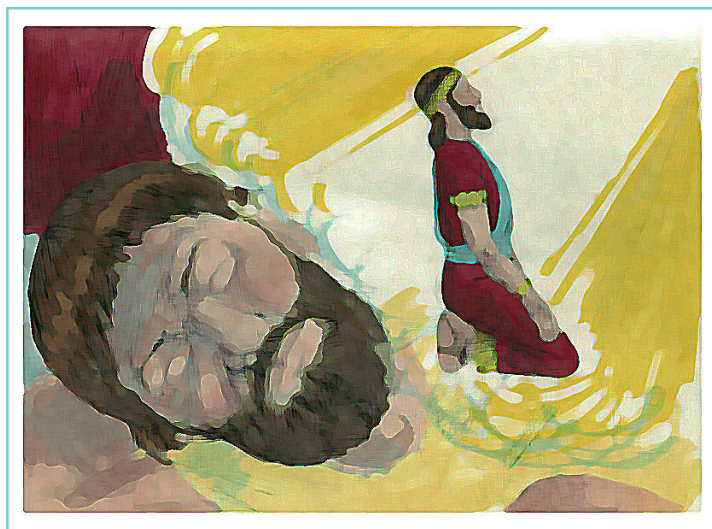


Lesson 2: Wisdom



Old Testament

New Testament

Where in the Bible?

The book of 1 Kings transitions from David to Solomon's reign.

The Old Testament: History

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel and the books of 1 and 2 Kings tell the story of Israel as a united nation and the subsequent division into north and south kingdoms. Part of the biblical books of History, some of this same content is repeated in 1 and 2 Chronicles in a more abbreviated form.

Introduction

Solomon became king and ruled the people following the reign of his father, David. But he was young and inexperienced. When God bid him to ask for whatever he wished, Solomon asked God for the wisdom of a discerning heart, so that he might serve as a just ruler.

Read: 1 Kings 3:3-15

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

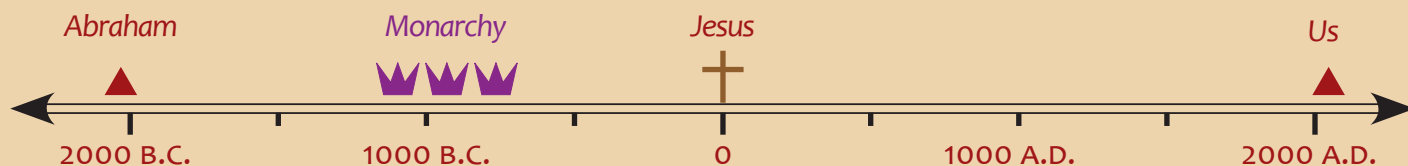
Biblical Time Period: Monarchy

For the nation of Israel, the time of the Monarchy was a high point; one king ruled over a united land. The first was King Saul, a troubled leader who later turned away from God. The Lord raised up a second king, David, to take Saul's place.

When David died, his young son Solomon took the throne. It was King Solomon who built the great temple in Jerusalem. Though Solomon became well known for his wise leadership, even he did not remain faithful to the end. After him, the kingdom split apart.

When in Time?

The best way to remember the timeline of Bible history, and where **we** fit into the picture, is to put Jesus at the center. We live about 2,000 years after Jesus; Abraham lived about 2,000 years before Jesus. The days of the united monarchy were halfway between Abraham and Jesus, about _____ B.C.



Who do the three crowns on the line above represent?

Answer: 1) _____, 2) _____, 3) _____

Discuss: 1 Kings 3:3-15

- ## Discuss: 1 Kings 3:3-15
1. Where was Solomon when he offered his sacrifices to God? According to Scripture, how many burnt offerings did Solomon sacrifice on that altar? Why was this a good way for Solomon to begin his reign?
 2. How, or through what means, did God appear to Solomon? What did God say to him? Is this the kind of thing that happened all the time, or was this a special case? Why?
 3. From whom did Solomon inherit the throne as king? From what you see in verses 7-8, do you think Solomons felt ready to be king? Why or why not?
 4. In verse 9, what exactly did Solomon ask for? Why was God pleased with Solomon's request?
 5. In the end, what were the many other things that God gave to Solomon? How do you think God wanted Solomon to use these gifts?
 6. Read Proverbs 1:1-7. What does Solomon say here about the importance of wisdom? Read verse 8. To whom is Solomon speaking? How does this same encouragement apply to us as well?
 7. The Bible is a very old book about people who lived a long time ago. In what way(s) do the lessons we learn from Scripture still apply in our modern lives? In what sense does the Bible teach us the "timeless" Truth of God?
 8. Why was it important that Solomon sought God's wisdom, rather than coming up with his own ideas? What wisdom can we gain from reading the Bible?

Where in the World?

Israel was located between the more powerful nations of the Hittites, Assyrians, and Egyptians.

The close-up map to the far right shows the extent of Solomon's kingdom, which diminished in size toward the end of his reign.



The coastal lands were occupied by the Sea Peoples – the Philistines and the Phoenicians – with whom the Israelites continued to be in conflict throughout this period in history.

The capital city of **Jerusalem**, where Solomon built the Temple of the Lord, is only about 12 miles from the northwestern shore of the **Salt Sea** (known today as the Dead Sea).

