

The Enigma of Solomon- Revised

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Introduction

King Solomon is one of the great enigmas in the Bible. His story is told in 1 Samuel 12:24 through 1 Kings 11:23 and 1 Chronicles 22:5 through 2 Chronicles 9:31. There is far more written about Solomon than any other King of Israel except David. Most scholars attributed to him the writing of most of the Book of Proverbs and all of Ecclesiastes. Another book of the Bible, the Song of Songs is sometimes called the Song of Solomon, though there is no direct claim within the text that King Solomon was the author. Though the Solomon described in the book is very unlike the Solomon described in Kings and Chronicles, many authorities contend that Solomon, the son of David, was the subject of this book. I will comment more about this later in this paper.

Solomon (whose name means “peace”) succeeded his father David as the King of Israel. The Jews of the 10th century BC were told he was “the Son of David” which God had promised in His covenant with David and with Israel. Solomon’s life quickly demonstrated that he was not the promised “Son of David.” Even after the complete failure of Solomon’s spiritual life, subsequent generations looked back to him longingly and thought he was a type of the Messiah who would bring peace. However, he was really the anti-type! His heart turned to other gods, and he built temples to the gods of all his foreign wives. His personal life was a disaster! He had enslaved seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines for his sexual pleasure and command. Monogamy was the express command of the Law of the LORD. Solomon’s political life was degraded by the enslavement of all foreigners, and the oppressive taxation of his own people! After his death he left brewing rebellion and civil war as his legacy to his son and successor Rehoboam. He did bring an era of material prosperity to Jerusalem, but he started the long slide of spiritual decay that eventually ended in the destruction of Israel and the Temple. The Scripture’s presentation of Solomon can be very subtle. The seeker for Biblical truth must pay close attention to everything the Scripture says about Solomon and exactly what it says. It is also critical to note when the Word is recording what a man said and when it is recording what God said. The seeker must also pay close attention to what God doesn’t say about Solomon. The Word leaves no doubt about the evil of Solomon’s life, but it also records the blessings God gave him and the praise of his contemporaries. After his birth God said the child of David and Bathsheba was to be named Jedidiah which means “beloved of the Lord.” David had named the young prince Solomon. The name “Solomon” means “peace.” David was erroneously sending the message that the young son was to be “the prince of peace” promised him in the Davidic Covenant. God gave Solomon great human wisdom, but Solomon acted very foolishly. God gave him great wealth which he squandered on himself. It is worth noting that in the list of the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11, Solomon is conspicuously absent. Why then, is Solomon so prominently featured in the Bible? Is Solomon to be an example for our admiration or an example for our condemnation?

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Considering all the horrible things that Solomon did, we might ask ourselves why the LORD didn't strike him dead. However, we can read in the book of Ecclesiastes that Solomon reaped the harvest of all his sins in that he was always overwhelmed by the meaninglessness of his life. It is my opinion that God left Solomon as a litmus test of our Spiritual perception. In so many ways Solomon seems glamorous, desirable, and successful. However, he had no joy and left nothing behind him. However, if we compare him to Jesus Christ, the true Son of David, the true Son of the promise, the true prince of peace, then we see clearly that King Solomon was an anti-type of Christ. Solomon was an example of how the human standard of greatness stands in stark contrast to the Divine standard of greatness which is the life of Jesus Christ!

Two generations before David, God prophesied through Samuel's mother Hannah that His anointed Messiah and King would be poor and needy by human standards but be exalted by God's power.

1 Samuel 2:8-10 "He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. "For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; upon them he has set the world. He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the LORD will be shattered. He will thunder against them from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."

Furthermore, in Isaiah the LORD told us that the true Messiah would not come up to human expectations. Instead He would be despised.

Isaiah 49:7 "This is what the LORD says-- the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel-- to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: 'Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'"

Isaiah 53:2-3 "He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

In Zechariah, God said that His Messiah would not overcome with human power, but with His Spirit.

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Zechariah 4:6 “So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.’”

The lesson of the true Solomon is the one that is repeated time and again in the Bible, **“God’s strength is made perfect in weakness!”** See the verses below:

1 Samuel 2:4 “The bows of the mighty are shattered; But the feeble gird on strength.” (ASV)

Ezekiel 34:15-16 “I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy.”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 “This is what the LORD says: ‘Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom nor the strong man boast of his strength nor the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the LORD.”

Jeremiah 5:22-23 “‘Should you not fear me?’ declares the LORD. ‘Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand (weakness) a boundary for the sea (strength), an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it.’”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

1 Corinthians 1:25-29 “For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength. Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”

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2 Corinthians 13:4 “For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God’s power.”

Hebrews 2:10 “In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.”

Hebrews 11:32-34 “And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.”

As I will endeavor to show, to understand many parts of the Bible, you must understand this lesson: the greatness of the historical King Solomon wasn’t the kind of greatness God values, but there was a “Solomon” that God valued. However, to identify Him we must understand that the name “Solomon,” which means “Peace” often is used to refer to the true Prince of Peace. That “Solomon” was Jesus Christ, not Solomon, the son of David and Bathsheba. The value God places on Him is beyond price.

Solomon was an Anti-Type of the true Prince of Peace

Earlier I made the assertion that Solomon is the anti-type of Jesus Christ. To prove the point, I have listed fifteen instances where Solomon is shown to be the antithesis of Jesus Christ.

1) *Wealth*

Jesus' Parents were Poor and Obscure.

The following verses from Luke and Leviticus indicate that Jesus' parents were so poor they could only afford the offering of poor people for their offering at Jesus' birth.

Luke 2:22-24 "When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Leviticus 12:7b-8 "These are the regulations for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl. If she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean."

Jesus was the Son of an Obscure Carpenter from the Little Town of Nazareth.

This is demonstrated by the following passages:

Luke 4:16,22 "He (*Jesus*) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read." - --- "All spoke well of spoke about him and amazed at taken aback by at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked."

Solomon's Father was the King who Reigned in Jerusalem and Lived in the Palace.

1 Chronicles 3:4-5 "David reigned in Jerusalem thirty-three years, and these were the children born to him there: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon. These four were by Bathsheba daughter of Ammiel."

2) *Worldly Value*

Christ was valued at 30 pieces of Silver, the Value of a Slave.

Zechariah 11:12-13 “I told them, ‘If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.’ So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’--the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.”

Matthew 26:14-15 “Then one of the Twelve--the one called Judas Iscariot--went to the chief priests and asked, ‘What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?’ So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.”

Solomon was valued at 666 talents of gold.

1 Kings 10:14 “The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents,

I don’t believe that it is any accident that the number of the anti-Christ in Revelation is 666.

Revelation 13:18b “If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man’s number.¹ His number is 666.”

3) *Lodgings*

Jesus had no place to lay his head.

Matthew 8:20 “Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.’”

Solomon built a palace for himself more than four times as big as the temple.

1 Kings 6:2 “The temple that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty wide and thirty high.”

1 Since God created man on the sixth day, the number 6 is associated with mankind. 666 would seem to indicate a man making himself like the Trinity of God.

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1 Kings 6:38-7:2 “In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it. It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace. He built the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits long, fifty wide and thirty high, with four rows of cedar columns supporting trimmed cedar beams.

4) *Servanthood*

Jesus came as a servant, to serve others.

Matthew 20:26-28 “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:43-45 “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Solomon had thousands of servants to attend to him and his household.

1 Kings 10:4-5 “When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.”

5) *Attitude toward Slavery*

Jesus set the slaves of Sin free.

Isaiah 49:8-9 “This is what the LORD says: “In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, to say to the captives, ‘Come out,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Be free!’”

Matthew 8:31-36 “To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants and have never

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been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?’ Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.’”

Solomon enslaved others to build his temple and his palaces

First, he enslaved the aliens in the land.

2 Chronicles 8:7-8 “All the people left from the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites), that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites had not destroyed--these Solomon conscripted for his slave labor force, as it is to this day.”

1 Kings 5:13-17 “King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israel--thirty thousand men. He sent them off to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month, so that they spent one month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor. Solomon had seventy thousand carriers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the hills, as well as thirty-three hundred foremen who supervised the project and directed the workmen. At the king’s command they removed from the quarry large blocks of quality stone to provide a foundation of dressed stone for the temple.”

2 Chronicles 2:17 “Solomon took a census of all the aliens who were in Israel, after the census his father David had taken; and the were found to be 153,600. He assigned 70,000 of them to be carriers and 80,000 to be stonecutters in the hills, with 3,600 foremen over them to keep the people working.”

This was in spite of the command in the Law of Moses:

Exodus 23:9 “Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt.”

Then Solomon pressed his own people into involuntary service

1 Kings 5:13-14a “King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israel--thirty thousand men. He sent them off to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month, so that they spent one month in Lebanon and two months at home.”

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1 Kings 12:4 (*The people of Israel speaking to Rehoboam*) “Your father (*Solomon*) put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke that he put on us and we will serve you.”

This was despite the fact that God had established a pattern in the building of the tabernacle that all labor was to be voluntarily given and that David had commanded Solomon to build the Temple in the same way.

Exodus 35:20-22 “Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses’ presence, and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.”

1 Chronicles 28:21 “The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing man skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command.”

6) *Establishment of His Kingdom*

Jesus established His kingdom by submitting Himself to Death

Philippians 2:5-12 “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Solomon established His kingdom by killing others

1 Kings 2:25,29,46 “So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he struck down Adonijah and he died.---- King Solomon was told that Joab had fled to the tent of the LORD and was beside the altar. Then Solomon ordered Benaiah son of Jehoiada, ‘Go, strike him down!’---- Then the king gave the order to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck Shimei down and killed him. The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon’s hands.”

7) *Relationship to the Temple of God*

Jesus himself was the true temple of God which He built Himself at the command of the Father.

2 Samuel 7:12-13 “When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your *seed* to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

Isaiah 8:13-14 “The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread, and he will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.”

Isaiah 66:1-2 “This is what the LORD says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?’ declares the LORD. ‘This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.’”

Zechariah 6:12 -13 “Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.’”

Matthew 12:6 “I tell you that one greater than the temple is here.”

John 2:19-21 “Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’ The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?’ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.”

Matthew 21:42-44 “Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone’; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’ ? ‘Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.’”

Solomon built a Stone Temple for God at the command of his father David

2 Samuel 22:5-6 “David said, ‘My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it.’ So David made extensive preparations before his death. Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the LORD, the God of Israel.”

2 Chronicles 6:18 “But will God really dwell on earth with men? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!”

Acts 7:47-51 “But it was Solomon who built the house for him. ‘However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?’ ‘You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!’”

8) *Years to the Destruction of the Temple*

The glory of the Temple of Jesus’ body was destroyed in his thirty fourth year and raised in three days in greater glory.

Jesus was Baptized by John the Baptist in His thirtieth year, or when He was “nearly thirty.”

Luke 3:21-23a “When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.

From the day of His baptism on the Day of Atonement ² until the day of His Crucifixion on Passover was three and a half years.³ That would have made the thirty fourth year of His life when He was crucified.

² See my *Chronology on the Life of Christ*.

³ The majority of scholars I could find support 3½ years. My extensive study on the *Chronology on the Life of Christ* conclusively confirm that time span.

Solomon's Temple in its glory was destroyed in its thirty fourth year and that glory was never regained.

1 Kings 6:1 "In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the LORD."

1 Kings 6:37-38 "The foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv. In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it."

1 Kings 11:42-43 "Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. Then he rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king."

1 Kings 14:25-26 "In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. He carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made."

If the Temple was completed in the eleventh year of Solomon's forty-year reign, it had been in existence for twenty-nine years at the end of Solomon's reign. It was desecrated five years later in the fifth year of Rehoboam. That means that it was desecrated in the thirty fourth year after it was dedicated.

9) *Admiration by the World*

Jesus was the living Word of God, and the World rejected him.

John 1:10, 14 1:10 "He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ----- The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

1 Corinthians 1:19-21 "For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.' Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know

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him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.”

Isaiah 53:2-3 “He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

Solomon had great human wisdom and the World admired him.

1 Kings 3:12 “I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.” (*Note: This means that the wisdom of Christ was **not** like the wisdom of Solomon.*)

1 Kings 4:29-34 “God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite--wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.”

1 Kings 10:23-24 “King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.”

Jesus himself made a comment that could be applied to Solomon:

Luke 6:26 “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.”

10) ***Marriages***

Jesus never married, had no physical children, only Spiritual children.

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John 1:12-13 “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”

Solomon had many wives, but evidently had few physical children.

1 Kings 11:3 “He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.”

Solomon had only three children that are named; Rehoboam, his heir; and two daughters Basemath and Taphath.

11) *Coronation Parade*

Jesus proclaimed His Kingship riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Matthew 21:1-10 “As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ‘Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, **your king comes to you**, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’” (*Note that Gihon spring was on the road from Bethphage to Jerusalem.*)

Solomon proclaimed His Kingship riding out of Jerusalem on a mule. 4

4 It is worth noting that a mule, which is the result of mating a horse with a donkey is against the Mosaic Law. (Leviticus 19:19 Keep my decrees. “Do not mate different kinds of animals.” It is also worth noting that Genesis 49:10-11 associates the true King of Israel with a donkey not a mule. “The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his. He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch”

1 Kings 1:32-34 “King David said, ‘Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada.’ When they came before the king, he said to them: ‘Take your lord’s servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon. There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘**Long live King Solomon!**’”

12) *Prince of Peace*

Jesus was the true Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6-7b “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.”

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

Ezekiel 37:25-26 “They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever, and David my servant (*the promised Son of David*) will be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of **peace** with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever.”

Haggai 2:6-9 “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the LORD Almighty. The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant **peace**,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”

Zechariah 9:9-10 “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim **peace** to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

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Micah 5:2-5a “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.”

Solomon was only named “Prince of Peace”

David gave his son the name Solomon which means “peace,” “peaceful,” or “peaceable.” This was in spite of the fact God had told him to name him Jedidiah.

2 Samuel 12:24-25 “Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him; and because the LORD loved him, he (the LORD) sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

13) ***The Yoke of His Rulership upon His People***

The Yoke of Christ

Matthew 11:29-30 “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

The Yoke of Solomon

The people of Israel describing Solomon’s rulership to his son Rehoboam.

1 Kings 12:4 “Your father (Solomon) put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you.”

14) ***Both Jesus and Solomon were given twelve disciples or tribes, Jesus lost only one, Solomon kept only one.***

Jesus was given twelve disciples, but lost only Judas (Judah)

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John 17:10-12 “All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.”

Solomon was given twelve tribes, but kept only Judah

1 Kings 11:29-31,36 “About that time Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, and Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him on the way, wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone out in the country, and Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. Then he said to Jeroboam, “Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon’s hand and give you ten tribes.---- I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name.’”

When I saw this last amazing “coincidence” in Scripture it really emphasized for me that God is trying to underline in red the importance of the contrast between Christ and Solomon.

Summary Table of the Contrasts between Jesus Christ and Solomon

	JESUS CHRIST	SOLOMON
1	Parents were Poor and Obscure	Parents were Rich and Famous
2	Christ was valued at 30 pieces of Silver	Solomon was valued at 666 talents of gold.
3	Had no place to lay his head	Built a palace for himself four times as big as the temple.
4	Came as a servant	Had many servants
5	Set the slaves of Sin free	Enslaved others to build his temple
6	Established His kingdom by his own Death	Established His kingdom by killing others
7	Was the true Temple of God	Built the Stone Temple of God
8	The glory of Jesus' Temple was destroyed in His 34 th year and restored in greater glory.	The glory of Solomon's Temple was destroyed in its 34 th year and never regained.
9	Was the living Word of God	Had great human wisdom
10	Never married, had no physical children, only Spiritual children	Seven hundred wives, three hundred concubines, had biological children
11	Jesus proclaimed His Kingship riding into Jerusalem on a donkey	Solomon proclaimed His Kingship riding out of Jerusalem on a mule.
12	Was the Prince of Peace	Was named Prince of Peace ("Solomon")
13	The Yoke of Christ is easy	The Yoke of Solomon was hard
14	Had twelve disciples, lost Judas (Judas)	Had twelve tribes, kept Judah

The LORD's Promise to David. How David Distorted It.

I will trace how the Bible showed that David was not content to wait on God's timetable. He tried to force God's hand as to when would be the coming of the promised "seed of David" who would build the LORD's true Temple. Below are the two Biblical accounts of God's promise to David of a Son who would reign forever. It is often called "the Davidic Covenant." Read both of them carefully, noting especially the italicized passages.

The Davidic Covenant in 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles

2 Samuel 7:5 -16 "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' 'Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: **When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son.** 5 When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever. '"

1 Chronicles 17:4 -14 "Go tell my servant David, This is what the Lord says: 'You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in. I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up out of Egypt to this day. I have moved from one tent site to another, from one dwelling place to another. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to

5 Hebrews 1:5 "For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father'? Or again, '**I will be his Father, and he will be my Son**'"? This demonstrates that the Davidic Covenant was talking about Jesus.

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any of their leaders whom I commanded to shepherd my people, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ ‘Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock, to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also subdue all your enemies. *I declare to you that the Lord will build a house for you: **When your days are over, and you go to be with your fathers, I will raise up of your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will be his father, and he will be my son, I will never take my love away from him as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever, his throne will be established forever.***’”

There are several things to note.

First, we know that the promised offspring wasn’t Solomon! That is even though both David and Solomon tried to tell Israel that he was! (We will look at their distortions more fully on pages 32, 33, and 34.) The raising up as King of the promised son (descendant) was to happen “When your days are over, and you rest with your fathers.” In other words, after David was dead. By contrast Solomon’s coronation was held while David was still alive! (1 Kings 1:43 - 45)

Second, we know that Solomon was not set over God’s Kingdom forever. Solomon’s Kingship ended the day he died almost three thousand years ago. As far as being set over his House (Temple) forever, Solomon was never over the Temple for even one Day! Only a King-Priest could be over God’s House and Kingdom. Who was the Lord talking about in these verses? Jesus Christ! Not Solomon!

It is a measure of how much the LORD loves to use metaphors in the working out of His plan that He sent a carpenter to build the temple! In Psalm 127:1, a Psalm written “for Solomon” are the words, “**Unless the LORD (*Jesus is the LORD*) builds the house, its builders labor in vain.**” Only the true Temple which Jesus built of His life and death could serve as the Temple that the LORD had promised to David.

Below are some verses that confirm that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Davidic Covenant

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Zechariah 6:12-13 “Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.’” *(This was a vision written almost 550 years after Solomon).*

Ezekiel 21:25 -27 “O profane and wicked prince of Israel (*speaking to Zedekiah, the last King in David’s line at Jerusalem, who lived almost 400 years after Solomon*), whose day has come, whose time of punishment has reached its climax, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Take off the turban, remove the crown. It will not be as it was: The lowly will be exalted and the exalted will be brought low. A ruin! A ruin! I will make it a ruin! It will not be restored until he comes to whom it rightfully belongs; to him I will give it.’”

John 2:19 -22 “Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’ The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?’ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.”

Hebrews 8:1-2 “The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.”

Some will object to the verse in the Covenant which says, “When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.” They say this can’t be Christ because he was sinless! Yes, but he took upon himself our wrongs and our sins. Look at the following Psalm.

Psalms 40:12 “For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs on my head, and my heart fails within me.”

Yet we know that this is talking about Jesus Christ because the Epistle to the Hebrews tells us that Psalms 40 is Christ speaking. See the verses below:

Psalms 40:6-8 “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said, ‘Here I am, I have come - it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.’”

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Hebrews 10:5-7 “Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: ‘Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.’”

So, the Old Testament can talk about the sins Christ bore as if they were His.

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

Further, concerning the verse in the covenant which talks about the Messiah being punished by “the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.” We know that Solomon was never flogged, nor does the Bible record any of his descendants being flogged. Except for one, Jesus Christ!

John 19:1 “Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.”

Below I will prove that Solomon could not be the Son of the Davidic Covenant.

From the very beginning Solomon expressly violated every command which the Law of Moses had directed at the conduct of a King of Israel. Those commands for the King were enumerated in the following passage:.

Deuteronomy 17:16-17 “The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, ‘You are not to go back that way again.’ He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.”

This Law said do “not acquire great numbers of horses” and yet:

1 Kings 10:26 “Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses.”

This Law said especially not to get them from “Egypt” and yet:

2 Chronicles 9:28 “Solomon’s horses were imported from Egypt.”

This Law said “do not take many wives, or his heart would be led astray”, and yet:

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1 Kings 11:1-3 “King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh’s daughter - Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, ‘You must not intermarry with them because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.’ Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.”

This Law said “do not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold” and yet:

Ecclesiastes 2:8 “I (*Solomon*) amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces.”

Furthermore, although according to God’s law the High Priest was to serve until his death (Numbers 35:25,28,32, Joshua 20:6), Solomon replaced the sitting high priest before his death for the first time, as far as we know, thereby setting himself above the authority of God.

1 Kings 2:27 “So Solomon removed Abiathar from the priesthood of the LORD, fulfilling the word the LORD had spoken at Shiloh about the house of Eli.”

The Covenant said that “my love will never be taken away from him,” but just 40 years after the Temple was started Jerusalem was taken and the Temple was sacked, and the tribes of the Northern Kingdom were taken away from his son.

1 Kings 14:25 “In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. He carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made.”

1 Kings 11:9 “The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.”

Ethan and Asaph both were appointed to the Temple service by David before the Temple had even been built (*1 Chronicles 15:19*) and lived through the reign of Solomon to see the rending of the Kingdom and the destruction of the Temple (1 Kings 14:25). David and Solomon had spoken as if Solomon was the son of the Covenant and yet at the time Ethan and Asaph wrote the following Psalms it was apparent that Solomon wasn’t the promised Son! Ethan and Asaph spoke through the Holy Spirit of their consternation at the misinterpretation of the Covenant. If King Solomon was the “Son of the Covenant,” then events had seemed to prove God unfaithful. I have only included the pertinent portions of

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their Psalms. The first Psalm is from Ethan and is called is called “A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

Psalm 89:19-51 “Once you spoke in a vision, to your faithful people you said ‘I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have exalted a young man from among the people. I have found David my servant; with my sacred oil I have anointed him. My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him. No enemy will subject him to tribute; no wicked man will oppress him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries. My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted. I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers. He will call out to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.’ I will also appoint him my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth. I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail. I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure. If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes, if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands, I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered. Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness-- and I will not lie to David-- that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky. Selah **But you have rejected, you have spurned, you have been very angry with your anointed one. You have renounced the covenant with your servant and have defiled his crown in the dust.** You have broken through all his walls and reduced his strongholds to ruins. All who pass by have plundered him; he has become the scorn of his neighbors. You have exalted the right hand of his foes; you have made all his enemies rejoice. You have turned back the edge of his sword and have not supported him in battle. You have put an end to his splendor and cast his throne to the ground. You have cut short the days of his youth; you have covered him with a mantle of shame. Selah How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever?”

The second is called is called “A Maskil of Asaph.

Psalm 74:1-11 “**Why have you rejected us forever, O God? Why does your anger smolder against the sheep of your pasture?** Remember the people you purchased of old, the tribe of your inheritance, whom you redeemed-- Mount Zion, where you dwelt. Turn your steps toward these everlasting ruins, all this destruction the enemy has brought on the sanctuary. Your foes roared in the place where you met with us; they set up their standards as signs. They behaved like men wielding axes to cut through a thicket of trees. They smashed all the carved paneling with their axes and hatchets. They burned your sanctuary to the ground; they defiled the dwelling place of your Name. They said in their hearts, “We will crush them completely!” They burned every place where God was worshipped in the

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land. We are given no miraculous signs; no prophets are left, and none of us knows how long this will be. **How long will the enemy mock you, O God? Will the foe revile your name forever?** Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them!”

In these Psalms there is a lament for the failure of the dream that Solomon and his Temple were to be the everlasting King and Temple. There is also a shadow prophecy of how Christ Himself would seem to be abandoned and destroyed.

On pages 32 through 34 I will trace how both David and Solomon took the LORD’s promise and twisted His words to fit their own aspirations. There is a side-by-side display of all the versions recounted of God’s promise to David. On the far left is the original Word of the Lord sent through the prophet Nathan. The next columns to the right show how the original prophecy was recounted and revised by David and Solomon until it came out quite different. The LORD was only accountable for the veracity of His original promise! If you compare the LORD’s original prophecy to the version that David told Solomon, you will find David changed it. This was the LORD’s original promise:

2 Samuel 7:10-11a “And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.”

David changed it to:

1 Chronicles 22:9 “But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign.”

In the original version God did not tell David that the King’s name would be Solomon.

This brings up the question: Where did David get the idea that Solomon would be the name of the Son of the Covenant? I believe He got it from the Song of Solomon which I believe predated the birth of Solomon! My reasons are explained on page 52. In whatever way that David got the name, you will note that at the time said this version of the “promise” was given Solomon was not even born yet. That is demonstrated by the fact that David said, “His name will be Solomon.” He had not yet been given a name. Evidently, David decided to name his next son Solomon (*which means Peace*). As we have seen, when Bathsheba’s second son was born, David named him Solomon without consulting the LORD. The LORD sent Nathan to David and told him to name the new baby Jedidiah

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(*which means beloved of Jehovah*). David ignored the Lord and named him Solomon anyway. As you read through the times that God's original Covenant with David was supposedly reiterated to other people, the new versions got farther and farther away from the original promise of God.

How do we know these later versions don't just include additional information that was left out of the original? We can know this because, in the actual event, God fulfilled in Solomon none of the promises incorporated in the later versions. God did humor David and Solomon and allowed them to build the Temple to replace the Tabernacle. Why? I can only speculate, since the Bible doesn't tell us specifically. However, I can think of two possible reasons. First, at least in the Temple the Ark would be in the Holy of Holies as commanded by the Law of Moses. It had been kept in a separate location since the time of Eli over a hundred years before.

Exodus 26:30-35 "Set up the tabernacle according to the plan shown you on the mountain. "Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim worked into it by a skilled craftsman. Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the Testimony behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Put the atonement cover on the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy Place. Place the table outside the curtain on the north side of the tabernacle and put the lampstand opposite it on the south side."

Second, God allowed the Jews to do something he was displeased with to let them see the results of their own folly. It was not the first time. We also have the example of God letting them have a King.

Example: God gave Israel a King though it wasn't His will.

1 Samuel 8:4-22 "So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, 'You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.' But when they said, 'Give us a king to lead us,' this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do." Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, 'This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in

front of his chariots. Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day.’ But the people refused to listen to Samuel. ‘No!’ they said. ‘We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.’ When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD. The LORD answered, ‘Listen to them and give them a king.’ Then Samuel said to the men of Israel, ‘Everyone go back to his town.’”

1 Samuel 10:17-19 “Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the LORD at Mizpah and said to them, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you. But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your calamities and distresses. And you have said, ‘No, set a king over us.’ So now present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and clans.’”

1 Samuel 12:16-25 “‘Now then, stand still and see this great thing the LORD is about to do before your eyes! Is it not wheat harvest now? I will call upon the LORD to send thunder and rain. And you will realize what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the LORD when you asked for a king.’ Then Samuel called upon the LORD, and that same day the LORD sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the LORD and of Samuel. The people all said to Samuel, ‘Pray to the LORD your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king.’ ‘Do not be afraid,’ Samuel replied. ‘You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will be swept away.’”

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Hosea 13:10-11 “Where is your king, that he may save you? Where are your rulers in all your towns, of whom you said, ‘Give me a king and princes’? So, in my anger I gave you a king, and in my wrath I took him away.”

Conclusion: In the same way God gave Israel a king He gave them a Temple though it wasn't His will. The following verses seem to support this.

Isaiah 66:1-2 “This is what the LORD says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?’ declares the LORD. ‘This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.’”

2 Samuel 7:4-7 “That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: ‘Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”

1 Chronicles 28:11-19 “Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement. He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind ⁶ for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things. He gave him instructions for the divisions of the priests and Levites, and for all the work of serving in the temple of the LORD, as well as for all the articles to be used in its service. He designated the weight of gold for all the gold articles to be used in various kinds of service, and the weight of silver for all the silver articles to be used in various kinds of service: the weight of gold for the gold lampstands and their lamps, with the weight for each lampstand and its lamps; and the weight of silver for each silver lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand; the weight of gold for each table for consecrated bread; the weight of silver for the silver tables; the weight of pure gold for the forks, sprinkling bowls and pitchers; the weight of gold for each gold dish; the weight of silver for each silver dish; and the weight of the refined gold for the altar of incense. He also gave him the plan for the chariot, that is, the cherubim of gold that spread their wings and shelter the ark of the covenant of the

6 Remember that God participated in the picking out of a King (Saul) for a Kingship he didn't sponsor, so it is not inconsistent that here also he participated in the planning of a Temple he didn't sponsor.

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LORD. ‘All this,’ David said, ‘I have in writing from the hand of the LORD upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan.’”

Acts 7:44-51 “Our forefathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. Having received the tabernacle, our fathers under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, who enjoyed God’s favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built the house for him. However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.’ ‘What kind of house will you build for me?’ says the Lord. ‘Or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?’ ‘You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!’”

It is also worth pondering the fact that the First Temple was incomplete compared to the tabernacle. The Ark of the Covenant should have contained three objects. Both Aaron’s Rod, and the Pot of Manna should have been in it as the three verses below prove.

Exodus 16:32-34 “Moses said, ‘This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt.’ So Moses said to Aaron, *‘Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come.’ As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony, that it might be kept.*”

Numbers 17:6-10 “So Moses spoke to the Israelites, and their leaders gave him twelve staffs, one for the leader of each of their ancestral tribes, and Aaron’s staff was among them. Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the Tent of the Testimony. The next day Moses entered the Tent of the Testimony and saw that Aaron’s staff, which represented the house of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds. Then Moses brought out all the staffs from the LORD’s presence to all the Israelites. They looked at them, and each man took his own staff. The LORD said to Moses, *“Put back Aaron’s staff in front of the Testimony, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious.”*”

Hebrews 9:3-4 “Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the *gold jar of manna, Aaron’s staff that had budded*, and the stone tablets of the covenant.”

The Enigma of Solomon - Revised

The gold jar of manna and the staff were missing and only the Tables of the Law were in the Ark when it was put into Solomon's Temple as 1 Kings testifies below.⁷

1 Kings 8:9 "There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt."

The Second Temple which existed in Jesus' time did not even have the Ark of the Covenant as Josephus testified.

In arguing that God allowed worship not strictly on His preferred terms it is useful to remember the incident when Moses struck the rock in Numbers 20:8-12. God brought the water despite the fact that Moses did not follow God's instructions.

7 I believe that the contents of the Ark spoke of the aspects of Christ. The golden pot of manna spoke of His birth (the true bread that came down from Heaven), the tables of the Law spoke of his life (in which He fulfilled the Law perfectly), and Aaron's rod that budded spoke of the cross (the rod which struck the rock) and the buds and almonds (the resurrection from the Dead). If Solomon was going to proclaim himself the "Prince of Peace," there was only one part of that he even had an opportunity to fulfill! Keeping the Law! That is why the Ark in his temple only had the tables of the Law in it.

The Enigma of Solomon - Revised

Read the following verses and compare how the story changes from God's original prophecy to the coronation of Solomon! Notice how in God's promise and David's report of it, it says that the "son of David" would be the son of God and have God for His father.

GOD'S WORD TO DAVID

2 SAMUEL

^{7:4} That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: ^{7:5} "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?' ^{7:6} I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ^{7:7} Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" ^{7:8} "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. ^{7:9} I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. ^{7:10} And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked

people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ^{7:11} and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ^{7:12} When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ^{7:13} He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ^{7:14} I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. ^{7:15} But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ^{7:16} Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'" ^{7:17} Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

GOD'S WORD TO DAVID

1 CHRONICLES

^{17:3} That night the word of God came to Nathan, saying: ^{17:4} "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in. ^{17:5} I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up out of Egypt to this day. I have moved from one tent site to another, from one dwelling place to another. ^{17:6} Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders whom I commanded to shepherd my people, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" ^{17:7} "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock, to be ruler over my people Israel. ^{17:8} I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men of the earth. ^{17:9} And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people

will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ^{17:10} and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also subdue all your enemies. "I declare to you that the LORD will build a house for you: ^{17:11} When your days are over and you go to be with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. ^{17:12} He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. ^{17:13} I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. ^{17:14} I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.'" ^{17:15} Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

The Enigma of Solomon - Revised

DAVID TRIES TO FORCE GOD'S PROPHECY 2 SAMUEL

^{12:24} Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him; ^{12:25} and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

Solomon means peace.

1 CHRONICLES

^{23:1} When David was old and full of years, he made his son Solomon king over Israel

^{29:20} Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God." So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed low and fell prostrate before the LORD and the king. ^{29:21} The next day they made sacrifices to the LORD and presented burnt offerings to him: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams and a thousand male lambs, together with their drink offerings, and other sacrifices in abundance for all Israel. ^{29:22} They ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the LORD that day. Then they acknowledged Solomon son of David as king a second time, anointing him before the LORD to be ruler and Zadok to be priest.

DAVID'S INTERPRETATION TO SOLOMON 1 CHRONICLES

^{22:7} David said to Solomon: "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the LORD my God. ^{22:8} But this word of the LORD came to me: 'You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. ^{22:9} But you will have a son who will be a man of peace⁸ and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign. ^{22:10} He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

⁸ Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

DAVID'S INTERPRETATION TO THE ELDERS 1 CHRONICLES

^{28:2} King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. ^{28:3} But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.' ^{28:4} "Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the house of Judah he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel. ^{28:5} Of all my sons--and the LORD has given me many--he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. ^{28:6} He said to me: 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.' ^{28:7} I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.' ^{28:8} "So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow

all the commands of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever. ^{28:9} "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

The Enigma of Solomon - Revised

Read the following verses and see how Solomon claimed that he was the fulfillment of the unconditional Davidic Covenant. Then read how God's promises to Solomon were all conditional; conditions that both Solomon and his descendants failed to keep, dooming Solomon's kingship and the future of the Temple. You will also notice that God never mentioned to Solomon anything about God being his father, or Solomon being God's son.

SOLOMON'S INTERPRETATIONS 2 CHRONICLES

^{6:7} "My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ^{6:8} But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart. ^{6:9} Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, who is your own flesh and blood--he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.' ^{6:10} "The LORD has kept the promise he made. I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

SOLOMON'S INTERPRETATIONS 1 KINGS

^{5:3} "You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the LORD his God until the LORD put his enemies under his feet.

^{8:17} "My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ^{8:18} But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart. ^{8:19} Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, who is your own flesh and blood--he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.' ^{8:20} "The LORD has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

GOD'S CONDITIONAL PROMISE TO SOLOMON 1 KINGS

^{9:4} "As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, ^{9:5} I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' ^{9:6} "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, ^{9:7} then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. ^{9:8} And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to

this temple?' ^{9:9} People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them--that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.'"

1 KINGS

^{6:11} The word of the LORD came to Solomon: ^{6:12} "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. ^{6:13} And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel."

GOD'S
CONDITIONAL
PROMISE TO
SOLOMON
2 CHRONICLES

^{7:17} "As for you, if you
walk before me as David
your father did, and do
all I command, and
observe my decrees and
laws, ^{7:18} I will establish
your royal throne, as I
covenanted with David
your father when I said,
'You shall never fail to
have a man to rule over
Israel.' ^{7:19} "But if you
turn away and forsake
the decrees and
commands I have given
you and go off to serve
other gods and worship
them, ^{7:20} then I will
uproot Israel from my
land, which I have given
them, and will reject this
temple I have
consecrated for my
Name. I will make it a
byword and an object of
ridicule among all
peoples. ^{7:21} And though
this temple is now so
imposing, all who pass
by will be appalled and
say, 'Why has the
LORD done such a
thing to this land and to
this temple?' ^{7:22} People
will answer, 'Because
they have forsaken the
LORD, the God of their
fathers, who brought
them out of Egypt, and
have embraced other
gods, worshipping and
serving them--that is
why he brought all this
disaster on them.'"

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There is an important conclusion to which we are forced! Despite what David tried to make true, his second son by Bathsheba, who he named “Solomon” in spite of the LORD’s instruction, was **not** the King that the LORD had promised in His covenant with David! Besides that, we have the following passage in Deuteronomy which described what the King was prohibited from doing. It seems to perfectly describe the policies that Solomon did follow. Below are the prohibitions.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 “When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, ‘Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,’ be sure to appoint over you the king the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your own brothers. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not a brother Israelite. The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, ‘You are not to go back that way again.’ He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.”

You have to conclude that Israel first broke this command when they recognized Solomon as King. God never chose Solomon. David did!

Hosea 8:3-4 “But Israel has rejected what is good; an enemy will pursue him. They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval.”

Did this mean that some other Son of David was to be King? Yes, but not for a thousand years. Exactly one thousand years after Solomon was crowned King, Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem on a donkey!

Psalms 90:4 “For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.”

2 Peter 3:8-9 “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you,”

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There were only two Kings of Greater Israel or Judea that were expressly picked by God in the Old Testament, Saul and David. All the others were picked by men.

1 Samuel 10:1 “Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul’s head and kissed him, saying, ‘Has not the LORD anointed you leader over his inheritance?’”

1 Samuel 16:1 “The LORD said to Samuel, ‘How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

1 Samuel 16:11-12 “So he asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ ‘There is still the youngest,’ Jesse answered, ‘but he is tending the sheep.’ Samuel said, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.’ So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, ‘Rise and anoint him; he is the one.’”

2 Samuel 12:7 “Then Nathan said to David, ‘You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.’”

2 Samuel 23:1-2 “These are the last words of David: ‘The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, Israel’s singer of songs: ‘The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.’”

There was one other, expressly anointed by God. That was Jesus Christ as testified in the following passages.

Hebrews 1:8-9 “But about the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

Luke 4:18-21 “‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’”

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Daniel 9:25-26 “Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.”

Psalms 2:1 “Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.”

Psalms 132:10-18 “For the sake of David your servant, do not reject your anointed one. The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath that he will not revoke: ‘One of your own descendants I will place on your throne-- if your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever.’ For the LORD has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling: ‘This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it-- I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food. I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints will ever sing for joy. Here I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one. I will clothe his enemies with shame, but the crown on his head will be resplendent.’”

Solomon was not anointed by God’s express command. He was anointed by Zadok at David’s express command.

1 Kings 1:32-24 “**King David said**, ‘Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada.’ When they came before the king, he said to them: ‘Take your lord’s servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon. **There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel**. Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘Long live King Solomon!’”

So, we have to admit that when David, the elders of Israel, and Solomon himself proclaimed the Solomon was the promised Son of the Covenant, it was a significant departure from God’s truth and His plan. We must then ask ourselves what is the significance of the accepting that departure as a great sin on the part of Israel? There are several items.

1. It corrects the impression that somehow God made a mistake and was disappointed in the Solomon “experiment.” God never intended Solomon to be King of Glory or the Son of the Promise. Neither did He ever expect Solomon to be anything more than a weak sinful man. However, like all weak sinful men, Solomon was “Jedidiah” (Beloved

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of Jehovah). The mission of the “Son of Promise” required much more than Solomon could bring to the task. It required the God/Man Jesus Christ.

2. It allows God to make a point of the folly of expecting a sinful man to do in his own power what only Holy God can do. That is to be righteous. Though Solomon had every human advantage; wisdom, training, and wealth; his abject failure should stand as a testament to those who expect to stand before God in their own righteousness. It is the Son of David who is the LORD who must be our righteousness:

Jeremiah 23:5-6 “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.’”

3. It allows the LORD to emphasize how different His standards are from the world’s standards. Solomon embodied everything the world admired, glamour, wisdom, riches, success, and accomplishment, but as Isaiah 53:2-3 said, God’s Messiah 9 “had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”
4. It also allows us to pick up on an important prophetic milestone in the Bible, the acceptance of the wrong King and Messiah exactly 1,000 years before the true King and Messiah arrived. Following are explanations of how three passages are greatly impacted by the realization of this prophetic milestone. The first is from the Book of Joel. The second is a prophecy in Ezekiel. The third is a Psalm.

9 “Messiah” is the Hebrew for “anointed.” “Christ” is the Greek for “anointed.”

Joel's Prophecy Promising the Restoration of the Years that were Eaten.

Proposition

The locust swarms described in the book of Joel are actually metaphorical. They refer to the attacks on Israel's most precious hope, that a Messiah would come through the line of David.

Time of the writing

Ryrie puts the time of writing at about the time of the days of young king Joash. This is supported by the reference to the valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2) which had occurred Between 853 (death of Ahab) and 848 BC (death of Jehoshaphat).

Also, supporting this time period is the following passage:

Joel 3:4-6 "Now what have you against me (*the LORD*), O Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of ***Philistia***? Are you repaying me for something I have done? If you are paying me back, I will swiftly and speedily return on your own heads what you have done. For you took my silver and my gold and carried off my finest treasures to your temples. You sold the people (sons) of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks, that you might send them far from their homeland."

This could easily refer to the events of that time recorded in the passage below.

2 Chronicles 21:16-17 "The LORD aroused against Jehoram the hostility of the ***Philistines*** and of the Arabs who lived near the Cushites. They attacked Judah, invaded it and carried off all the goods found in the king's palace, together with his sons and wives. Not a son was left to him except Ahaziah, the youngest."

Another passage supporting this time period is the following:

Joel 3:19 "But Egypt will be desolate, ***Edom*** a desert waste, because of violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood."

This could easily refer to the events of that time recorded in the passage below.

2 Kings 8:20 "In the time of Jehoram, ***Edom*** rebelled against Judah and set up its own king."

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2 Chronicles 21:8-10 “In the time of Jehoram, **Edom** rebelled against Judah and set up its own king. So Jehoram went there with his officers and all his chariots. The Edomites surrounded him and his chariot commanders, but he rose up and broke through by night. To this day Edom has been in rebellion against Judah.”

If we establish that Joel was written about this time, we have a good chance of establishing what the disaster was that Joel was writing about. Was it really about plagues of locusts? There are no plagues of locusts mentioned in the history of the time. Is the Bible really about material prosperity? What were the **real** disasters of that time to God’s people? God’s people were looking for a Messiah from the house of David. What did the locust swarms speak of metaphorically? I think I have an answer. The locust swarms were the attacks on the Messianic line from the house of David and thus on the hope that God’s promise to David would be fulfilled. We will see those attacks below which almost wiped out the legal line of Kings out of David and Solomon.

The First “Locust Swarm” (Circa 848 BC)

2 Chronicles 21:1-4 “Then Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David. And Jehoram his son succeeded him as king. Jehoram’s brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat, were Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael and Shephatiah. All these were sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. Their father had given them many gifts of silver and gold and articles of value, as well as fortified cities in Judah, but he had given the kingdom to Jehoram because he was his firstborn son. When Jehoram established himself firmly over his father’s kingdom, **he put all his brothers to the sword along with some of the princes of Israel.**”

The Second “Locust Swarm” (Between 848 BC and 841 BC)

2 Chronicles 21:16-17 “The LORD aroused against Jehoram the hostility of the Philistines and of the Arabs who lived near the Cushites. They attacked Judah, invaded it and **carried off** all the goods found in the king’s palace, **together with his sons** and wives. **Not a son was left to him except Ahaziah, the youngest.**”

2 Chronicles 22:1 “The people of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, Jehoram’s youngest son, king in his place, since the raiders, who came with the Arabs into the camp, **had killed all the older sons.**”

The Third “Locust Swarm” (Circa 841 BC)

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2 Chronicles 22:5-9 “He also followed their counsel when he went with Joram son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth Gilead. The Arameans wounded Joram; so he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds they had inflicted on him at Ramoth in his battle with Hazael king of Aram. Then Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to Jezreel to see Joram son of Ahab because he had been wounded. Through Ahaziah’s visit to Joram, God brought about Ahaziah’s downfall. When Ahaziah arrived, he went out with Joram to meet Jehu son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab. While Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, ***he found the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah’s relatives, who had been attending Ahaziah, and he killed them. He then went in search of Ahaziah, and his men captured him while he was hiding in Samaria. He was brought to Jehu and put to death.*** They buried him, for they said, “He was a son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart.” So there was no one in the house of Ahaziah powerful enough to retain the kingdom.”

2 Kings 9:27-28 “When Ahaziah king of Judah saw what had happened, he fled up the road to Beth Haggan. Jehu chased him, shouting, ‘Kill him too!’ ***They wounded him in his chariot on the way up to Gur near Ibleam, but he escaped to Megiddo and died there.*** His servants took him by chariot to Jerusalem and buried him with his fathers in his tomb in the City of David.”

2 Kings 10:12b-14 “At Beth Eked of the Shepherds, he met some relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah and asked, ‘Who are you?’ They said, ‘We are ***relatives of Ahaziah***, and we have come down to greet the families of the king and of the queen mother.’ ‘Take them alive!’ he ordered. ***So they took them alive and slaughtered them by the well of Beth Eked--forty-two men. He left no survivor.***”

The Fourth “Locust Swarm” (Circa 841 BC)

2 Chronicles 22:9b-10 “So there was no one in the house of Ahaziah powerful enough to retain the kingdom. When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, ***she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family of the house of Judah.***”

2 Kings 11:1 “When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, ***she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family.***”

The locust swarms referred to the destruction of the line of David through Solomon. What a disaster! What a blow to the faithful! Of course we know now that one son, Joash, was saved!

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2 Kings 11:2-3 “But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes, who were about to be murdered. She put him and his nurse in a bedroom to hide him from Athaliah; so he was not killed. He remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the LORD for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.”

For six years, it must have been a terrible test to the faithful. Of course, we also know now that the true physical line of David came through his son Nathan not Solomon, but they didn't know that then. However, into the gap God brought Joel's prophecy:

Joel 2:25 “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten-- the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm -- my great army that I sent among you.”

From the end of David's reign to Christ's advent was **1000 years**. The true time of the locust was not from the death of Jehoshaphat, but from the death of David, all the time the people of Israel were waiting for the true “Son of David” to be King. On the return of that true King that time will be restored!

Revelation 20:6 “Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a **thousand years**.”

If the wine, grain, water, and oil referred to in Joel 1 & 2 are read to refer to the Spiritual wine, grain, water, and oil which only the Messiah could bring, the first two chapters of Joel take on a clear and wonderful meaning. Furthermore the next verses are clearly about the coming of the “Bread of Life.”

This is clearly referring to the fulfillment in the coming of Christ:

John 6:35 “Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.’”

Joel 2:26-27 “You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.”

Is Joel 1 and 2 really about the Messiah, or am I all alone on this? Although I could not find any modern-day Bible commentators who agreed, I finally found a

more ancient authority who did. His name was the Apostle Peter. He connected the prophecy in Joel to the coming of Christ.

Joel 2:28 “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”

Peter connected Joel 2:28 to the Messiah at Pentecost:

Acts 2:14 -18 “Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, **this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel**: ‘**In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.** Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.’”

The threat to the Messianic line was a threat to true life and prosperity, but God promised he would restore the days and he would come soon (Chapter 3). These chapters are about the things that are truly important and eternal for every generation and nation, and their preservation in eternal scripture is readily understandable.

The Prophecy in Ezekiel about the Sieges of Jerusalem

In Ezekiel 4 there is a prophecy which is confusing if you don't understand that the proclamation of Solomon as the Son of the Covenant was a Sin. Below is the prophecy which was shown to Ezekiel in a vision in which he was allowed to participate:

Ezekiel 4:1-8 "Now, son of man, take a clay tablet, put it in front of you and draw the city of Jerusalem on it. Then lay siege to it: Erect siege works against it, build a ramp up to it, set up camps against it and put battering rams around it. Then take an iron pan, place it as an iron wall between you and the city and turn your face toward it. It will be under siege, and you shall besiege it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel. "Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel. "After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year. Turn your face toward the siege of Jerusalem and with bared arm prophesy against her. I will tie you up with ropes so that you cannot turn from one side to the other until you have finished the days of your siege."10

God was speaking to Ezekiel shortly before the first siege of Jerusalem which ended in 586 BC. Ezekiel represented the "Son of Man" who would bear the sins of the world and Israel and Judah. This is clear from the fact that Ezekiel is called "Son of Man" 93 times in Ezekiel. Daniel is called "Son of Man" once. The only other person called the "Son of Man" was Jesus Christ who was called that 5 times in the Old Testament and 82 times in the New Testament. The first time Ezekiel lay down to bear the sins of Israel he faced the siege of Jerusalem and lay there in the vision for 390 days, one day for each year of their "sin." What was the sin of Israel? Some commentators have speculated that this is referring to the sins of the Northern Kingdom which was created after the reign of Solomon. This Kingdom was often referred to as "Israel" in the scriptures of this period to differentiate it from "Judah" which was the designation of the Southern Kingdom. This passage cannot be related to the Northern Kingdom of Israel because it was formed in 931 BC and ended in 721 BC and lasted only 210 years. How could it have sinned for 390 years? Also, if this was related to the sin of the Northern Kingdom why was Jerusalem

10 Comparing Ezekiel 1:1 and Ezekiel 8:1 allows one year and one month for the action in chapters 1-7. This would amount to either 390 days or 410 days if it was a 13 month year. Comparing Ezekiel 3:16 with Ezekiel 4:5-6 indicates 430 days plus seven would be needed to complete this action. The answer is that the 410 days spoken of in Ezekiel's vision about the siege occurred only in the vision, not in reality.

involved? Jerusalem was the capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Each one pays for his own sin (*Deut. 24:15, Jeremiah 31:30, Ezekiel 18:18*). Samaria had already been destroyed! I believe the sin had to have involved Greater Israel, all of the sons of Jacob, of which Jerusalem had been the capital. What was the sin? If you acknowledge the sin that the United Kingdom of Israel had committed in proclaiming Solomon the Son of the Covenant, everything falls into place neatly.

Solomon became King in approximately 971 BC. Jerusalem fell in approximately 586 BC which was 385 regular years later. However, David had declared to Israel that Solomon was the one who fulfilled the Davidic Covenant several years before. I believe it must have been 5 years before. That accounts for the total of 390 years. So, for 390 years Israel, both Northern and Southern had sinned in accepting Solomon as the Son of David that was promised. The Son of Man paid for those sins, but still Jerusalem had to be destroyed in the siege that ended in 586 BC. After that destruction, they never again had a King from the House of David, and only had a King from the Hasmonean line (house of Levi) from 142 BC to 63 BC (79 years).¹¹

Next Ezekiel in the role of “Son of Man” lay down to bear the sins of Judah and faced the siege of Jerusalem and lay there for 40 days. This time he was to prophecy against Jerusalem with a bared arm! What is this? There was a second siege of Jerusalem! This prophecy does not have just one siege of Jerusalem in view, but two. ¹² In 70 AD

*11 The Jews in Jesus' time speculated that the great sin of Israel was Solomon's marrying the Pharaoh's daughter. **The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah**, by Alfred Edersheim, **THE CROSS AND THE CROWN CHAPTER VI** – “But the very origin of the wicked world-Empire had been caused by Israel's sin. It had been (ideally) founded when Solomon contracted alliance with the daughter of Pharaoh, while Romulus and Remus rose when Jeroboam set up the worship of the two calves. Thus, what would have become the universal Davidic Rule had, through Israel's sin, been changed into subjection to the Gentiles.”*

12 The two sieges of Jerusalem are in view here, that of 585 BC and that of 70 AD. The Lord Himself made the connection between the two in the pages of history by causing the destruction of the first Temple to occur on the very date that the destruction of the second Temple occurred as Josephus notes:

Wars of the Jews, BOOK VI, CHAPTER 4. Verse 5. So Titus retired into the tower of Antonia, and resolved to storm the temple the next day, early in the morning, with his whole army, and to encamp round about the holy house. But as for that house, God had, for certain, long ago doomed it to the fire; and now that fatal day was come, according to the revolution of ages; it was the tenth day of the month Lous, [Ab,] upon which it was formerly burnt by the king of Babylon; although these flames took their rise from the Jews

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Jerusalem was destroyed by the besieging Romans under Titus the son of Vespasian. This was 40 years after Jesus Christ had entered Jerusalem in 30 AD as the King and ruler just as the prophet Daniel had prophesied.

Daniel 9:25 “Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’”

The order to restore and rebuild Jerusalem was issued by Ezra in 453 BC.¹³ Sixty-nine

themselves, and were occasioned by them; for upon Titus's retiring, the seditious lay still for a little while, and then attacked the Romans again, when those that guarded the holy house fought with those that quenched the fire that was burning the inner [court of the] temple; but these Romans put the Jews to flight, and proceeded as far as the holy house itself. At which time one of the soldiers, without staying for any orders, and without any concern or dread upon him at so great an undertaking, and being hurried on by a certain divine fury, snatched somewhat out of the materials that were on fire, and being lifted up by another soldier, he set fire to a golden window, through which there was a passage to the rooms that were round about the holy house, on the north side of it. As the flames went upward, the Jews made a great clamor, such as so mighty an affliction required, and ran together to prevent it; and now they spared not their lives any longer, nor suffered anything to restrain their force, since that holy house was perishing, for whose sake it was that they kept such a guard about it.

13 This prophecy is a precise prediction as to when the Messiah would come to Jerusalem as King. That day was Palm Sunday during which Jesus Christ came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.) The key question is “When did the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem go forth. Since the publication of Sir Robert Anderson's book, The Coming Prince in 1894, the common interpretation of this passage is that the decree to rebuild Jerusalem which starts the clock on the prophecy began with the letters of Artaxerxes which Nehemiah took back with him to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1-5). This occurred in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes (445 BC). Daniel's prophecy called for 483 years from the decree to restore to the coming of the Anointed One (the Messiah). From 445 BC to Christ's coming to Jerusalem as ruler, in 30 AD is 474 years. The discrepancy of 9 years was accounted for by asserting that Daniel was talking about so called “prophetical years”¹³ of 360 days. If that were so then the 483 “prophetical years” would work out to 476 years. The resulting two year discrepancy was taken care of by moving Christ's crucifixion to 32 AD, which is manifestly wrong. The whole problem can be resolved by examining the question of when the original decree to build the walls was

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sevens later (i.e. 483 years) was 30 AD. That was the year of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem after which he was crucified.

And as the prophet Zechariah had foreseen, he came riding on a donkey:

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

And as Daniel had prophesied, he was rejected:

Daniel 9:26 "After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing."

Then for 40 years Judah (*or Judea*), the remnant of Greater Israel, sinned in rejecting the correct Son of David as the King and Messiah that was promised. These are the years of sin in Ezekiel's prophecy. Jerusalem was destroyed in the siege that ended in 70 AD in fulfillment of the prophecy and because their Temple worship confused the issue of the true temple of Jesus Christ. (This was the subject of much of the epistles of Romans and Hebrews). This siege was raised on the 14th day of Nisan (Passover) according to Josephus.¹⁴ That was 40 years to the day since the crucifixion of Christ!

issued. If we examine Ezra 4:7-24 we see that sometime before the events of Nehemiah 2:1-5 some of the leading officials of the region of Trans-Euphrates (the region west of the Euphrates which included Syria, Samaria, and Judea) sent a letter to Artaxerxes complaining that the Jews were in the process of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. As a consequence of this letter the Artaxerxes (or one of his representatives) sent a letter authorizing those officials to stop construction. They followed up by going to Jerusalem and stopping the construction by force. By implication from Nehemiah 1:3 they had also destroyed much of the work that had been accomplished to that point. It is obvious that the Jews had begun construction of the walls on some authority. Whose? Or did they do it without regard to Persian authority? We find the answer in Ezra 7:1-28. In the seventh year of Artaxerxes (458 BC), Ezra arrived in Jerusalem with supreme authority over all the people of Trans-Euphrates region and to do with their treasure what seemed best to them. It seems obvious that Ezra issued the original decree to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem! The original decree must have been about 453 BC. That would have started Daniel's clock which would have rung in 30 AD, 483 regular years later. Sometime in the next four or five years the letter was sent to Artaxerxes which resulted in the destruction which Nehemiah lamented about before Artaxerxes in Nehemiah 2:1-5.

Before the second siege the Lord told Ezekiel to “turn your face toward the siege of Jerusalem and with bared arm prophesy against her.” What did this mean? It meant that before the second siege Jesus Christ would be revealed. Consider the following passages from Isaiah prophesying the coming of Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 52:10 “The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.”

Isaiah 53:1 “Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?”

I have no doubt that this is the correct interpretation of this passage, because it rings true with the central theme of the Bible, the coming of the Messiah.¹⁵ Yet understanding it hinges completely on the correct understanding of Solomon.

14 Wars of the Jews, Flavius Josephus, Book V, Chapter 13, Verse 7. “And, indeed, why do I relate these particular calamities? while Manneus, the son of Lazarus, came running to Titus at this very time, and told him that there had been carried out through that one gate, which was entrusted to his care, no fewer than a hundred and fifteen thousand eight hundred and eighty dead bodies, in the interval between the fourteenth day of the month Xanthieus, [Nisan,] when the Romans pitched their camp by the city, and the first day of the month Panemus [Tamuz]”

15 In an interesting parallel, it is also true that from the beginning of Jeremiah’s ministry to the first year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign was 23 years (Jeremiah 25:1-3). From the first year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign to the tenth year of Zedekiah’s reign was 17 years (Jeremiah 32:1). The raising of the siege on Jerusalem the tenth year of Zedekiah’s reign. Thus, from the beginning of Jeremiah’s warnings to the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem was (23+17=40) forty years. This is exactly the number of years the Jews had after the crucifixion of Christ before the Romans laid siege to Jerusalem in 70 AD, however it did not mark the beginning of a great sin as the 40 years in Jesus’ time did. The sin of that era mentioned the most was in Manasseh’s reign some 20 or more years earlier. 2 Kings 21:11, 2 Kings 23:26, 2 Kings 24:3, 2 Chronicles 33:9, Jeremiah 15:4

David's Prophecy about Solomon in Psalm 72

In Psalm 72 God prophesied through David that "Solomon" was the Messiah. In the superscription the Psalm is inscribed as "of Solomon." The superscriptions in the Psalms were part of the original inspired revelation. Here the phrase "of Solomon" clearly means "concerning Solomon", not "written by Solomon" because in the last verse (vs 20) in the Psalm authorship is ascribed to David.¹⁶ Clearly the "Solomon" in this passage is Jesus Christ not King Solomon. Verse 17 makes that abundantly clear! This should prove that the Solomon of God's promise and the Solomon of David's impatience are two different characters. Either that or God's word is not true and that is unthinkable!

Psalm 72

Of Solomon.

^{72:1} Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. ^{72:2} He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. ^{72:3} The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. ^{72:4} He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. ^{72:5} He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. ^{72:6} He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. ^{72:7} In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more. ^{72:8} He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. ^{72:9} The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust. ^{72:10} The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts. ^{72:11} All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him. ^{72:12} For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. ^{72:13} He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. ^{72:14} He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight. ^{72:15} Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him. May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long. ^{72:16} Let grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway.

16 It is worth noting that at some time that David might have anticipated that Absalom (means - Father of Peace) might be the one who was the answer to the God's promise of an heir that would reign forever. That might explain David's extreme grief at Absalom's death (2 Samuel 19). He might have thought that that meant the end of God's promise.

17 The "Solomon" that David proclaimed would be the Son of the Covenant was supposed to be a man of peace:

1 Chronicles 22:9 "But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign."

The true Solomon when He comes will crush His enemies.

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Let its fruit flourish like Lebanon; let it thrive like the grass of the field. ^{72:17} May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed. ^{72:18} Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. ^{72:19} Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen. ^{72:20} This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.

Did Solomon write the Song of Solomon?

The Song of Solomon is a book in which the interpretation depends greatly on a clear-sighted evaluation of the character called “Solomon” in the book. Incidentally the correct title of the book is “Song of Songs.” It is clear from reading the book that the character called Solomon in the Song of Solomon was not at all like the Solomon of history. We have already studied the serious character flaws of the mature King Solomon. If you add to those flaws the fact that he had 700 wives and 300 concubines, one certainly has great difficulty in saying the King Solomon was the “Solomon” in the Song of Songs. That Solomon was portrayed as the perfect lover and bridegroom. He was also called King.

Some might argue that the Song was about a young King Solomon before he got married. However, we know that the historical Solomon was married before he was ever made King because his son Rehoboam was born before Solomon became King.¹⁸ So the historical Solomon was never both a King and single as the Solomon of the Song of Songs was.

God’s standard for perfect marriages, especially the King’s marriage, never included bigamy.¹⁹ However, if the Solomon of the Song of Solomon was the historical Solomon, God would be approving bigamy, because King Solomon already had a child by his first wife.

It is my belief that in the Song of Solomon was not written about Solomon at all. It was written about the true Prince of Peace who was God’s King, whose love was perfect, and who was “the bridegroom. Furthermore, I believe that the Song of Solomon was written sometime before the birth of David’s and Bathsheba’s son Solomon. You may remember that in the retelling of God’s promise David said that God had told him before the birth of his son Solomon that the name of the Son of the promise would be Solomon (1 Chronicles 22:10) although it was not mentioned in Nathan’s prophecy (see page 22). I believe David

¹⁸ 1 Kings 11:42 “Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.”

¹ Kings 14:21 “Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king.”

¹⁹ Deuteronomy 17:17 “He (the King) must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray.”

Jesus gave the definitive interpretation of the Genesis 2:24 commandment on marriage.

Mark 10:7-9 “And Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.’”

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got this information from the Song of Songs. The Song was clearly written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by someone. It could have been David himself or some other author, possibly Nathan. My conviction is reinforced by the fact that this interpretation explains Solomon's panic and murderous outrage when Adonijah asked for the Shunammite companion of David for a wife as recounted in the following passages.

1 Kings 2:13-25 "Now Adonijah, the son of Haggith, went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. Bathsheba asked him, 'Do you come peacefully?' He answered, 'Yes, peacefully.' Then he added, 'I have something to say to you.' 'You may say it,' she replied. 'As you know,' he said, 'the kingdom was mine. All Israel looked to me as their king. But things changed, and the kingdom has gone to my brother; for it has come to him from the LORD. Now I have one request to make of you. Do not refuse me.' 'You may make it,' she said. So he continued, 'Please ask King Solomon--he will not refuse you--to give me *Abishag the Shunammite* as my wife.' 'Very well,' Bathsheba replied, 'I will speak to the king for you.' When Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, the king stood up to meet her, bowed down to her and sat down on his throne. He had a throne brought for the king's mother, and she sat down at his right hand. 'I have one small request to make of you,' she said. 'Do not refuse me.' The king replied, 'Make it, my mother; I will not refuse you.' So she said, 'Let *Abishag the Shunammite* be given in marriage to your brother Adonijah.' King Solomon answered his mother, 'Why do you request *Abishag the Shunammite* for Adonijah? You might as well request the kingdom for him--after all, he is my older brother--yes, for him and for Abiathar the priest and Joab son of Zeruiah!' Then King Solomon swore by the LORD: 'May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if Adonijah does not pay with his life for this request! And now, as surely as the LORD lives--he who has established me securely on the throne of my father David and has founded a dynasty for me as he promised--Adonijah shall be put to death today!' So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he struck down Adonijah and he died."

If Solomon based even part of his claim to be the son of the Davidic covenant on the identification of his name in the "Song of Solomon" he could have feared that Adonijah would claim that since the son of David in the Song of Solomon was married to a Shullamite woman and Adonijah was married to such a woman who had furthermore been the virgin bride of David, perhaps Adonijah was the son of David that was foretold, and not the one who had been named Solomon after the fact.

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The following is my introduction to the Song of Songs in my Song of Songs bible study. If you want a more detailed, verse by verse study of the book, I suggest you look that up. This paper is just to establish that the Book was not about or written by Solomon.

Introduction to Song of Songs

This is just the introduction of my complete study of what is more correctly known as the Song of Songs. It is perhaps more widely known as the Song of Solomon. To understand the Song of Songs it is important to establish two things. Firstly, it wasn't written by King Solomon. That is clearly established by the Song of Songs itself. Secondly, it wasn't written about King Solomon. As the rest of Scripture will demonstrate the "perfect lover" who is referred to as "Solomon" in the Song of Songs isn't the King Solomon, the second son of David by Bathsheba, who had 700 wives and 300 concubines. The whole Song or poem isn't a literal story. It is an allegory. The perfect lover named Solomon (the name "Solomon" means Peace) in the Song of Songs is a figure of the Messiah (Jesus Christ). The bride of the Solomon in the Song is a figure of the Messiah's (Christ's) Bride. At the time the Song was written "the Bride" was understood to mean regenerate Israel. In the time we live, we understand "the Bride" to include the Church which has been grafted into Israel as well. Sermons have been given on the principals of love and marriage using Song of Songs as a text without understanding that the Solomon in the Song is a figure of Christ. Those principals are still applicable, because the love of the Lord for Israel or His Church is the New Testament model for human marriage. The passages below illustrate the point. First, we have Paul:

Ephesians 5:22 "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."²⁰ This is a profound mystery ²¹

²⁰ Genesis 2:24 It is also worth noting that in this first instruction about marriage, polygamy is implicitly ruled out. In the Book of Job, the righteous man Job, though rich,

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—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

Jesus spoke of Himself as the Bridegroom:

Matthew 9:15 “Jesus answered, ‘How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.’” Also Mark 2:19:20, Luke 5:34.

John the Baptist spoke of Christ as the Bridegroom and believers as the Bride:

John 3:28-29 “You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.’ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.”

In Revelation the Body of Christ which is made up of all believers are described as His Bride:

Revelation 19:7 “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.”

Revelation 21:2 “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”²²

Revelation 21:9-10 “One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.”

Others also include Matthew 25:1-10, Psalms 45, Isaiah 49:18, and Isaiah 62:5.

has only one wife. The polygamy of Jacob, David and Solomon is no more justified than the adultery and fornication of David.

21 From the beginning, God designed marriage to be a pattern for us of God’s love. It is His plan for us.

22 This may indicate that the bulk of the body of Christ, the bride spends most of the Millennium in Heaven.

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The text of the Song gives no indication of who wrote the Song although a central character is named Solomon. I believe it was written before the birth of the historical King Solomon, perhaps by David or his friend Nathan the prophet. The perfect lover Solomon, who had the beautiful relationship with his bride, was obviously not the historical King Solomon. That Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. If you space that out over his forty-year reign, he had a new relationship every two weeks. In Psalms 72, the Holy Spirit inspired David to write a Psalm dedicated to "Solomon." I think it would be useful to study that now to understand the spirit in which the Song of Songs was written:

If you read Isaiah 62:1-63:1 copied below you will find very similar images and phrases that are in the Song of Solomon, but which are obviously related to Jesus Christ and Israel.

Isaiah 62:1-63:1 "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah ; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you. I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: "Never again will I give your grain as food for your enemies, and never again will foreigners drink the new wine for which you have toiled; but those who harvest it will eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather the grapes will drink it in the courts of my sanctuary." Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.' They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted. Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."

Did Solomon write Proverbs?

The Book of Proverbs consists of passages of wisdom and advice written as Hebrew poetry. Some of the passages are long while some are as short as two lines. It is a common misconception to assume that Solomon wrote the Book of Proverbs. That presents a problem to anyone who is familiar with the life of Solomon. Solomon was very smart when it came to worldly subjects. Today it might be said that he had a super-genius IQ. 1 Kings described the wisdom that he had:

1 Kings 4:29-34 “God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon’s wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite--wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.”

However, when it came to spiritual things, Solomon was an idiot. Two proofs of this come quickly to mind. First, he married a thousand women:

1 Kings 11:3 “He (*Solomon*) had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.”

This was in spite of the fact that Deuteronomy had expressly forbidden this to Kings of Israel:

Deuteronomy 17:17 “He (*the King*) shall not multiply wives 23 for himself, or else his heart will turn away.”

This also flew in the face of the many warnings in Proverbs about the dangers of lusting after women other than one’s single wife.

Second, but more importantly, Solomon turned his heart from the LORD to other gods and built places of worship for them:

23 Strictly interpreted this means “no more than one wife.”

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1 Kings 11:7-10 “On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods. The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD’s command.”

So, how can we take Proverbs seriously if we think it was written by Solomon? The fact is, **Solomon didn’t write the Book of Proverbs!** That leaves us with the question: Who did write the Book of Proverbs? The easily established fact is that different parts of Proverbs had different authors. We will later find that Proverbs 30 was written by a man called Agur. Proverbs 31, was written down by a man called Lemuel. However, it originated from his mother. We cannot be totally sure who were the original authors of the rest of Proverbs although we have clues for who wrote some of them.

According to Ecclesiastes 12:9 Solomon “pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs.” That seems to indicate that Solomon’s involvement in the Proverbs was limited to collecting and organizing them. We also know that many of the proverbs that Solomon collected were not included in the Book of Proverbs. Solomon was said to have “spoken” three thousand proverbs:

1 Kings 4:32 “He (Solomon) spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five.”

The Hebrew word here is דָּבַר {dā·var’} which means “to speak.” You will notice that this is not the Hebrew word כָּתַב {kā·thav’} which means “to write.” That is the word used to describe the writing down of scripture as in:

Exodus 17:14 “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘**Write** this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.’”

Joshua 24:26 “And Joshua **recorded** these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the LORD.”

Psalms 40:7 “Then I said, ‘Here I am, I have come— it is **written** about me in the scroll.’”

Isaiah 30:8 “Go now, write it on a tablet for them, **inscribe** it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness.

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Jeremiah 30:2 ““This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘**Write** in a book all the words I have spoken to you.’”

So what did it mean when it said in 1 Kings that Solomon “spoke” three thousand “proverbs” and a thousand and five songs. I believe that it means he could recite those writings from memory. It seems to indicate that Solomon had what is called an eidetic memory, which is defined as the ability to recall images, sounds, or objects in memory after only a few instances of exposure, with high precision for some time after exposure. This would help to account for his high IQ.

These “proverbs” would not be limited to the David’s instructions in the Book of Proverbs. Even if you reduce the definition of a proverb to one sentence, there are only about 800 sentences in Proverbs, not three thousand.

There is also a definite statement in Proverbs that most of the first seven chapters were originally written down by Solomon’s father David and addressed to “my son.” David also wrote that much of what he had written had been taught to him by his father Jesse.²⁴ There is further testimony that the first seven chapters were written by David. It is Proverbs 4:3:

Proverbs 4:3 “When I (*the author of the first seven Chapters*) was a boy in my father’s house, still tender, and an only child of my mother.

This is definite evidence that the voice here is not Solomon. We know that Solomon had the three other brothers by his mother Bathsheba just mentioned:

1 Chronicles 3:4b-5 “David reigned in Jerusalem thirty-three years, and these were the children born to him there: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon. These four were by Bathsheba daughter of Ammiel.” ²⁵

The description of the author as being “the only son of his mother” does not rule out David as being the author. We do know that David had seven much older brothers (1 Samuel 16:10-11). We do know that David was by far the youngest and that Jesse was very old.

1 Chronicles 2:13-16 “Jesse was the father of Eliab his firstborn; the second son was Abinadab, the third Shimea, the fourth Nethanel, the fifth Raddai, the sixth Ozem and the seventh David. Their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. Zeruiah’s three sons were Abishai, Joab and Asahel.”

²⁴ Jesse’s name occurs 47 times in scripture, usually coupled with David’s.

²⁵ This list did not include Bathsheba’s unnamed son by David’s rape that died.

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Abishai, Joab and Asahel, the sons of David's much older sister were all old enough to have served as three of David's mighty men before David became King at thirty.

Also we know that by life spans given in scripture that birth of David culminated eight generations in the line of Christ that stretched from Hezron to David in 836 years.

These circumstances seem to suggest that David's mother was the young wife of a much older Jesse. At the time of David's birth Jesse was near ninety at least.²⁶ David thus could have been the only child of his mother, though not the only child of Jesse.

Further confirming the fact that Proverbs was a collection of sayings by different men is the fact that the collections of proverbs in Proverbs 25 through 29 were not added to the canon until almost 250 years after the time of Solomon. At that time, they were added under the auspices of Hezekiah:

Proverbs 25:1 "These are more proverbs of Solomon, copied by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah:

Even if one agreed that Solomon might have written some of the Proverbs, it cannot be denied that he came to ignore nearly all the spiritual advice given in Proverbs. He became foolish, greedy, spiteful, and cruel and an enemy of God. The ultimate lesson of this is that Godly wisdom must be written on your heart by the Holy Spirit, not just in your mind by your human rationality.

Other Verses Related to Solomon and His Temple

1 Kings 7:16 "I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

1 Chronicles 21:17-28 "David said to God, 'Was it not I who ordered the fighting men to be counted? I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? O LORD my God, let your hand fall upon me and my family, but do not let this plague remain on your people.' Then the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David to

26 Jesse was the last of eight miracle generations that extended back over eight hundred years to the entrance of Israel into Egypt in the time of Jacob. See my paper on the Genealogies of Christ – pages 7-10

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go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. So David went up in obedience to the word that Gad had spoken in the name of the LORD. While Araunah was threshing wheat, he turned and saw the angel; his four sons who were with him hid themselves. Then David approached, and when Araunah looked and saw him, he left the threshing floor and bowed down before David with his face to the ground. David said to him, 'Let me have the site of your threshing floor so I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped. Sell it to me at the full price.' Araunah said to David, 'Take it! Let my lord the king do whatever pleases him. Look, I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give all this.' But King David replied to Araunah, 'No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing.' So David paid Araunah six hundred shekels of gold for the site. David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the LORD, and the LORD answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering. Then the LORD spoke to the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath. At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, he offered sacrifices there. The tabernacle of the Lord which Moses had made in the desert, and the altar of burnt offering were at that time on the high place in Gibeon. But David could not go before it to inquire of God because he was afraid of the sword of the Lord. Then David said, 'The house of the Lord God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel.'"

2 Chronicles 5:1-6:10 "When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the LORD was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated--the silver and gold and all the furnishings--and he placed them in the treasuries of God's temple. Then Solomon summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the LORD's covenant from Zion, the City of David. And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month. When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark, and they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up; and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted. The priests then brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its carrying poles. These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the ark, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt. The priests then

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withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions. All the Levites who were musicians--Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives--stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets. The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: 'He is good; his love endures forever.' Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God. Then Solomon said, 'The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; I have built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever.' While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them. Then he said: 'Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hands has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to my father David. For he said, 'Since the day I brought my people out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built for my Name to be there, nor have I chosen anyone to be the leader over my people Israel. But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.' "My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel. But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart. Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, who is your own flesh and blood--he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.' 'The LORD has kept the promise he made. I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.'"

2 Chronicles 7:1 "When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple."

2 Chronicles 7:11-22 "When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, the LORD appeared to him at night and said: 'I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be

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there. As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.' But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. And though this temple is now so imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them--that is why he brought all this disaster on them.'"

1 Kings 9:1-9 "When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. The LORD said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. "As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshipping and serving them--that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.'"

Psalms 118:22-23 "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Psalms 132:1-12 "O LORD, remember David and all the hardships he endured. He swore an oath to the LORD and made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob: "I will not enter my house or go to my bed-- I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids, till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob." We heard it in Ephrathah, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar: "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool-- arise, O LORD, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy." For the sake

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of David your servant, do not reject your anointed one. The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath that he will not revoke: "One of your own descendants I will place on your throne-- if your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever." For the LORD has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling: "This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it-- I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food. I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints will ever sing for joy. "Here I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one. I will clothe his enemies with shame, but the crown on his head will be resplendent."

Isaiah 11:1-5 "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist."

Acts 7:44-51 "Our forefathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. Having received the tabernacle, our fathers under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built the house for him. "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: "'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?' "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!"