



## Days of Preparation for God's People (1 Kings 4-5)

*Notes: Week Two*

### 1 Kings 4-5 (HCSB)

#### Solomon's Officials

4 King Solomon ruled over Israel, <sup>2</sup> and these were his officials:

Azariah son of Zadok, priest;

<sup>3</sup> Elihoreph and Ahijah the sons of Shisha, secretaries;

Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud, court historian;

<sup>4</sup> Benaiah son of Jehoiada, in charge of the army;

Zadok and Abiathar, priests;

<sup>5</sup> Azariah son of Nathan, in charge of the deputies;

Zabud son of Nathan, a priest and adviser to the king;

<sup>6</sup> Ahishar, in charge of the palace;

and Adoniram son of Abda, in charge of forced labor.

<sup>7</sup> Solomon had 12 deputies for all Israel. They provided food for the king and his household; each one made provision for one month out of the year. <sup>8</sup> These were their names:

Ben-hur, in the hill country of Ephraim;

<sup>9</sup> Ben-deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth-shemesh, and Elon-beth-hanan;

<sup>10</sup> Ben-hesed, in Arubboth (he had Socoh and the whole land of Hopher);

<sup>11</sup> Ben-abinadab, in all Naphath-dor (Taphath daughter of Solomon was his wife);

<sup>12</sup> Baana son of Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth-shean which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah, as far as the other side of Jokmeam;

<sup>13</sup> Ben-geber, in Ramoth-gilead (he had the villages of Jair son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, and he had the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, 60 great cities with walls and bronze bars);

<sup>14</sup> Ahinadab son of Iddo, in Mahanaim;

<sup>15</sup> Ahimaaz, in Naphtali (he also had married a daughter of Solomon—Basemath);

<sup>16</sup> Baana son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth;

<sup>17</sup> Jehoshaphat son of Paruah, in Issachar;

<sup>18</sup> Shimei son of Ela, in Benjamin;

<sup>19</sup> Geber son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the country of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan.

There was one deputy in the land of Judah. <sup>[a]</sup>

#### Solomon's Provisions

<sup>20</sup> Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea; they were eating, drinking, and rejoicing. <sup>21</sup> <sup>[b]</sup> Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines and as far as the border of Egypt. They offered tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

<sup>22</sup> Solomon's provisions for one day were 150 bushels <sup>[c]</sup> of fine flour and 300 bushels <sup>[d]</sup> of meal, <sup>23</sup> 10 fattened oxen, 20 range oxen, and 100 sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and pen-fed poultry, <sup>[e]</sup> <sup>24</sup> for he had dominion over everything west of the Euphrates from Tiphshah to Gaza and over

all the kings west of the Euphrates. He had peace on all his surrounding borders.<sup>25</sup> Throughout Solomon's reign, Judah and Israel lived in safety from Dan to Beer-sheba, each man under his own vine and his own fig tree.<sup>26</sup> Solomon had 40,000<sup>[f]</sup> stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen.<sup>27</sup> Each of those deputies for a month in turn provided food for King Solomon and for everyone who came to King Solomon's table. They neglected nothing.<sup>28</sup> Each man brought the barley and the straw for the chariot teams and the other horses to the required place according to his assignment.<sup>[g]</sup>

### **Solomon's Wisdom and Literary Gifts**

<sup>29</sup> God gave Solomon wisdom, very great insight, and understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore.<sup>30</sup> Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.<sup>31</sup> He was wiser than anyone—wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, sons of Mahol. His reputation extended to all the surrounding nations.

<sup>32</sup> Solomon composed 3,000 proverbs, and his songs numbered 1,005.<sup>33</sup> He described trees, from the cedar in Lebanon to the hyssop growing out of the wall. He also taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.<sup>34</sup> People came from everywhere, sent by every king on earth who had heard of his wisdom, to listen to Solomon's wisdom.

### **Hiram's Building Materials**

<sup>5</sup> <sup>[h]</sup> Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that he had been anointed king in his father's place, for Hiram had always been friends with David.

<sup>2</sup> Solomon sent this message to Hiram: <sup>3</sup> "You know my father David was not able to build a temple for the name of Yahweh his God. This was because of the warfare all around him until the LORD put his enemies under his feet. <sup>4</sup> The LORD my God has now given me rest all around; there is no enemy or crisis. <sup>5</sup> So I plan to build a temple for the name of Yahweh my God, according to what the LORD promised my father David: 'I will put your son on your throne in your place, and he will build the temple for My name.'

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore, command that cedars from Lebanon be cut down for me. My servants will be with your servants, and I will pay your servants' wages according to whatever you say, for you know that not a man among us knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians."

<sup>7</sup> When Hiram heard Solomon's words, he greatly rejoiced and said, "May the LORD be praised today! He has given David a wise son to be over this great people!" <sup>8</sup> Then Hiram sent a reply to Solomon, saying, "I have heard your message; I will do everything you want regarding the cedar and cypress timber. <sup>9</sup> My servants will bring the logs down from Lebanon to the sea, and I will make them into rafts to go by sea to the place you indicate. I will break them apart there, and you can take them away. You then can meet my needs by providing my household with food."

<sup>10</sup> So Hiram provided Solomon with all the cedar and cypress timber he wanted, <sup>11</sup> and Solomon provided Hiram with 100,000 bushels<sup>[i]</sup> of wheat as food for his household and 110,000 gallons<sup>[j]</sup> of oil from crushed olives. Solomon did this for Hiram year after year.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him. There was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

## Solomon's Work Force

<sup>13</sup> Then King Solomon drafted forced laborers from all Israel; the labor force numbered 30,000 men. <sup>14</sup> He sent 10,000 to Lebanon each month in shifts; one month they were in Lebanon, two months they were at home. Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor. <sup>15</sup> Solomon had 70,000 porters and 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains, <sup>16</sup> not including his 3,300<sup>[k]</sup> deputies in charge of the work. They ruled over the people doing the work. <sup>17</sup> The king commanded them to quarry large, costly stones to lay the foundation of the temple with dressed stones. <sup>18</sup> So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders, along with the Gebalites, quarried the stone and prepared the timber and stone for the temple's construction.

### Footnotes:

- a. [1 Kings 4:19](#) LXX; MT omits *of Judah*
- b. [1 Kings 4:21](#) 1Kg 5:1 in Hb
- c. [1 Kings 4:22](#) Lit *30 cors*
- d. [1 Kings 4:22](#) Lit *60 cors*
- e. [1 Kings 4:23](#) Hb obscure
- f. [1 Kings 4:26](#) 2Ch 9:25 reads *4,000 stalls*
- g. [1 Kings 4:28](#) Lit *judgment*
- h. [1 Kings 5:1](#) 1Kg 5:15 in Hb
- i. [1 Kings 5:11](#) Lit *20,000 cors*
- j. [1 Kings 5:11](#) LXX reads *20,000 baths*; MT reads *20 cors*
- k. [1 Kings 5:16](#) Some LXX mss read *3,600*; 2Ch 2:2,18

## Holman Christian Standard Bible - *Study Bible*<sup>1</sup>

### *1 Kings 4-5*

**4:1-34** This chapter gives an accurate description of Solomon's bureaucratic structure, but not for one particular time. Any person of renown, from any time in Solomon's reign, could be included since such people, by their stature and renown, showed Solomon's glory. Further, in showing Solomon's glory, they also glorified God, who gave such glory to Solomon. This structure totally bypassed the traditional tribal structures of the nation and replaced them with officials who were directly responsible to the king, with no loyalty to the ancient tribes and clans.

**4:2** Azariah, the grandson of Zadok, was high priest at a later time in Solomon's rule though not at the very end of his rule ([1Ch 6:8-10](#)).

**4:3** Though our knowledge of some terms is incomplete, secretaries could have been the heads of the royal scribes dealing with day-to-day matters. The historian might have been the keeper of the royal archives or chronicles.

**4:4** The two competing high priests at the time of Solomon's coronation, Zadok and Abiathar, are both mentioned, though Abiathar was sent into exile almost immediately.

**4:5** Deputies could have been the head officers of the military and bureaucratic forces garrisoned around the country and throughout the empire as well as the officers over forced labor levies ([v. 6](#)). Since the word adviser literally means "friend," this term probably referred to a close, intimate adviser to the king.

**4:6** The official in charge of the palace (lit "the house") may have administered other properties of the king as well. On forced labor, see note at [5:13-18](#).

**4:7** The following verses list the 12 appointed deputies, each of whom provided food for the royal household for one month of the year. There was no provision for the intercalary periods, which are days inserted into the calendar in order to compensate for the fact that the astronomical year is 12 lunar months plus a fraction of a month. These regions were not of equal size and wealth, and Judah is not included (see note at [v. 19](#)). Therefore this system probably created unfair burdens. Solomon certainly had other sources of revenue such as royally sponsored mercantile enterprises and tribute from subject nations or territories in his empire.

**4:8** The hill country of Ephraim was roomy, but the settlement and economic development of Ephraim began in earnest only with the Hebrew conquest (cp. [Jos 17:14-18](#)). Therefore the large area assigned to Ben-hur might not have indicated a lighter burden since it might not have been fully productive.

**4:9-10** One noted city, Beth-shemesh, plus three obscure names could indicate that Ben-deker administered a rather small region that likely found it a relatively heavy burden to provide "for the king and his household" ([v. 7](#)). The district controlled by Ben-hesed was about the same size, but it included some productive coastal plains and the fertile Shephelah region.

**4:11** Ben-abinadab was one of two deputies married to daughters of Solomon (cp. [v. 15](#)). His region included some coastal plains but was dominated by southern slopes of the Carmel range.

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1. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., *HCSB Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "1 Kings 4 & 5".

**4:12** The district of Baana included several cities on trade routes that opened into the Plain of Esdraelon. For cities of such wealth, making a one-month provision for Solomon was a relatively light burden.

**4:13-14** Ben-geber's district in the northern Transjordan, with its 60 great cities, was large enough that the financial burden could have been relatively light. A second district around Mahanaim would have been relatively small and therefore more heavily burdened. A third in Transjordan ([v. 19](#)) is too vaguely defined for comment.

**4:15-18** Each of these four districts consisted of the territory of one of Israel's smaller tribes; thus these were probably heavily burdened.

**4:19** In the Hebrew text, Judah is not included in this burden. The HCSB follows the LXX in including a comment on Judah in this verse, although Judah was not one of the 12 districts. The Hebrew version of this comment could be construed as saying that each district had a single official. While some of the evaluations of burden given above are not proven, it is difficult to find a fair distribution of the financial burden in these districts.

**4:20** This blissful picture of prosperity indicated that, since Solomon's rule brought prosperity to the entire nation, the responsibility of supporting Solomon's government and luxury was not as crippling a burden as it otherwise would have been.

**4:21** The general extent of Solomon's empire included Hebrew tribal territories along with Moab and Edom, most or all of the old Philistine territories (but cp. [9:16](#)), and most or all of the Aramean kingdoms west of the Euphrates River but not the Phoenician coastal cities. Not all of these regions were dominated to the same degree. Some authorities suggest that Philistia, except for Gezer, may actually have been under Egyptian control. This conflicts with the identification of Solomon's southern border as reaching to Gaza ([4:24](#)). But even that border indicated that Pharaoh Siamun may have moved the Egyptian boundary from the Wadi Arish north to the Wadi Besor, just south of Gaza.

**4:22-23** Though our methods of analysis are proximate, the large quantities provided for Solomon's provisions for one day were far more than the expected needs of the palace in Jerusalem. Calculated at a pint of grain per day per person, the grain was sufficient for more than 20,000 persons. Likewise the meat supply easily fed 20,000 people, even when assuming that the livestock were relatively scrawny animals and each person ate an excessive figure of one pound of meat per day. In fact these quantities could be adequate not just for the needs of the palace, but also for the bureaucracy and the permanent resident military. [Verses 27-28](#) hint that these provisions were possibly shared with the military establishment, though the link is unclear.

**4:24-25** The north-south range of Solomon's dominion indicated here correlates with [verse 21](#) on the north since Tiphseh was located on the Euphrates River, but in the south, Gaza was somewhat north of the Wadi Arish, the traditional border of Egypt (see note at [v. 21](#)). Solomon's control over this large region guaranteed the Israelites a degree of peace and security.

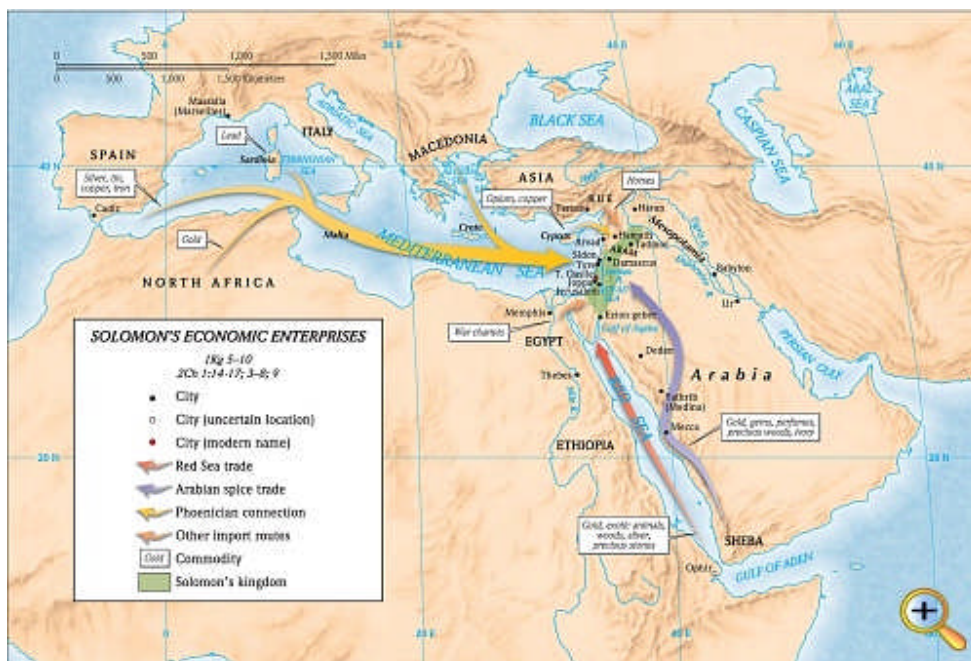
**4:26** The writer then presents the major innovation of Solomon's military, a standing army of chariots. David did not use chariots. Two factors indicate that Solomon's chariot force was not a native Hebrew force. First, developing a home-grown chariot force was an expensive process involving years of training; hiring mercenaries was quicker. Second, Solomon's chariot armies disappeared in the conflict at Solomon's death, a likely clue that the charioteers returned to their native lands.

Ancient literature often used numbers symbolically, and so readers rightly ask in a given passage whether the numbers are meant to be literal. Taking the numbers as literal here and using the data from Chronicles, the following situation emerges. There were 1,400 chariots (10:26), an adequate number for a small empire with no competition from the great empires, 12,000 handlers for horses (probably including both the chariot warriors and the other support personnel for the horses), and facilities for housing and caring for 40,000 horses. The figure about the massive number of horses and the facilities for housing them is reasonable if the horses were scattered throughout the empire and in several different facilities, as would make strategic sense. No single facility in ancient times could house 40,000 horses. The Septuagint at 2Ch 9:25 gives a variant figure of 4,000, a reasonable figure for the facilities actually mobilized at any given time. First Kings 4:28 indicates that horse provisions, probably for the army at large, were also part of the levies, but not necessarily included in the listed provisions above (vv. 7-19).

4:31-34 Three of the four names listed here also appear in 1Ch 2:6, and a fourth is very close. In harmonizing these two lists, Mahol (lit "dance") may represent a professional or guild title while the Chronicles passage may present actual parentage. These may have been wise men of reputation from a different era. Solomon's reputation for wisdom transcended international and chronological boundaries.

5:1 David had traded with Tyre when collecting materials for the temple. Solomon also benefited from good relations with Hiram king of Tyre in purchasing materials. For Solomon, this cooperation was extended to joint international trade ventures. This was a wise policy since the Phoenicians were, at this time before Greek competition, continually tightening their grip on Mediterranean trade.

5:3-5 These verses state several major themes in biblical theology. (1) God had given rest to His people. Throughout the Bible this rest is given in various degrees and in various ways that finally culminated in the eternal rest described in Hebrews 4. (2) It gave a different perspective on David as a "man of war" (1Ch 28:3), since his wars were presented as defensive necessities. (3) Since no temple can contain God, this temple was to be the dwelling for the name of the Lord. And (4) this temple was built in response to the promise of a dynasty for David and his descendants.



**5:6** The Israelites, as well as the Egyptians and Assyrians, used both the cedar and cypress lumber of Lebanon for their fine buildings. Phoenician artistic skills and manufactured products were also prized throughout the ancient world.

**5:7** Hiram's praise for God probably did not represent real conviction or faith on his part. More likely the Bible writer was paraphrasing Hiram's diplomatic courtesies to express truth about God.

**5:8-11** These were the terms of the business arrangements. Solomon bartered food for lumber and other products as well. Hiram's men would cut the lumber, bring it to the sea, and lash it into rafts. Then the rafts were floated south and beached, probably at Joppa, the port nearest Jerusalem. From there they were taken to Jerusalem by the road that passed near Gezer. The amount of grain mentioned here was somewhat more than half the amount of grain collected for Solomon's governmental structure ([4:22-23](#)). However, the book of 2 Chronicles adds an equal supply of barley to this amount ([2Ch 2:10](#)).

**5:13-18** These projects were so big that Solomon sent Hebrew forced laborers to Phoenicia to help in the work. In this context *thousand* may be a general term with a meaning somewhat like "battalion." The Gebalites were the people of ancient Byblos. The few cedars of Lebanon that remain today are in the mountains inland from Byblos. This passage confirms that Byblos was then under Hiram's control.

## The Apologetics Study Bible<sup>2</sup>

### 1 Kings 4-5

**4:2** "Officials" means literally "princes." Zadok had been reassigned to a lesser position, and his son Azariah appointed chief priest.

**4:4** Abiathar had been reinstated to the priesthood (see [2:26-27](#)), apparently due to Solomon's change of heart in chapter 3.

**4:7** While "12 deputies" recall the traditional number of the tribes of Israel, the 12 districts outlined in [verses 8-19](#) do not at all correspond to the traditional tribal areas. This was clearly a new order for the government of Israel.

**4:8** "Hill country of Ephraim" referred not only to the tribal area of Ephraim, including Mount Ephraim, but also part of Manasseh as well.

**4:9** These towns were in the Shephelah, the coastal plain previously controlled by the Philistines, and were partly co-extensive with the list of Danite tribal cities.

**4:10** The hill country of Manasseh.

**4:11** "Naphath-dor" was an important harbor on the Carmel coast.

**4:12** These were northern valleys bounded on the north by Jezreel of Issachar, extending eastward to the Jordan Valley, thence south to Jokmeam, a Levitical city of Ephraim.

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2. Kirk E. Lowery, "Notes on 1 Kings," in *The Apologetics Study Bible: Understanding Why You Believe*, ed. Ted Cabal, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 503-505.

[4:13](#) This Transjordan district was in the north, encompassing the rich and fertile region north of the Yarmuk river, known as the Argob.

[4:14](#) "Mahanaim" was the capital city of the central of the three Transjordan districts.

[4:15](#) The most northern district, from the Jezreel Valley on the south through eastern Galilee to the river Litani on the north including the northern Jordan River valley.

[4:16](#) This ninth district of Asher and Bealoth was what remained of the tribal area of Asher after the Acco plain was given to Hiram of Tyre, and also included the tribal region of Zebulun.

[4:17](#) This district sat right below Naphtali, extending east to the Jordan River and westward to Mt. Tabor.

[4:18](#) Benjamin was the area directly north of Jerusalem, including Jericho on the east.

[4:19](#) Gilead was the southernmost of the three Transjordan districts, although Gilead was the name for the entire Transjordan at that time. But the district occupied the Moabite mesa from Arnon in the south to Heshbon in the north.

[4:24](#) Tiphseh was a town on the upper Euphrates about 75 miles south of Carchemish, located on the main trade route connecting Mesopotamia to the west. Gaza was the old Philistine city on the southern coastal plain of Palestine. Solomon's kingdom, then, went from the Euphrates River in the northeast to the border of Egypt on the southwest. This is the extent promised to Abraham in [Gn 15:18](#).

[4:26](#) [Deuteronomy 17:16](#) forbids the accumulation of many horses.

[4:32](#) The number 1,005 was probably not intended to be an exact number, but rather an idiom similar to the English phrase "a thousand and one"; in other words, more than one thousand.

[5:6](#) Although Solomon appeared to be setting the amount of remuneration in [2 Ch 2:10](#), Hiram apparently was given the opportunity to set the amount.

[5:13](#) These "laborers" were evidently Israelites. They were supervised by 550 foremen ([9:23](#)). They were described by the Hebrew word *mas*, "forced labor." see [note on 5:15](#).

[5:14](#) By sending laborers into Lebanon, Solomon was acting on his original proposal to Hiram, and ignored Hiram's counter-proposal. This suggests that Hiram was subordinate in some way to Solomon, and that the treaty of [v. 12](#) was a vassal treaty. However, in [9:13](#) Hiram called Solomon "brother." Hiram was paid for his services, rather than providing them without charge. The treaty in [v. 9](#) makes no mention of any submission or subordination on Hiram's part. While the text appears to make Solomon the more dominant partner, the evidence does not indicate a legal vassalage for Hiram.

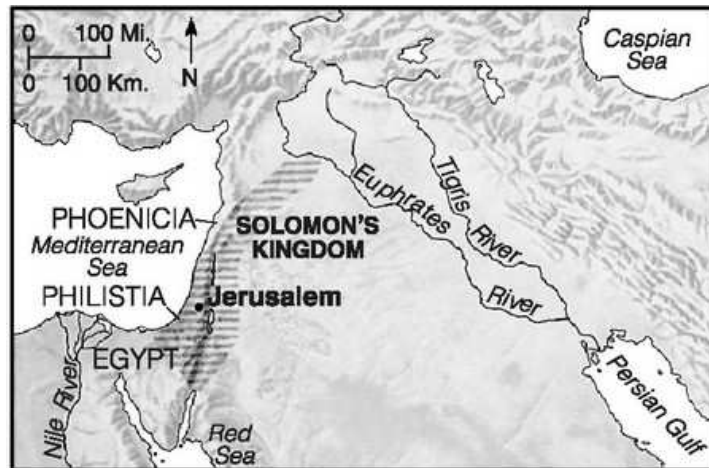
[5:15](#) These are 150,000 stonecutters who were supervised by 3,300 foremen, see [11:28](#); [12:3-4](#). According to [2 Ch 2:17-18](#), these are foreigners.



## NLT Life Application Study Bible<sup>3</sup>

### 1 Kings 4-5

**4:1ff** Solomon was well organized, with 11 high officials who had specific responsibilities, 12 district governors, and a governor in charge of the district governors. Each person had a specific responsibility or territory to manage. This organization was essential to maintain the government's effectiveness: It was a wise move by a wise man. It is good stewardship to be well organized. Good organization helps people work together in harmony and ensures that the desired goal will be reached.



*Solomon's Kingdom*

Solomon's kingdom spread from the Euphrates River in the north to the borders of Egypt. The entire land was at peace under his rule.

**4:20-25** Throughout most of his reign, Solomon applied his wisdom well because he sought God. The fruits of this wisdom were peace, security, and prosperity for the nation. Solomon's era is often looked upon as the ideal of what any nation can become when united in its trust in and obedience to God.

**4:32** The book of Proverbs records many of these 3,000 wise proverbs. Other biblical writings of Solomon include [Psalms 72](#) and [127](#), and the books of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. Solomon's wisdom was known throughout the world. [5:2, 3](#) When David offered to build a Temple, God said no through the prophet Nathan ([2 Samuel 7:1-17](#)). God wanted a peacemaker, not a warrior, to build his house of prayer ([1 Chronicles 28:2, 3](#)).

**5:13, 14** Solomon drafted three times the number of workers needed for the Temple project and then arranged their schedules so they didn't have to be away from home for long periods of time. This showed his concern for the welfare of his workers and the importance he placed on family life. The strength of a nation is in direct proportion to the strength of its families. Solomon wisely recognized that family should always be a top priority. As you structure your own work or arrange the schedules of others, watch for the impact of your plans on families.

**5:18** Gebal, also called Byblos, was located north of what is now Beirut, near the cedar forest. These men were Phoenicians, probably skilled as shipbuilders, but employed for this project.

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3. *Life Application Study Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 518.

Wisdom is only effective when it is put into action. Early in his life, Solomon had the sense to recognize his need for wisdom. But by the time Solomon asked for wisdom to rule his kingdom, he had already started a habit that would make his wisdom ineffective for his own life—he sealed a pact with Egypt by marrying Pharaoh's daughter. She was the first of hundreds of wives married for political reasons. In doing this, Solomon went against not only his father's last words but also against God's direct commands. His action reminds us how easy it is to know what is right and yet not do it.

It is clear that God's gift of wisdom to Solomon did not mean that he couldn't make mistakes. He had been given great possibilities as the king of God's chosen people, but with them came great responsibilities; unfortunately, he tended to pursue the former and neglect the latter. While becoming famous as the builder of the Temple and the palace, he became infamous as a leader who excessively taxed and overworked his people. Visitors from distant lands came to admire this wise king, while his own people were gradually alienated from him.

Little is mentioned in the Bible about the last decade of Solomon's reign. Ecclesiastes probably records his last reflections on life. In that book we find a man proving through bitter experience that finding meaning in life apart from God is a vain pursuit. Security and contentment are found only in a personal relationship with God. The contentment we find in the opportunities and successes of this life is temporary. The more we expect our successes to be permanent, the more quickly they are gone. Be sure to balance your pursuit of life's possibilities with reliable fulfillment of your responsibilities.

#### **Strengths and accomplishments**

- Third king of Israel, David's chosen heir
- The wisest man who ever lived
- Author of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs, as well as many of the proverbs and a couple of the psalms
- Built God's Temple in Jerusalem
- Diplomat, trader, collector, patron of the arts

#### **Weaknesses and mistakes**

- Sealed many foreign agreements by marrying pagan women
- Allowed his wives to affect his loyalty to God
- Excessively taxed his people and drafted them into labor and military forces

#### **Lessons from his life**

- Effective leadership can be nullified by an ineffective personal life
- Solomon failed to obey God, but did not learn the lesson of repentance until late in life
- Knowing what actions are required of us means little without the will to do those actions

#### **Vital statistics**

- Where: Jerusalem
- Occupation: King of Israel
- Relatives: Father: David. Mother: Bathsheba. Brothers: Absalom, Adonijah. Sister: Tamar. Son: Rehoboam.

#### **Key verse**

"Wasn't this exactly what led King Solomon of Israel into sin?" I demanded. "There was no king from any nation who could compare to him, and God loved him and made him king over all Israel. But even he was led into sin by his foreign wives" ([Nehemiah 13:26](#)).

Solomon's story is told in [2 Samuel 12:24-1 Kings 11:43](#). He is also mentioned in [1 Chronicles 28-29](#); [2 Chronicles 1-10](#); [Nehemiah 13:26](#); [Psalm 72](#); and [Matthew 6:29](#); [12:42](#).

