

## **5. David and Solomon: The Height of Israel's Kingdom Glory**

Under David and his son, Solomon, Israel reached the height of its glory as a nation. In this section we get a look at both the *temporal* as well as the *spiritual* aspects of Israel's Covenant relationship with the Lord. All the unifying threads of revelation come into play as God continues to unfold His redemptive plan for His people.

**5.1 Read 2 Samuel 1-5.** In these chapters we find David's rule finally being established after a period of civil war with the followers of Saul.

**5.11** Summarize the content of these chapters. How can you see the unifying threads of revelation here?

**5.12** What evidence do you see in David to indicate that he is different from Saul? In what ways does he show himself to be a man after God's own heart?

**5.13** In 2 Samuel 5:10-12 we read about how God showed His approval of David. What form do you suppose the increasing greatness of David's kingdom began to take? How do you see God's Covenant faithfulness in this?

**5.14** Describe the process whereby David finally was made king. What does this suggest about the nature of civil government in Israel at this time? What does this suggest about the way that God intended His Covenant to be administered in Israel?

**5.2 Read 1 Chronicles 17, 18, and 2 Samuel 7, 12.** These two accounts give us a favorable look at the reign of King David.

**5.21** Briefly summarize the content of these chapters. Which aspects of the unifying threads of revelation are being developed here?

**5.22** What does God do to solidify His Covenant with David? Which aspects of God's Covenant with Abraham seem especially to be emphasized here?

**5.23** What is added to God's Covenant in 2 Samuel 7:8-16? How does this point the people of God forward to the continuity of God's Covenant in the future?

**5.24** What do we learn about the kind of man David was from his response to Nathan's indictment? How does this confirm what we have previously seen of David, and what does it tell us about what it means to be one of the people of God?

**5.3 Read 2 Samuel 22, 23 and 1 Chronicles 21, 22.** In these chapters we can see the deep spirituality of David and his confidence in the promises of God.

**5.31** Summarize what you read in these chapters. What do these chapters teach us about God's Covenant and the unifying threads of revelation?

**5.32** What evidence of "Covenant consciousness" does David display in these chapters? What do we learn about his understanding of his relationship with the Lord?

**5.33** What preparations does David make to transfer the blessings and obligations of the Covenant to his son?

**5.34** Look carefully at David's talk with Solomon in 1 Chronicles 22:6-19. Can you see any parallels here with what God spoke to His Kingdom leaders in the past, for example, with Moses, Joshua, or the nation of Israel?

**5.35** Read Deuteronomy 17:18-20. What evidence can you see that David was aware of what the Law of God required of him as king?

**5.4 Read 1 Kings 3, 4, and 6 and 2 Chronicles 7, 8.** Solomon, as we shall see, began his reign where his father left off.

**5.41** Summarize the content of these chapters. Which of the unifying threads of revelation seem to be most in view here?

**5.42** What aspects of Covenant fulfillment can you identify in the early period of Solomon's reign?

**5.43** Why was the Temple so much a part of the nation's life and so central to her Covenant relationship with the Lord? What took place here? What was the predecessor of the Temple, and how did the Temple serve to bring forward the aspects of the Covenant that were embodied in that predecessor?

**5.44** In what ways can you see that the Temple embodies all the unifying threads of revelation?

**5.5 Read 1 Kings 9 and 10, 2 Chronicles 9 and Ecclesiastes 1 and 2.** God's Covenant with Israel under Solomon resulted in a multitude of blessings.

**5.51** Summarize the content of these chapters. Try to put them together to tell one overall story. Which aspects of God's Covenant seem to be present?

**5.52** How did Solomon's faithfulness to God's Covenant affect Israel's relationship with the nations around her? How were those nations affected?

**5.53** How can you see this as a partial fulfillment of God's Covenant with Abraham?

**5.54** How did Solomon come to feel about all his material achievements (Ecclesiastes 1, 2)? Why? What do we learn about Solomon's motivation in all this from Ecclesiastes 1:12-14 (what is the significance of the phrases, "under the heavens," and "under the sun")?

**5.55** What can we learn about material blessings and the nature of our God's Covenant with His people from the story of Solomon?

**5.6 Read 1 Kings 11 and Ecclesiastes 9, 11, 12.** Solomon strayed from the path of God's Covenant, falling prey to the same sins that captured the nation during the period of the judges. But, at the end of his life, he appears to be making an attempt to "get right with the Lord."

**5.61** Summarize the content of these chapters. What do they teach us about the unifying threads of revelation?

**5.62** What happened to Solomon? How did he become distracted from the Covenant of God?

**5.63** What warnings or lessons should we as the people of God today take out of the life of Solomon?

**5.64** Toward the end of his life (when he was writing *Ecclesiastes*) Solomon seems to have returned to his senses. What has he learned from his experiences in the world of folly?

**5.65** What do you learn from Solomon's experience about what really matters in our Covenant relationship with the Lord?

**5.7 Read 1 Kings 12 and 13 and 1 Chronicles 11 and 12.** The fruit of Solomon's folly can be seen in the reign of his son.

**5.71** Summarize the content of these chapters. What do we learn from them about any of the unifying threads of revelation?

**5.72** How did Jereboam and Rehoboam receive condemnation for having done evil? In what did their respective evil consist?

**5.73** What does 2 Chronicles 12:1-8 suggest about the way God can use historical circumstances to accomplish the purposes of His Covenant?

**5.74** Reflect again on the Covenant promises of Genesis 12:1-3. How might it be said that unfaithfulness on the part of God's people brings about virtually the opposite of what He promised them?

**Final exercise: David and Solomon**

What evidence do you see during the period of David and Solomon that God is bringing all the unifying threads of revelation into focus? How would you compare the kingdoms of David and Solomon in light of God's plan for His people? How would you compare the spirituality - and, hence, the Covenant consciousness - of David and Solomon?