

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

1 Kings 2:12	1 Chronicles 29:23–25	2 Chronicles 1:1
<p>12 Solomon sat on his father David’s throne, and his royal authority was firmly solidified.</p>	<p>23 Solomon sat on the LORD’s throne as king in place of his father David; he was successful and all Israel was loyal to him.            24 All the officers and warriors, as well as all of King David’s sons, pledged their allegiance to King Solomon.            25 The LORD greatly magnified Solomon before all Israel and bestowed on him greater majesty than any king of Israel before him.</p>	<p>1 Solomon son of David solidified his royal authority, for the LORD his God was with him and magnified him greatly.</p>

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

1 Kings 2:13–38

#### **Adonijah’s Last Attempt to Gain the Throne**

13 Haggith’s son Adonijah visited Bathsheba, Solomon’s mother. She asked, “Do you come in peace?” He answered, “Yes.”  
 14 He added, “I have something to say to you.” She replied, “Speak.”  
 15 He said, “You know that the kingdom was mine and all Israel considered me king. But then the kingdom was given to my brother, for the LORD decided it should be his.  
 16 Now I’d like to ask you for just one thing. Please don’t refuse me.” She said, “Go ahead and ask.”  
 17 He said, “Please ask King Solomon if he would give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife, for he won’t refuse you.”  
 18 Bathsheba replied, “That’s fine, I’ll speak to the king on your behalf.”  
 19 So Bathsheba visited King Solomon to speak to him on Adonijah’s behalf. The king got up to greet her, bowed to her, and then sat on his throne. He ordered a throne to be brought for the king’s mother, and she sat at his right hand.  
 20 She said, “I would like to ask you for just one small favor. Please don’t refuse me.” He said, “Go ahead and ask, my mother, for I would not refuse you.”  
 21 She said, “Allow Abishag the Shunammite to be given to your brother Adonijah as a wife.”  
 22 King Solomon answered his mother, “Why just request Abishag the Shunammite for him? Since he is my older brother, you should also request the kingdom for him, for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab son of Zeruiah!” [\[2 Sam 16:21–22\]](#)  
 23 King Solomon then swore an oath by the LORD, “May God judge me severely, if Adonijah does not pay for this request with his life!  
 24 Now, as certainly as the LORD lives (he who made me secure, allowed me to sit on my father David’s throne, and established a dynasty for me as he promised), Adonijah will be executed today!”  
 25 King Solomon then sent Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he killed Adonijah.

#### **Abiathar is Banished**

26 The king then told Abiathar the priest, “Go back to your property in Anathoth. You deserve to die, but today I will not kill you because you did carry the ark of the sovereign LORD before my father David and you suffered with my father through all his difficult times.”  
 27 Solomon dismissed Abiathar from his position as priest of the LORD, fulfilling the decree of judgment the LORD made in Shiloh against the family of Eli. [\[1 Sam 2:27–36\]](#)

#### **Joab is Executed**

28 When the news reached Joab (for Joab had supported Adonijah, although he had not supported Absalom), he ran to the tent of the LORD and grabbed hold of the horns of the altar. [\[Exod 21:12–14\]](#)  
 29 When King Solomon heard that Joab had run to the tent of the LORD and was right there beside the altar, he ordered Benaiah son of Jehoiada, “Go, strike him down.”  
 30 When Benaiah arrived at the tent of the LORD, he said to him, “The king says, ‘Come out!’” But he replied, “No, I will die here!” So Benaiah sent word to the king and reported Joab’s reply.  
 31 The king told him, “Do as he said! Strike him down and bury him. Take away from me and from my father’s family the guilt of Joab’s murderous, bloody deeds.  
 32 May the LORD punish him for the blood he shed; behind my father David’s back he struck down and murdered with the sword two men who were more innocent and morally upright than he—Abner son of Ner, commander of Israel’s army, and Amasa son of

Jether, commander of Judah's army. [2 Sam 3:27; 20:10]

33 May Joab and his descendants be perpetually guilty of their shed blood, but may the LORD give perpetual peace to David, his descendants, his family, and his dynasty." [2 Sam 21:1–14]

34 So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up and executed Joab; he was buried at his home in the wilderness.

35 The king appointed Benaiah son of Jehoiada to take his place at the head of the army, and the king appointed Zadok the priest to take Abiathar's place.

#### Shimei is Confined to Jerusalem

36 Next the king summoned Shimei and told him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there—but you may not leave there to go anywhere!

37 If you ever do leave and cross the Kidron Valley, know for sure that you will certainly die! You will be responsible for your own death."

38 Shimei said to the king, "My master the king's proposal is acceptable. Your servant will do as you say." So Shimei lived in Jerusalem for a long time.

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

1 Kings 3:1; 9:16

3:1 Solomon made an alliance by marriage with Pharaoh, king of Egypt; he married Pharaoh's daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he could finish building his residence and the temple of the LORD and the wall around Jerusalem.

9:16 (Pharaoh, king of Egypt, had attacked and captured Gezer. He burned it and killed the Canaanites who lived in the city. He gave it as a wedding present to his daughter, who had married Solomon.)

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

1 Kings 3:2–15

2 Chronicles 1:2–13

2 Now the people were offering sacrifices at the high places, because in those days a temple had not yet been built to honor the LORD.

3 Solomon demonstrated his loyalty to the LORD by following the practices of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

4 The king

went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for it had the most prominent of the high places.

Solomon

would offer up a thousand burnt sacrifices on the altar there.

5 One night in Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream.

God said, "Tell me what I should give you."

6 Solomon replied, "You demonstrated great loyalty to your servant, my father David, as he served you faithfully, properly, and sincerely. You have maintained this great loyalty to this day by allowing his son to sit on his throne.

7 Now, O LORD my God,

2 Solomon addressed all Israel, including those who commanded units of a thousand and a hundred, the judges, and all the leaders of all Israel who were heads of families.

3 Solomon

and the entire assembly

went to the worship center in Gibeon, for the tent where they met God was located there, which Moses the LORD's servant had made in the wilderness.

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

5 But the bronze altar made by Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, was in front of the LORD's tabernacle. Solomon and the entire assembly prayed to him there.)

6 Solomon went up to the bronze altar before the LORD which was at the meeting tent,

and he offered up a thousand burnt sacrifices.

7 That night God appeared to Solomon

and said to him, "Tell me what I should give you."

8 Solomon replied to God, "You demonstrated great loyalty to my father David

and have made me king in his place.

9 Now, LORD God,

may your promise to my father David be realized,

<p>you have made your servant king in my father David's place, even though I am only a young man and am inexperienced.</p> <p>8 Your servant stands among your chosen people; they are a great nation that is too numerous to count or number.</p> <p>9 So give your servant a discerning mind so he can make judicial decisions for your people and distinguish right from wrong. Otherwise no one is able to make judicial decisions for this great nation of yours."</p> <p>10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon made this request.</p> <p>11 God said to him, "Because you asked for the ability to make wise judicial decisions, and not for long life, or riches, or vengeance on your enemies,</p> <p>12 I grant your request, and give you a wise and discerning mind superior to that of anyone who has preceded or will succeed you.</p> <p>13 Furthermore, I am giving you what you did not request—riches and honor so that you will be the greatest king of your generation.</p> <p>14 If you follow my instructions by obeying my rules and regulations, just as your father David did, then I will grant you long life."</p> <p>15 Solomon then woke up and realized it was a dream.</p> <p>He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant, offered up burnt sacrifices, presented peace offerings, and held a feast for all his servants.</p>	<p>for you have made me king</p> <p>over a great nation as numerous as the dust of the earth.</p> <p>10 Now give me wisdom and discernment so I can effectively lead this nation.</p> <p>Otherwise no one is able to make judicial decisions for this great nation of yours."</p> <p>11 God said to Solomon, "Because you desire this, and did not ask for riches, wealth, and honor, or for vengeance on your enemies, and because you did not ask for long life, but requested wisdom and discernment so you can make judicial decisions for my people over whom I have made you king, 12 you are granted wisdom and discernment.</p> <p>Furthermore I am giving you riches, wealth, and honor surpassing that of any king before or after you."</p> <p>13 Solomon left the meeting tent at the worship center in Gibeon and went to Jerusalem,</p> <p>where he reigned over Israel.</p>
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### The First Demonstration of Solomon's Wisdom (c. 968t BC)

1 Kings 3:16–28

16 Then two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.

17 One of the women said, "My master, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was with me in the house.

18 Then three days after I had my baby, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one else in the house except the two of us.

19 This woman's child suffocated during the night when she rolled on top of him.

20 She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your servant was sleeping. She put him in her arms, and put her dead son in my arms.

21 I got up in the morning to nurse my son, and there he was, dead! But when I examined him carefully in the morning, I realized it was not my baby."

22 The other woman said, "No! My son is alive; your son is dead!" But the first woman replied, "No, your son is dead; my son is alive." Each presented her case before the king.

23 The king said, "One says, 'My son is alive; your son is dead,' while the other says, 'No, your son is dead; my son is alive.'"

24 The king ordered, "Get me a sword!" So they placed a sword before the king.

25 The king then said, "Cut the living child in two, and give half to one and half to the other!"

26 The real mother spoke up to the king, for her motherly instincts were aroused. She said, "My master, give her the living child! Whatever you do, don't kill him!" But the other woman said, "Neither one of us will have him! Let them cut him in two!"

27 The king responded, "Give the first woman the living child; don't kill him. She is the mother."

28 When all Israel heard about the judicial decision which the king had rendered, they respected the king, for they realized that he possessed supernatural wisdom to make judicial decisions.

## Solomon's Government (c. 968t BC)

1 Kings 4:1–19

### The King's Court

- 1 King Solomon ruled over all Israel.
- 2 These were his officials: Azariah son of Zadok was the priest.
- 3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, wrote down what happened. Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was in charge of the records.
- 4 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was commander of the army. Zadok and Abiathar were priests.
- 5 Azariah son of Nathan was supervisor of the district governors. Zabud son of Nathan was a priest and adviser to the king.
- 6 Ahishar was supervisor of the palace. Adoniram son of Abda was supervisor of the work crews.

### The King's Governors

- 7 Solomon had twelve district governors appointed throughout Israel who acquired supplies for the king and his palace. Each was responsible for one month in the year.
- 8 These were their names: Ben-Hur was in charge of the hill country of Ephraim.
- 9 Ben-Deker was in charge of Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh, and Elon Beth Hanan.
- 10 Ben-Hesed was in charge of Arubboth; he controlled Socoh and all the territory of Hopher.
- 11 Ben-Abinadab was in charge of Naphath Dor. (He was married to Solomon's daughter Taphath.)
- 12 Baana son of Ahilud was in charge of Taanach and Megiddo, as well as all of Beth Shan next to Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth Shan to Abel Meholah and on past Jokmeam.
- 13 Ben-Geber was in charge of Ramoth Gilead; he controlled the tent villages of Jair son of Manasseh in Gilead, as well as the region of Argob in Bashan, including sixty large walled cities with bronze bars locking their gates.
- 14 Ahinadab son of Iddo was in charge of Mahanaim.
- 15 Ahimaaz was in charge of Naphtali. (He married Solomon's daughter Basemath.)
- 16 Baana son of Hushai was in charge of Asher and Aloth.
- 17 Jehoshaphat son of Paruah was in charge of Issachar.
- 18 Shimei son of Ela was in charge of Benjamin.
- 19 Geber son of Uri was in charge of the land of Gilead (the territory which had once belonged to King Sihon of the Amorites and to King Og of Bashan). He was sole governor of the area.

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### 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.