

# **HISTORICAL BOOKS & MONARCHY IN ISRAEL**

**I KINGS (Ch.1-11)**

# **Characterization of SOLOMON**

**(I KINGS 1-11)**

**970 –930 B.C.**

# KING SOLOMON



## The Characterization of Solomon (I Kg Ch. 1-11) – (970 – 930 B.C.)

***Genealogy:*** Solomon was David's eighth son. Six sons were born to different mothers at Hebron. When David settled at Jerusalem his adultery with Bathsheba resulted in the woman giving birth to two sons. The firstborn died within week of his birth and Solomon was born next. Solomon was David's son by his favourite wife.

***Name:*** Solomon was given two names at birth. His parents called him **Solomon** meaning "peace". **Jedidiah** was the name given by the prophet Nathan, meaning "loved by JHWH". Probably **Solomon** was the throne name and **Jedidiah** was the personal name.

## **The Characterization of Solomon (I Kg Ch. 1-11) – (970 – 930 B.C.)**

### ***The Bloody Solomon (I Kg Ch.1-2):***

**❑ The first two chapters of I Kings contain the rivalry between Adonijah and Solomon. It is the story about how Solomon consolidated his position to succeed David.**

**❑ Joab, the Commander in–Chief and Abathar, the Priest vs. Bathsheba - the queen mother, Nathan – the Prophet, Zadok – Priest and Benaiah.**

**❑ The men who supported David through out his carrier were around Adonijah vs. the men who joined with David after he became king in Jerusalem were around Solomon.**

## **The Characterization of Solomon (I Kg Ch. 1-11) – (970 – 930 B.C.)**

### **1) Solomon removed all the supporters of David.**

- ❑ Adonijah killed for asking Abishag, the Shunamnite Girl, to be his Wife (2:24-25)**
- ❑ Joab was executed (2:28-34)**
- ❑ Abiathar – exiled (2:26-27)**
- ❑ Shimei, the Descendent of Saul, was killed (2:36-46).**

## **The Characterization of Solomon (I Kg Ch. 1-11) – (970 – 930 B.C.)**

### **2) Solomon had his own supporters:**

- ❑ Prophet Nathan was an able supporter to Solomon (I Kg 1:11-14).**
- ❑ Solomon was anointed at Gihon as king by Zadok & Nathan (I Kg 1:38-39). Solomon ruled the land of Israel from 970 to 930 B.C.**
- ❑ Zadok took the Priestly line – I Kg 2:26-27,35**
- ❑ Benaiah son of Jehoiada was made Commander of the army for Solomon (I Kg 2:36)**

## The Characterization of Solomon (I Kg Ch. 1-11) – (970 – 930 B.C.)

### Solomon pictured as an Ideal King (I Kg Ch. 3-10):

- ❑ Solomon was **decisive**.
- ❑ **Cemented the relations with neighbouring kings**. He made peace with Egypt by taking a daughter of the Pharaoh to be his wife.
- ❑ **Modernized his administration like with that of Egypt – Naming Prime minister - Redrawing the political boundaries**
- ❑ **Wisdom of Solomon was legendary**. God appeared in his dream at Gibeon and gave him an understand heart, to govern his people, to discern between good & Evil. God also gave riches & honour. He gave good Judgment in a case of 2 women claiming a son.



## The Characterization of Solomon (I Kg Ch. 1-11) – (970 – 930 B.C.)

### Solomon as a wicked King (I Kg Ch. 1-2, 11):

- ❑ He removed all those dangerous rivals from his father's time - Adonijah, Joab and Shimei and expelled Priest Abiathar to Shiloh.
- ❑ He was a tyrant king who had thousands of wives (700) and concubines (300). Thus he has outdone the pagan kings.
- ❑ He violated the Law of Moses by advocating intermarriages with foreigners. His heart went to different gods rejecting JHWH.
- ❑ He built Temples for all gods of his wives.
  - Chemosh – god of Moab
  - Moloch – god of Ammon; goddesses Astarte & Milom
- ❑ Taxation from people to feed & support the large bureaucracy.
- ❑ Forced labour gangs used to build his great projects (I Kg 5:3-18).

## **The Characterization of Solomon (I Kg Ch. 1-11) – (970 – 930 B.C.)**

### **Solomon as a wicked King (I Kg Ch. 1-2, 11):**

**❑ Instead of twelve tribes the whole kingdom was divided into twelve provinces, which tore the twelve tribes apart. The rights & privileges of the head of tribes were transferred to the governors who were appointed in the place of the king in the twelve provinces.**

**❑ Encouraged the worshiping practices of Canaanites & other foreigners over Israel's traditions.**

**❑ Rebellion of Jeroboam Son of Nebat, Ephraimite against Solomon. Jeroboam and Ahijah jointly challenged Solomon for his evil deeds.**

## **The Characterization of Solomon (I Kg Ch. 1-11) – (970 – 930 B.C.)**

### **Solomon as a wicked King (I Kg Ch. 1-2, 11):**

**□ Ahijah tore his garment and showed in a symbolic way that the twelve tribes would be made into pieces and ten tribes would be given to Jeroboam.**

**□ The bitterness created by Solomon was so bad that immediately after his death the Edomites rebelled and broke free. Syrians won freedom under the new king. Israelites fed up with forced the labour and a major revolt broke out under the former head of labour gangs, Jeroboam. Ahijah, a prophet of the old tribal tradition himself instigated the revolt from Shiloh.**

## *Temple & Solomon (Ch 6-8):*

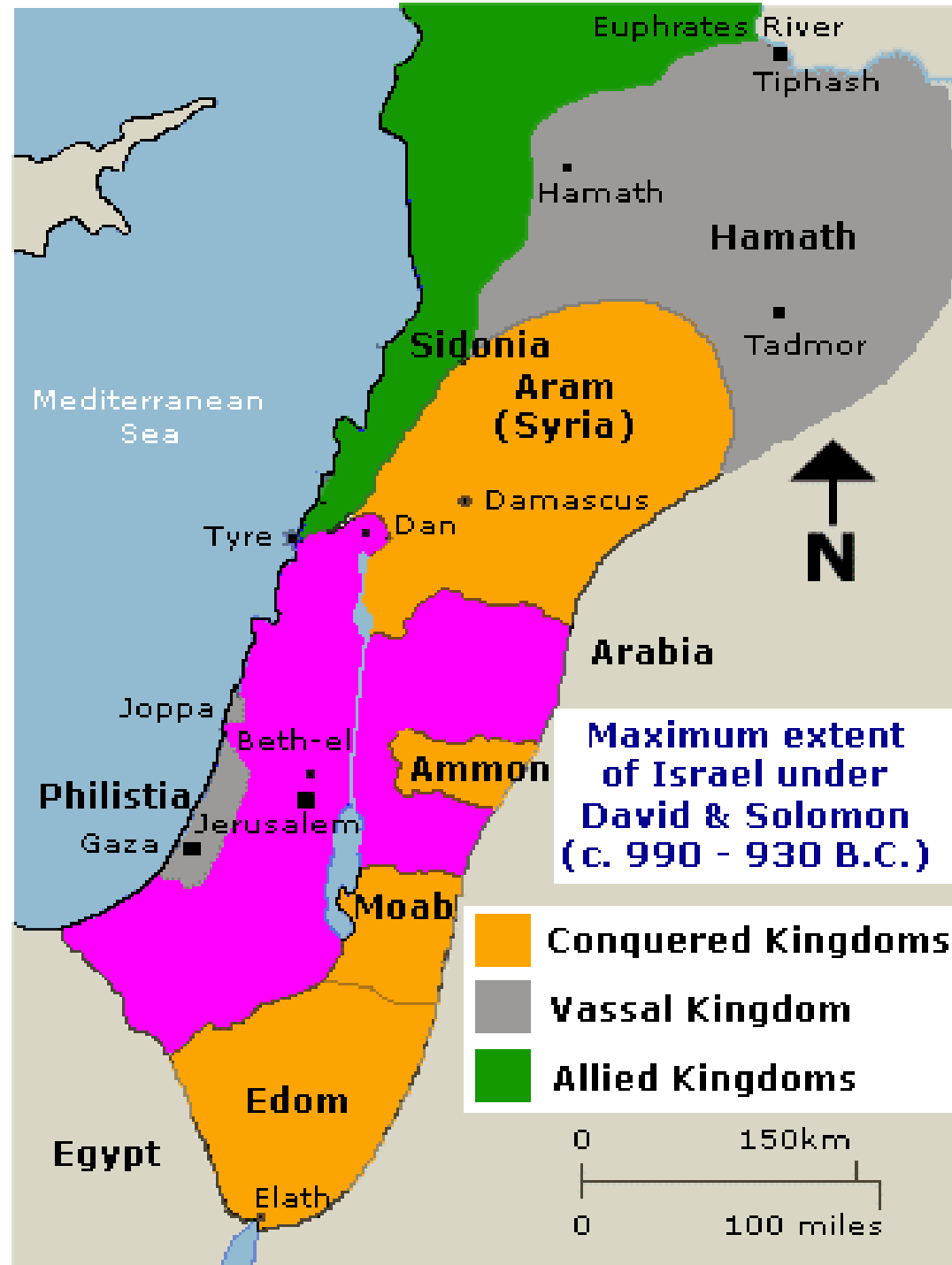
**Solomon's greatest achievement was his constructing the Temple in Jerusalem on the north of the hill of Zion at its top most part called Moriah. Even though the proposal to build a Temple in Jerusalem came from David, Solomon after 4 years of his reign started building the Temple in Jerusalem, i.e., 966 B.C. (1466 - 966 = 400 years after Exodus). It took 7 years for the Temple to be completed, i.e., 959 B.C. – 11<sup>th</sup> Year of the reign of Solomon. Since the Architect was from Tyre, the Temple exhibited not purely of Israelite culture and art. But the worshiping initiated was undoubtedly of Yahwistic character. It was the central shrine for the people of Israel. When the Temple was completed a dedication ceremony was held. The ark was brought from its temporary shrine in the city to the Temple. Solomon himself uttered the prayer of dedication. on that day an enormous number of animals were sacrificed.**

## *Other Buildings built by Solomon:*

**Palace** – It took 13 years to build (1 Kings 7:1). It was called the House of the Forest of Lebanon, after its great cedar pillars;

**Hall of throne** (for Judgment). He had also a separate palace for his chief wife, the daughter of Pharaoh;

**Hall of Pillars.**



# KINGDOMS OF DAVID, SOLOMON, SAUL

