In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 26
The Rise and Decline of the Kingdom under Solomon

Themes:

- Through kings David and Solomon, God made Israel into a great nation.
- God brought strife into David's family because of his sin.
- God instructed Solomon to build a special place of worship, the temple, in Jerusalem.
- Solomon turned away from the one true God.
- God divided the kingdom of Israel.
- God is faithful to all His promises.

Scripture:

Portions of 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Chronicles

Memory Verse:

John 1:8 (and review verses 1-7; REVIEW SHEET)

Today's Clue:

GOD'S TEMPLE

Home and Heart:

As of today, there is no temple in Israel. There is no descendant of David on a throne there either. Leaders from all over the world do not go there to seek wisdom as they did long ago. Israel is not the greatest or most powerful nation on earth anymore. Does God *really* keep all His promises? Can you think of New Testament events or verses to answer these questions?

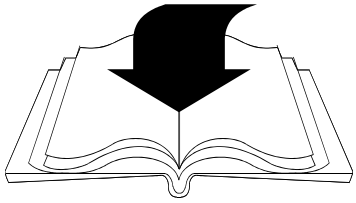
What is wisdom? One definition is knowing what is right and then doing it, or using your knowledge and abilities in a way that is pleasing to God. How did Solomon become so wise? Read 1 Kings 3:7-12. Is this kind of wisdom only for kings or great leaders? Read and discuss James 1:5-6. Once a person is wise, does he automatically do the wise thing in every situation? Did Solomon stay wise throughout his life? What happened? Read 1 Kings 11:1-2. Are you always wise? What do you think is the wisest thing a person could do?

Although at one time Solomon was the wisest man on earth, in the end he became very foolish. How did this happen? Read Proverbs 4:23. What does this verse mean? How does a person go about doing this? Has God given Christians any "tools" for this? [His Word, the Holy Spirit, the example of Jesus, prayer, good parents, teachers, other Christians, etc.] How can memorized scripture help you to guard your heart? (See Ephesians 4:32 and Proverbs 3:5.)

Read Psalm 27:4 and Psalm 84:10. Can these verses be true without a temple in Jerusalem? How? Is there a way to come into God's presence and worship Him? (Look at John 4:23-24.)



DISCOVER MORE



1 Kings & 2 Chronicles

1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles are often called “books of history” because they tell us about the important events in the history of the people of Israel. But as you read these books, it becomes very clear that the main subject in these books is God! Israel’s history is all about how the one true God showed His great love, mercy, and faithfulness to His covenant-breaking people. Using the lines below, write the books of history, in order, starting with Joshua and ending with Esther, and then answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

BOOKS OF HISTORY IN THE BIBLE

In what chapter of 1 Kings does Solomon pray to God for wisdom?

In what chapter of 1 Kings is the ark brought into the temple?

In what chapter of 1 Kings is Solomon’s turning away from God described?

In what chapter of 2 Chronicles is the building of the temple described?

In what chapter of 2 Chronicles is Solomon’s prayer dedicating the temple found?