Read through this prayer, recognizing the mighty doctrines listed and the acknowledgment of the characteristics of God. Solomon understood that God would always forgive and return to His people – if they would turn to God in repentance. Share some of the important words that

speak to your heart from this prayer with your class, helping them recognize God's dealings with mankind in a new way.

A Deeper Path: King Solomon accomplished the building of the Temple – a job God had said he was to do. It is important that people recognize what God wants us to do with our lives, for it is extremely advantageous for us. Job is a great example of someone who understood the importance of pleasing God – much more important even than eating food (and everyone knows man would die without eating food!). “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*” (Job 23:12).

Jesus is always the best example to follow. “Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work**” (John 4:34). **Meat** means “denotes sustenance; nourishment.” Jesus understood (as did Job) that pleasing God, doing the work He has for one, is very important – even life sustaining. Jesus also understood that He was not here on earth to do what He wanted, but what God wanted Him to do. “**For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me**” (John 6:38). We are to follow Jesus' example. Christians are not to do what we want, but what God wants us to do. This should be as important to us as the food we eat to stay alive. See that Jesus completed everything God wanted Him to do. “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost” (John 19:30).

3. God Answered King Solomon's Prayer (2 Chronicles 7)

After Solomon finished praying, God answered that prayer. “Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house” (2 Chronicles 7:1). Read how the people reacted to God's answer to that prayer.

2. And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house. 3. And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD,

saying, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever. 4. Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. (2 Chronicles 7:2-4)

After great sacrifices and worship unto God, the priests and Levites waited on their offices. After a great celebration, Solomon sent the people home.

When Solomon had completed all of the building (of the Lord's house and his own house), God appeared again to Solomon in a dream.

12. And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. 13. If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 14. If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:12-14)

God made a promise to King Solomon that he recorded for us – even today. Especially notice the part about “the locusts to devour the land” and read something of which we will learn that Joel saw and recorded. Joel saw a coming invasion with the destruction upon the nation as a plague of locusts – if the people did not repent for forsaking God. These words of warning were recorded for all to read and understand.

God continued with these words to Solomon. “15. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer *that is made* in this place. 16. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there *perpetually*” (2 Chronicles 7:15-16). God wanted mankind to be able to always, and forever, recognize that this house was built for Him. Nevertheless, at the same time, God warned King Solomon and His people to walk continually before Him – just like his father, David had done. If Solomon did, God would establish his throne forever (with someone always ruling in Israel). Read what God declared would happen if Solomon and God's people did not walk continually

with Him. “Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it *to be* a proverb and a byword among all nations” (2 Chronicles 7:20). God promised that if His people forsook His commands, he would cast them out of their land and allow that house of the Lord to be destroyed. All would see the destruction and ask why. “And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them” (2 Chronicles 7:22).

4. The Greatness of King Solomon (2 Chronicles 8-9)

Second Chronicles chapter eight tells more details of Solomon’s kingdom.

We then recall an amazing event. “And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart” (II Chronicles 9:1). We remember that the Queen of Sheba came to see and hear from Solomon herself (for she had heard of him). After she had every question answered, and she saw all of Solomon’s wealth, read her response. “5. And she said to the king, *It was* a true report which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom: 6. Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen *it*: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: *for* thou exceedest the fame that I heard” (2 Chronicles 9:5-6). Notice to whom the Queen of Sheba gave the glory. “Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, *to be* king for the LORD thy God: because thy God loved Israel, to establish them for ever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do judgment and justice” (2 Chronicles 9:8). After she met King Solomon and he answered all of her questions, she recognized God in his life. She understood to whom the glory was due.

The rest of Second Chronicles chapter nine tells of the great riches and magnificence of Solomon’s kingdom – all due to God’s blessing as He promised. “And king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom” (2 Chronicles 9:22). Not only that, but also see the following: “And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom,

that God had put in his heart” (2 Chronicles 9:23). When the kings came to visit King Solomon to hear his wisdom, they brought him many wonderful gifts, greatly increasing Solomon’s wealth.

“30. And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. 31. And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead” (2 Chronicles 9:30-31).

A Deeper Path: Consider the following: While Jesus was living among mankind, God had established His ministry through the preaching of God’s Word and miracles (Acts 2:22). Often times, people would come to see the miracles. “And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased” (John 6:2). As Jesus was teaching and performing miracles, we can read the people were gathering in great crowds, wanting to hear and see more. Read what Jesus said to them. “29. And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. 30. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation. 31. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here. 32. The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here” (Luke 11:29-32).

Jesus wanted the people to understand something. He was not there to give them signs. **Signs** means “a token to the unbelieving of God’s presence and power.” Many of the people that followed to see these miracles already claimed to be believers of God. What they did not recognize was that their belief in God was incomplete unless they believed also in Jesus (Jesus later reiterated this to His disciples before He was arrested. “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me” John 14:1).

God was vividly seen in the life of Jonah as he was in the belly of the whale for 3 days and 3 nights. Jesus called the people’s remembrance back to the recollection of Jonah. Jesus was letting them know that God was going to give this “evil generation” the same sign God sent to the wicked city, Nineveh, by Jonah. Jesus also took their remembrance back further when he reminded them of the “queen of the south” (the Queen of Sheba – see 1 Kings 10 and 2

Chronicles 9). When she heard of the great wisdom of King Solomon, she went to talk to him for herself instead of relying upon hearsay. Jesus let the people know that there would be two great witnesses against this generation if they did not recognize Jesus as the Christ. He said these two witnesses would “**rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it.**” **Condemn** means “to show by one’s good conduct that others are guilty of misconduct and deserve to be punished.” When the Queen of Sheba met with King Solomon, she recognized God (1 Kings 10:9 and 2 Chronicles 9:8). When the people of Nineveh saw Jonah and heard his testimony, they believed God (Jonah 3:5).

Jesus was greater than Solomon in all of his wisdom.

Jesus was greater than Jonah who survived three days and three nights in the belly of the whale.

Jesus is God.

2 Chronicles 1 - 9 at a Glance:

Chapter 1: King Solomon offers great offerings to God; God’s gift of wisdom (and wealth and power); Israel made wealthy

Chapter 2: Solomon begins the building of the house of the Lord by appointing builders, the agreement with Hiram

Chapter 3: Beginning of the building on Mount Moriah; dimensions of the Temple

Chapter 4: Furnishings for the Temple described; the court for the priests; vessels for the temple made

Chapter 5: Temple completed; Solomon assembled the people of Israel; Ark brought to the Temple; Glory filled Temple

Chapter 6: Solomon addressed the people; King Solomon’s prayer of dedication of the Temple

Chapter 7: After Solomon’s prayer, fire fell from heaven and consumed the offering & God’s glory filled the Temple; God’s promise to Solomon and the nation of Israel, and God’s warning if they forsake Him

Chapter 8: Solomon built cities; married the daughter of Pharaoh; appointed the priests according to the order established

Chapter 9: The queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon & visited; King Solomon’s riches exceeded all kings

Reinforcement: As we remembered about King Solomon in this lesson, recognize that he obeyed the plan God had for his life – he built the Temple for which his father, David had prepared. Just as Solomon chose to do what God wanted, each person has the same choice – to obey God’s plan or choose to do what he or she wants. We understood, as we remembered Solomon’s life today, that Solomon sought to please God (remember the prayer, and God’s answer of fire from heaven). As we learned today, God blessed King Solomon for obeying and fulfilling the plan for his life. Remember that God promised, and gave him wisdom, wealth, and fame. The Queen of Sheba was able to recognize that no man could possess that kind of wisdom, unless God had given it to him. She saw God through the blessing that God bestowed upon Solomon for his obedience.

King Solomon should be an example to us today. We are to choose to obey God’s plan for our life, instead of doing what we want. It will only be then, that God’s blessing can be recognized in one’s life.

Closing: It would be good to close with a short prayer reinforcing today’s lesson. Always include any prayer requests you may have. *Today, pray that we will choose to obey God’s plan for our life – knowing that He will bless us for our obedience.*