

King Solomon

Directions: Read the biography and answer the questions. (Read more about the life of Solomon in 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 1 Chronicles.)

Solomon was the son of Bathsheba and King David, who he succeeded to the throne as King of Israel. Solomon was a very successful king. Israel flourished during his reign and grew in power and financial stability. King Solomon arranged many alliances with foreign nations, some by marriages with wives outside of Israel, and set up trade routes across the kingdom. He built the temple in Jerusalem that became the center of worship for God's people up until the time of Jesus. Solomon was successful because he was a wise king. God appeared to Solomon in a dream to offer him a gift of whatever he asked. Solomon asked for wisdom. God granted this blessing and gave him wealth, honor, and power as well. Like his father before him, however, Solomon was not perfect. Partly because of the influence of his wives from other kingdoms, he set up high places for people to worship other gods. He was also criticized for being overbearing and leveling high taxes on the people. The tragedy of his reign was the breaking apart of the kingdom after his death. Jeroboam led a revolt against Solomon's son, Rehoboam, which divided the kingdom into the Kingdom of Israel in the north and the Kingdom of Judah in the south.



1. What mistakes led the kingdom to be split in two after King Solomon's death?

2. If God offered to give you anything you wanted, what would you ask for and why?

3. How would the gift of wisdom help you in your life today?
