



## TEACHER NOTES FOR CHAPTER 7 THE KINGS & PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

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THEME	KING SOLOMON: LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL
HOMEWORK BIBLE READING	1 KINGS 1-3, 1 KINGS 11
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### OVERVIEW

This chapter explores the highs and lows of another incredibly complex and fascinating King in this period of Israel's history.

By this stage your students have most probably completed the research project on the Temple and already know how Solomon, the son of Bathsheba and David, fits into this period. The challenge of this session is to take the opportunity to explore the lessons from Solomon's life and to grapple with how a high point in Israel's history could so quickly become a negative one.

Solomon's life and reign are some of the most teachable chapters of this entire period! The guy is given wisdom from God to rule over the nation of Israel, writes 3 books of the Bible (one of which teenage boys take a particular liking to), builds the temple, expands the nation to its greatest geographical, cultural and economic status in their history yet marries 700 wives, 300 concubines and ends his life guilty of introducing idolatry into Israel.

How do we make sense of this? How is a teenager to make sense of the fact that the man whose wisdom in Proverbs we would encourage them to develop their character around, is also the one who ultimately fails to use it in the long haul of his life. At the very least this is a great object lesson of the New Testament's teaching that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory! But is there hope for anyone if Solomon's life ends so badly? It is here, as with some of David's failures, that we can begin to hint to the students of what we will see the prophets speaking of in the future. A faithful and stable leader that God will raise up to shepherd his people.

Also, in light of Ecclesiastes, we see a good argument for why Solomon's wisdom is still for the ages to live by. At the end of his life of excesses, his conclusion is that the only way of making sense of our time here on this earth is to live it for the glory of God.

## OUR TIPS

### **P115 Solomon's rocky succession**

The way people come to power is always interesting. Solomon's older brother tries to outsmart his father and Solomon by declaring himself king. The plan backfires! It is interesting that the child of Bathsheba should be chosen as David's successor. This is also a great chance to recap the covenant that God made with David because much of that covenant was actually about Solomon.

### **P117 Solomon asks for wisdom**

This is a great opportunity to find a creative way of exploring with the students what they would ask for if God granted them the request he did Solomon.

### **P120 Proverbs activity**

The challenge of this activity is to get students flicking through Proverbs to find examples of Solomon's wisdom that relate to different areas of life. You might want to introduce this activity by highlighting some of the more 'out there' sayings of Solomon..."Go to the Ant you sluggard" etc. There are plenty of great quotes about speech and the way we treat other people including sexual ethics.

### **P123 Solomon's prayer of dedication group activity**

Solomon's prayer of dedication of the Temple is a unique example of a long prayer from an Old Testament leader. It is particularly significant because of what it reveals about Solomon's understanding of God and the limitations of the new building that he has just completed. There is a group activity in the book to try and encourage all students to have to look through the prayer and talk about it. Feel free to twist that activity your way in class if you need to make some alterations to it. As a side note we would love some feedback on how you find it!

### **P128-129 Second 'however' and sanctioned idolatry**

These pages explore the way the writer of Kings introduces us to the calamity of the end of Solomon's life. It is interesting that when God appeared to Solomon the second time he essentially spent time warning Solomon what would happen if he turned away from him. The man charged with leading Israel and granted wisdom from God allows idols to be built to worship the foreign gods of his many wives. As the students engage with this, challenge them to look for connections in contemporary Christian culture. Where is the compromise today? Where is the idolatry?

## YOUR TIPS

*We would love to hear what you have learnt after teaching this chapter. If you have tips that you are happy for us to freely share with other teachers using this course please let us know by emailing them through to us at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## COMMON QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK

- Why does Proverbs seem to only speak about women as being those that can sexually lead someone astray and that nagging wives can be annoying? A: The book is written from a father to his son and there is nothing wrong changing the gender in the verses if you are female!
- Why did Solomon have so many wives?
- What is a concubine?
- Which wife did he write Song of Songs to?

*We would love to hear what questions students are asking in response to the content of this chapter. Please let us know at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## RESOURCES TO HELP YOU TEACH THIS CHAPTER

- Kings and Prophets Visual aid

*If you know of any websites or resources that would assist teachers with bringing this chapter to life please let us know at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## ANSWERS FOR CHAPTER 7

Answers have been provided for questions where we believe clarification may be needed or where an activity requires the teacher to have the correct answer before the students commence the activity.

*If you have any questions about an activity not written up in the following notes, please contact us at [admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au](mailto:admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au).*

## CHAPTER 7

p. 116 Activity	David's charge to Solomon on his deathbed – Read 1 Kings 2:1-9
	<p><b>What advice does David give to Solomon about how he should reign as king?</b> Be strong, obey God's commands, show kindness, deal with sin in wisdom.</p> <p><b>Of all the things David could have talked to him about, why was this so important to him?</b> David wanted to see God's promises to him fulfilled. He also wanted Solomon to do better than he had.</p> <p><b>Who are the people that David wanted Solomon to deal with? What have they done that is so bad?</b> David's (and thus Solomon's) enemies. They committed murder and cursed God's chosen king.</p>
p. 117 Activity	Solomon asks for wisdom
	<p><b>What four things does God say Solomon will receive along with the wisdom he asked for?</b> A wise and discerning heart Riches Honour Long life</p>
p. 119 Fill in gaps Activity	1 Kings 4:29-34
	<p>God gave Solomon <b>wisdom</b> and very great insight, and a breadth of <b>understanding</b> as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's <b>wisdom</b> was greater than the <b>wisdom</b> of all the people of the East, and greater than all the <b>wisdom</b> of Egypt. He was <b>wiser</b> than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Kalkol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his <b>fame</b> spread to all the surrounding <b>nations</b>. He spoke three thousand <b>proverbs</b> and his <b>songs</b> numbered a thousand and five. He spoke about <b>plant</b> life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also <b>spoke</b> about <b>animals</b> and <b>birds</b>, reptiles and <b>fish</b>. From all nations people came to <b>listen</b> to Solomon's <b>wisdom</b>, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his <b>wisdom</b>.</p>
p. 127 Activity	God's second appearance to Solomon
	<p><b>Read 1 Kings 9:1-9. Summarise what God says to Solomon.</b> I have heard you. I have consecrated this temple. Obey me with integrity and I will establish your throne forever. If you serve other gods I will cut off Israel from the land.</p>