

KING SOLOMON – AN INTRODUCTION

Solomon is presented as the wisest man who ever lived, I Kings 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much ... ³⁰ And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ For he was wiser than all men ... and his fame was in all nations round. He wrote Psalms 72 and 127, the first twenty-nine chapters of Proverbs, the Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. Jewish tradition claims he wrote the Song of Solomon in his youth, Proverbs in his prime, and Ecclesiastes approaching the end of his life. Proverbs was practical, the Song of Solomon was passionate, and Ecclesiastes was pitiful. ... The king who warned against many sins failed to follow his own counsel which resulted in him leading Israel into idolatry.

- He was the third king of Israel.
- He ruled wisely for forty years (c. 970-930 BC), securing stability through treaties with foreign powers.
- Under his reign, the kingdom extended to its largest geographical capacity with victories over the Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, and Edomites.
- During his reign, the Temple in Jerusalem was built.

His father was King David who had eight named wives and a host of concubines. From them, he had nineteen named sons and one daughter, Tamar ... and a son by Bathsheba who died in infancy. However, Solomon was his most famous son who was the product of his marriage to Bathsheba, previously the wife of Uriah who David sent out to be killed at the front of a battle. Nine months after the death of the baby, Solomon was born, and the LORD loved him (II Sam. 12:24). He was also called Jedidiah [*'beloved of the Lord'*], because of the Lord (v.25, 'for the Lord's sake').

The name 'Solomon' was derived from the Hebrew 'shalom' which means 'peace'. Solomon was a man of 'peace'. His father David had shared with him, I Chron. 22:7 My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God: ⁸ But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight. ⁹ Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be *a man of rest*, and I will give him *rest* from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon [*'peaceful'*], and I will give peace [*shalom*] and *quietness* unto Israel in his days.

There are also parallels between Jedidiah/Solomon and the Lord Jesus. For example, when Jesus was baptized, *Mt. 3:16* lo, the heavens were opened unto him [*John the Baptist*], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him [*Jesus*]. ¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am *well pleased* ... corresponding to the meaning behind the name 'Jedidiah'. Also, the title for the Messiah, *Is. 9:6* For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, ***The Prince of Peace***. ... Solomon was the 'peaceful king', but in Christ, behold, a greater than Solomon is here (*Mt. 12:42*) ... During His millennial reign, *Is. 11:6* The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ... ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, this was the theme of Solomon's psalm, *Ps. 72:2* He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. ³ The mountains shall bring *peace [shalom]* to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. ⁴ He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. ⁵ They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. ⁶ He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. ⁷ In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. ⁸ He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. ⁹ They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. ¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. ¹¹ Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. ¹² For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. ¹³ He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. ¹⁴ He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight. ¹⁵ And he shall live, and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba: prayer also shall be made for him continually; and daily shall he be praised. ¹⁶ There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. ¹⁷ His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed. ¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. ¹⁹ And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.