

Questions / Answers

1. Why did Solomon go to Gibeon?
To have a thanksgiving service and offer sacrifices to God.
2. What did God tell Solomon in a dream?
That God would give Solomon anything he chose.
3. What did Solomon choose?
Wisdom to rule God's people wisely.
4. What did Solomon build?
A Temple where the people could worship God.
5. Where was the Temple built?
On Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.
6. What happened when the Ark was put in the Temple?
God's glory in a bright shining cloud filled the Temple.
7. How did Solomon become so rich?
God blessed him. Many kings paid taxes to him. His merchants brought many riches from far countries.
8. Who came to find out about Solomon's wisdom and riches?
The Queen of Sheba.
9. Why did Solomon begin to worship idols?
He married many foreign wives who taught him about their idols.
10. What did God say would happen because Solomon worshipped idols?
God would take part of the kingdom away from Solomon's son.

Memory verses

2 Chronicles 6:18; Proverbs 1:7; James 1:5—6

Discussion

Read Solomon's words in Proverbs 2:9—11. What lessons can we learn about the effect that riches and many wives had on Solomon.

Writing

Read 1 Kings 3:16-28. Write about how Solomon used his wisdom to sort out the quarrel between the two mothers.

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 24 Solomon—a wise king



READING 1 Kings 3:4—15; 1 Kings 10:1—13

LESSON

Solomon was probably only about 20 years old when he became king. The kingdom was very large because David, with God's help, had conquered many lands. Before David died he told Solomon to remember to love and obey God. Solomon wanted to please God, so he called all the people to a thanksgiving service at Gibeon. The Tabernacle (the tent where the people worshipped God) was pitched at Gibeon. Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings to God on the altar and thanked God for giving them the kingdom and peace from their enemies.

God was very pleased that Solomon loved Him. That night God told Solomon in a dream that He would give Solomon anything that he chose. Solomon knew that he was very young and inexperienced to rule the great nation of Israel. Solomon knew that Israel was God's chosen nation, so he was ruling for God. As Solomon was only young, he needed wisdom to lead the people of Israel in God's ways. He remembered that God had helped David to rule wisely. So Solomon asked God for wisdom to help him to rule the people for God.

God was very pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom to rule the people wisely. Solomon had not asked for anything for himself; he had not asked for riches or fame or a long life. God was pleased with Solomon's choice - so God promised that Solomon would have wisdom, but He would also give him riches and fame and a long life! Solomon was very happy with God's promise of blessings.

God made Solomon the wisest man in his world. Solomon built many beautiful buildings. He had a fleet of merchant ships which brought great riches to Israel from all over the world. Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs. He knew a lot about natural history and his wisdom was famous all over the world. Solomon ruled the people of Israel wisely.

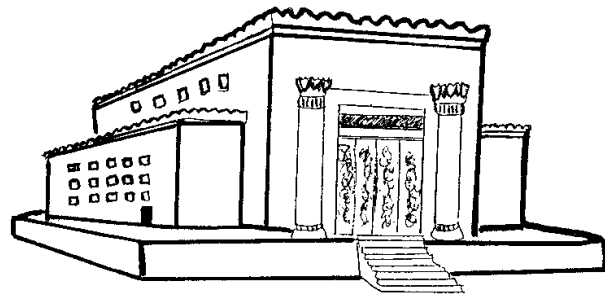
Solomon built the Temple, as God promised to David. God had revealed the plan of the temple to David, and Solomon built it exactly as God had said. The plan was the same as the Tabernacle, but the Temple was twice as big. It was a very rich and beautiful building. David had collected much silver, gold and bronze so that Solomon could make the Temple beautiful.

The Temple was built on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. This was a special place. It was probably the place where Abraham had been willing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. David, also, had built an altar there.

Solomon had white stone quarried and cut to build the temple. Solomon used skilled men from the kingdom of Tyre to cut the stones. Their king, Hiram, had been a friend of David. Hiram also supplied cedar and fir trees for the Temple.

Hiram sent skilled craftsmen to Solomon. They overlaid the cedar wood in the Most Holy Place with gold. They made ten golden lampstands and many beautiful things for the service of the temple. They also made a huge metal bowl, which stood on the backs of metal oxen; it was filled with water and used by the priests for washing.

The Temple took seven years to build. It was a very beautiful and magnificent



building. It was the centre of worship for the people of Israel. When the Temple was finished Solomon made a great feast and offered sacrifices to dedicate the Temple to God. The Ark of God was brought into the Temple.

When the Ark was placed in the Most Holy Place God's glory in a bright shining cloud filled the Temple. This showed the people that God was pleased. God's presence dwelt between the cherubim on the Ark. Then Solomon blessed the people and prayed to God.

God blessed Solomon as He had blessed David. God told Solomon that his kingdom would last for ever and that a king from the tribe of Judah would always rule on David's throne. But God also warned Solomon that if the kings who ruled after him worshipped idols and led the people away from God, then Israel would be taken captive away from their land.



While Solomon was king, Israel was very powerful and rich. David had conquered the enemies of Israel, so Solomon had peace during his reign. David had conquered much land and Solomon's kingdom was very large. Solomon traded with Egypt and Syria and Tyre and his merchants brought back many riches. The kings that David had conquered had to pay taxes to Solomon. Solomon became very wealthy. The merchants who travelled to far countries told people about Solomon's wisdom

and riches. Many kings came to see Solomon's wealth and to listen to his wisdom.

The Queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon. She did not believe that all the stories she had heard about Solomon could be true. The Queen of Sheba came to Jerusalem. She brought many gifts of gold, precious stones and spices. The Queen of Sheba was amazed when she saw the wealth and wisdom of Solomon. Solomon was even richer and wiser than she had been told! Solomon was able to answer all the difficult questions she asked. The Queen of Sheba saw the wonderful Temple that Solomon had built and she learned about God. Solomon gave the Queen of Sheba many valuable gifts and she went back to her land amazed at everything she had seen.

Solomon had 300 wives and 700 slave wives. A lot of Solomon's wives were foreign women who worshipped idols. The women were from the nations which God had said His people must not make friends with. Solomon loved his wives and they taught him about their idols. Solomon began to worship these idols and offer sacrifices to them. God was angry with Solomon. God told Solomon that because he was worshipping idols God would take part of the kingdom away when his son became king.

Solomon reigned for 40 years. Then he died. His son, Rehoboam, became king after him.