

### Solomon Reigns as King of Israel (c. 969t BC)

1 Kings 2:12	1 Chronicles 29:23–25	2 Chronicles 1:1
12 Then Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.	23 Then Solomon sat upon the throne of Yahweh as king in place of David his father. And he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him. 24 And all the officials and mighty warriors, and also all the sons of King David, pledged allegiance to King Solomon. 25 And Yahweh made Solomon exceedingly great in the sight of all Israel, and he bestowed upon him royal splendor that was not <i>bestowed</i> upon any king before him in Israel.	1:1 And Solomon the son of David strengthened himself concerning his kingdom,  and Yahweh his God <i>was</i> with him and made him exceedingly great.

### Solomon Secures His Throne (c. 969t/968t BC)

1 Kings 2:13–38

#### Adonijah's Last Attempt to Gain the Throne

13 Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, and she said, "Are you coming in peace?" He said, "Peace."  
14 Then he said, "May I have a word with you?" Then she said, "Go on."  
15 He said, "You know that the kingship was mine and that all Israel had set their face toward me as king, but the kingship turned around and became my brother's, for it was from Yahweh for him *to have it*.  
16 Now one request I am asking from you, and you must not refuse me." Then she said to him, "Go on."  
17 He said, "Please speak to King Solomon, for he will not refuse you, so that he will give to me Abishag the Shunnamite as wife."  
18 Then Bathsheba said, "Very well, I will speak to the king concerning you."  
19 Bathsheba came to King Solomon to speak to him concerning Adonijah, and the king got up to meet her, bowed down to her, and then sat on his throne. Then he set up a throne for the king's mother, and she sat on his right.  
20 She said, "I have one small request I am asking from you. Do not refuse me." The king said to her, "Ask, my mother, for I will not refuse you."  
21 Then she said, "Let Abishag the Shunnamite be given to Adonijah your brother as wife."  
22 King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "Why are you asking Abishag the Shunnamite for Adonijah? Ask for him also the kingdom, for he is my brother, older than I; and *ask* for him also Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah." [[2 Sam 16:21–22](#)]  
23 Then King Solomon swore by Yahweh, saying, "Thus may God do to me and thus may he add, if Adonijah hasn't spoken this thing at the expense of his life.  
24 So then, as Yahweh lives, who has established me and seated me on the throne of my father David and who has established for me a dynasty as he promised, then surely Adonijah will be put to death today."  
25 King Solomon sent through the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, so he struck him, and he died.

#### Abiathar is Banished

26 To Abiathar the priest, the king said, "Go to Anathoth, to your field, for you deserve to die, but on this day I will not kill you, for you carried the ark of the Lord Yahweh before David my father, and because you endured hardship in all the hardship that my father endured."  
27 So Solomon banished Abiathar from being priest to Yahweh, thus fulfilling the word which Yahweh had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh. [[1 Sam 2:27–36](#)]

#### Joab is Executed

28 When the message came to Joab (now Joab had supported Adonijah but had not supported Absalom), he fled to the tent of Yahweh and grasped the horns of the altar. [[Exod 21:12–14](#)]  
29 It was told to King Solomon that Joab had fled to the tent of Yahweh and was beside the altar. So Solomon sent *word* to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go and fall upon him."  
30 So Benaiah went to the tent of Yahweh, and he said to him, "Thus says the king: 'Come out.'" And he said, "No, for I want to die here." So Benaiah returned a word to the king, saying, "Thus Joab spoke, and thus he answered me."  
31 Then the king said to him, "Do as he spoke; fall upon him and bury him, and so you shall remove the innocent blood that Joab

shed from on me and from on the house of my father.

32 Yahweh will return his blood on his head, because he fell upon two men, more righteous and better than he, and he killed them with the sword, even though my father did not know it; *namely* Abner son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah. [[2 Sam 3:27; 20:10](#)]

33 And their blood will return on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever, but for David and his descendants and for his house and his throne, *there* will be peace forever from Yahweh.” [[2 Sam 21:1–14](#)]

34 So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up, and he fell on him and killed him, and he was buried in his house in the wilderness.

35 Then the king appointed Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his place over the army, and the king appointed Zadok the priest in place of Abiathar.

#### Shimei is Confined to Jerusalem

36 Then the king sent and summoned Shimei, and he said to him, “Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there, but you must not go out anywhere whatsoever from there.

37 It shall happen that on the day you go out and cross over the Wadi Kidron, know for certain that you will surely die. Your blood will be on your head.”

38 Shimei said to the king, “The word is good that my lord the king has spoken to me; thus will your servant do.” So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.

### Solomon’s Political Alliance With Egypt (c. 969t/968t BC)

1 Kings 3:1; 9:16

3:1 Solomon intermarried with Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and he took the daughter of Pharaoh and brought her to the city of David until he finished building his house, the house of Yahweh, and the walls of Jerusalem all around.

9:16 Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had gone up and captured Gezer and burnt it with fire. He had also killed the Canaanites who were living in the city and had given it as a dowry to his daughter, the wife of Solomon.

### Solomon’s Prayer for Wisdom (c. 969t/968t BC)

1 Kings 3:2–15

2 Chronicles 1:2–13

2 But the people *were* sacrificing on the high places, for the house for the name of Yahweh had not yet been built in those days.

3 Solomon loved Yahweh, by walking in the statutes of David his father; only he *was* sacrificing and offering incense on the high places.

4 So the king

went to Gibeon to sacrifice,  
for the great high place  
*was* there.

Solomon

used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

5 Yahweh appeared to Solomon at Gibeon in a dream at night, and God said, “Ask what I should give to you.”

6 Then Solomon said, “You have shown great loyal love with your servant David my father, as he walked before you in faithfulness and in righteousness and in uprightness of heart with you.

2 And Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to all the leaders for all Israel, the heads of the families.

3 And Solomon  
and the whole assembly with him

went to the high place that *was* at Gibeon,  
for the tent of assembly of God that Moses the servant of  
Yahweh had made in the desert was there.

4 (But the ark of God David had brought up from Kiriath-Jearim  
to *the place* David had prepared for it, for David had pitched a  
tent for it in Jerusalem.)

5 And the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur,  
had made *was* there before the tabernacle of Yahweh. And  
Solomon and the assembly sought it out.

6 And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before  
Yahweh, which *was* at the tent of assembly,  
and he offered upon it a thousand burnt offerings.

7 On that night God appeared to Solomon  
and said to him, “Ask what I shall give to you.”

8 Then Solomon said to God, “You yourself have shown steadfast  
loyal love to David my father

<p>You have shown for him this great loyal love, and you have given a son to him who is sitting on his throne as <i>it is</i> this day. 7 So then, O Yahweh, you are my God.</p> <p>You have made your servant king in place of David my father <i>though I am</i> a young boy. I do not know going out or coming in. 8 Your servant <i>is</i> in the middle of your people whom you have chosen; a great people who cannot be counted or numbered because of abundance. 9 Give to your servant a listening heart to judge your people, to discern between good and bad, because who is able to judge this, your difficult people?" 10 The word was good in the eyes of <i>the</i> Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 And God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and you did not ask for yourself a long life and you did not ask riches for yourself and you did not ask for the life of your enemies, but you have asked for yourself the ability to make wise judgments; 12 behold, I do hereby do according to your word. I hereby give you a wise and discerning heart; there was no one like you before you, nor afterwards will one like you arise. 13 Too, what you have not asked I give to you: both riches and honor, so <i>that</i> no man among the kings will be like you all of your days.</p> <p>14 If you will walk in my ways by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David your father walked, then I will lengthen your days." 15 Then Solomon awoke, and look, <i>it was</i> a dream,</p> <p>and he came <i>to</i> Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of <i>the</i> Lord, and he offered burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings, and he held a feast for all of his servants.</p>	<p>and have made me king in his place.</p> <p>9 Now, O Yahweh God, let your word to David my father be fulfilled, for you yourself have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth.</p> <p>10 Now, give to me wisdom and knowledge that I may go out and come in before this people, for who can judge this, your great people?"</p> <p>11 Then God said to Solomon, "Because this was with your heart and you did not ask for wealth, possessions, honor, and the lives of your enemies, and also did not ask for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge that you might judge my people over whom I have made you king, 12 wisdom and knowledge is given to you.</p> <p>And I will <i>also</i> give to you wealth, possessions, and honor, the like of which was not had by the kings who <i>were</i> before you, nor will there be the like after you."</p> <p>13 So Solomon went from the high place which <i>was</i> at Gibeon <i>to</i> Jerusalem before the tent of assembly.</p> <p>And he reigned over Israel.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### The First Demonstration of Solomon's Wisdom (c. 968t BC)

1 Kings 3:16–28

16 Then two prostitutes came to the king, and they stood before him.  
17 The one woman said, "Please my lord, I and this woman are living in one house, and I gave birth, with her in the house.  
18 It happened on the third day *after* my giving birth, this woman also gave birth, and we *were* together. There was not anyone with us in the house, only the two of us *were* in the house.  
19 Then the son of this woman died *in the* night because she laid on him.  
20 So she got up in the middle of the night, and she took my son from beside me while your servant was asleep, and she put him in her lap, and she put her dead son in my lap.  
21 When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead! When I looked closely at him in the morning, behold, it was not my son whom I had borne."  
22 Then the other woman said, "No, for my son *is* the living one, and your son *is* the dead one." The other kept on saying, "No, for your son *is* the dead one, and my son *is* the living one," and so they argued in front of the king.  
23 Then the king said, "This one *is* saying, 'This *is* my son, the living one, but your son *is* the dead one,' and the other one keeps saying, 'But no! Your son *is* the dead one, and my son *is* living!'"  
24 So the king said, "Bring me a sword," and they brought the sword before the king.  
25 Then the king said, "Divide the living child into two, and give half to the one and half to the other."  
26 Then the woman whose son *was* the living one spoke to the king because her compassion was aroused for her son, and she said,

“Please, my lord, give her the living child, but certainly do not kill him!” The other one *was* saying, “As for me, so for you! Divide *him!*”

27 Then the king answered and said, “Give the living child to her, and do not kill him; she *is* his mother.”

28 When all of Israel heard the judgment that the king had rendered, they stood in awe of the king, because they realized that the wisdom of God was in him to execute justice.

## Solomon’s Government (c. 968t BC)

1 Kings 4:1–19

### The King’s Court

1 King Solomon was king over all Israel.

2 Now these are the officials who were his: Azariah the son of Zadok *was* the priest.

3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, *were* the secretaries; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* the recorder.

4 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the army, and Zadok and Abiathar *were* priests.

5 Azariah the son of Nathan *was* over the governors, and Zabud the son of Nathan *was* a priest, an advisor to the king.

6 Ahishar *was* over the palace, and Adoniram the son of Abda *was* over the forced labor.

### The King’s Governors

7 Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel, and they sustained the king and his palace, each one was to sustain for each month of the year.

8 These *are* their names: Ben-Hur *was* in the hill country of Ephraim.

9 Ben-Deker *was* in Makaz and in Shaalbim and in Beth-Shemesh and Elon of Beth-Hanan.

10 Ben-Hesed *was* in the Arubbot; Socoh and all the land of Hepher *were* his.

11 Ben-Abinadab *was* in all of Naphat of Dor; Taphath the daughter of Solomon *was* his wife.

12 Baanah the son of Ahilud *was* in Taanach and Megiddo and all Beth-Shean which *is* beside Zarethan below Jezreel, of Beth-Shean up to Abel-Meholah up to the other side of Jokmeam.

13 Ben-Geber *was* in Ramoth-Gilead; the villages of Jair, the son of Manasseh which are in the Gilead *were* his, and the region of Argob which *is* in the Bashan, sixty great cities, with walls *having* crossbars of bronze, *were* his.

14 Ahinadab the son of Iddo *was* in Mahanaim.

15 Ahimaaz *was* in Naphtali; he moreover also had taken Basemath the daughter of Solomon as wife.

16 Baanah the son of Hushai *was* in Asher and Bealoth.

17 Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah *was* in Issachar.

18 Shimei the son of Ela *was* in Benjamin.

19 Geber the son of Uri *was* in the land of Gilead, the land of Sihon, the king of the Amorites, and of Og, the king of Bashan; one governor which *was* over the land.

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible \(LEB\)](#). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).

### Chronological Notes

- 1) The demise of Shimei fits nicely within the narrative framework of 1 Kings 2 and its theme of the consolidation of Solomon’s power. However, strictly speaking, his death did not occur until “three years later” (1 Kgs 2:39)—after the foundation of the Temple had been laid (1 Kgs 6:1; Ziv 967t BC). Therefore his fatal mistake will be presented later in the readings.
- 2) Abiathar was deposed and banished very early in Solomon’s reign (within the first four years). His inclusion as priest in 1 Kings 4:4b is likely due to respect for the significant role he played during the United Kingdom era—thus the list should not be considered as having been made prior to his banishment.