

Kingdom of Solomon

Introduction

- 2 Sam 12:24-25; 1 Kgs 1–11; 2 Chr 1-9
- Impressive king
- Is Solomon an ideal ruler?

'Seeing Jesus' in the Solomon Stories

- Importance of christological approaches
- Limitations of typology, prophecy and looking for links
- Reading Solomon with the NT as part of scripture

Who is Solomon?

- Contrasting portraits: 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles

Solomon the Failure

- Solomon's folly and questionable choices (e.g., 1 Kgs 3:1; 7:1–12; 9:11 etc)
- Builds temple but worships other gods
- Critique of writer of 1 Kings

Solomon the Legend

- 4 Aspects of Solomon are legendary

Solomon the True Son of David

- Dynastic Succession (1 Kings 1–2)
 - Is this the best way for monarchy to act?
- Solomon as Son of David and NT

Solomon's Reputation for Wisdom

- What does wisdom mean? (Prov. 1:2–11)
 - Wisdom as hidden and revealed

Solomon as origin of wisdom

- Three significant stories
 - Solomon seeks wisdom (3:4–15)
 - Wisdom in action (3:16–28)

- Reputation (1 Kings 10:1–10; Song of Songs 1:1; 8:11-12; Proverbs 1:1; 10:1; 25:1 etc)

Wisdom in NT

- Matt. 12:42

The Life of Wealth and Abundance

- 1 Kings 4-5 and accomplishments
- 1 Kings 11:3 — 700 princesses; 300 concubines
- Solomon's horses; royal provisions; size of territory
- Realisation of patriarchal promises (1 Kings 4. 20 and Gen. 15:5; 22:17 etc)

Splendour in NT

- Matt. 6:29 // Luke 12:27 —Is this the man or the legend?
 - How does it apply to our lives?

The Temple Builder (1 Kgs 6:1–9:9)

- Building Temple is climactic moment linked to Israel's exodus from Egypt (6:1) with reminders of the past: Ark and pillar
- Relationship of palace to Temple

The Temple Dedication

- Prayer of dedication (8:22–53)
- Theme of forgiveness
- Theme of God's faithfulness
- Symbol of God's presence in Israel
- Response of God (9:1–9)

Temple Theology

- Temple a Microcosm of Universe
 - 1 Kings 8 parallels creation
 - Psa 78:69
 - Isa 65:17–18
 - Isa 66:1–2
- Temple as divine residence
 - 1 Kgs 8:13
 - Psa 27:4–5
 - Psa 122:1–2
 - Decoration in temple (garden, ark, ephod, pillar etc)

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- God as dwelling in Heaven (1 Kings 8:15-61)
- God dwelling in temple (the glory)

Temple in Acts

- Acts 7:47–50
- Solomon built a house though God does not dwell in houses.
- The problem is with those who think a temple can contain God (7:49)

So where is the temple in Christian theology?

- The *Centre* giving focus
- The *meeting point* for God and humans
- *Microcosm* of the heavens
- Place of *immanent-transcendent* presence