

SOLOMON

Int.

1. Aim: To tell the story of Solomon with some lessons learned from his life, and point out that a greater than Solomon has come.
2. Solomon - I Kings Matt. 6:28-30
 - a. Solomon - 3rd king of Israel - story of kingship
 - b. Division and ruin after he died
3. Solomon - main things we remember about his life
 - a. Wisdom
 - b. Riches
 - c. Wives
4. Other facts about Solomon = [peaceful]
 - a. 10th son of David - 2nd by Bathsheba
 - b. Appointed 3rd king of Israel - ruled 40 years
 - c. Author of 3 Bible Books - Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon
5. His life story can be divided into two parts (1) the good and (2) the bad.

Discussion

I. A GREAT AND GOOD MAN

A. Early Life

1. Nathan called him Jedidiah - 2 Sam. 12:25
 - a. Means "Beloved of the Lord" "God's darling"
 - b. Solomon = means peaceful, complete
2. Nothing else mentioned about him until he is 18 years of age

B. Appointed King

1. His brother Adonijah tried to take the kingship when David was dying
2. Nathan and Bathsheba took Solomon to David and he was appointed king
3. He was a good king and there was peace during his reign in contrast to the war during the days of David and Saul.

C. Choose wisdom

1. God appeared and told him he could have anything he wanted
2. 1 Kings 3:9 "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"
3. God granted his wish and even more - 1 Kings 3:13 "And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days."
4. Illustration of wisdom - women with two babies - 1 Kings 3:16-28
5. 1 Kings 4:29-30 "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that [is] on the sea shore. 30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt."

D. His works

1. Organized the country
2. Began to build the temple
 - a. Prefabricated Temple

- b. 1 Kings 6:7 "And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe [nor] any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building."
 - c. Magnificent building
 - d. Took 7 years to build
 - e. Used 183,000 labourers !
- 3. Great navy - Other great buildings and houses
 - 4. Richest of all kings
 - 5. 1 Kings 10:7 - Queen of Sheba "Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen [it]: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard."
- E. He was a great king but he soon began to decline and go down. Here is the second part of his life - the bad part.

II. A WEAK AND ERRING MAN

- A. His many wives
 - 1. He had 700 wives or princesses and He had 300 concubines
 - 2. 1 Kings 11:1 -3 "But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, [and] Hittites; 2 Of the nations [concerning] which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: [for] surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart."

B. Idolatry began to be practiced

1. These wives worshiped idols
2. To please them he built places for them to worship their idol gods
3. 1 Kings 11:9-10 "And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, 10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded."

C. His mistakes led to his ruin

1. It was foolish to have so many wives
 - a. It was a big mistake
 - b. Many of them he married for political reasons
2. David had guarded against idolatry
3. Solomon had been warned by God 2 times against idolatry
4. Because of this he was led to ruin
5. This brought to a close the great era of peace in the kingdom
6. After his death there was division in the kingdom
7. The people were finally taken captive and the temple was destroyed

III. A GREATER THAN SOLOMON

A. Mt. 12:42 “The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon [is] here.”

1. Until Christ came there was no one who could compare in wisdom or greatness to Solomon
2. But Christ, the Son of God was superior in all ways

B. Christ was greater than Solomon in:

1. HIS BIRTH

- a. Lk. 2:7-11
- b. His birth was miraculous
 - (1) Place of birth foretold
 - (2) Virgin birth
- c. Solomon was born like every other person with no special circumstances

2. HIS WISDOM

- a. His teachings are filled with them
- b. Example of his wisdom
 - (1) Mt. 21:23-27
 - (2) Trying to trap Jesus
 - (3) He turned it and trapped them - v. 24
- c. Mt. 5-7 Sermon on the Mount - Mt. 7:12 - Golden Rule

- d. Solomon's wisdom cannot compare to the wisdom of Jesus
 - (1) Solomon's wisdom had to do with this world
 - (2) Christ's wisdom has to do with the world to come

3. HIS WORKS

- a. Christ built the church - Matt. 16:18
- b. The church was and is:
 - (1) The beautiful bride of Christ
 - (2) It will last to the end of the world
 - (3) It is more expensive - purchased with his blood
 - (4) It is more valuable - save one soul is worth more than the temple

4. HIS SACRIFICE

- a. Solomon at the dedication of the temple made a great offering:
 - (1) 22,000 oxen
 - (2) 120,00 sheep
- b. Christ offered his own blood for the sins of all men - Heb. 9:14
- c. Heb. 2:9 "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

CONCLUSION

1. Solomon - Think of Wisdom, Riches and Wives
2. Lessons we can learn from the life of Solomon:
 - a. Wisdom is the principal thing
 - i. Prov. 4:7 "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."
 - ii. Prov. 9:10
 - iii. James 1:5
 - b. Knowledge of truth does not necessarily mean obedience
 - i. 1 Kings 9:6-8
 - ii. Prov. 7:25-27
 - iii. 1 Kings 11:5-10
 - iv. James 3:1
 - v. 1 Cor. 9:27
 - c. Be careful who you Marry
 - i. 1 Kings 11:1-4
 - ii. Your marriage partner could decide where you spend eternity.
3. Now you should remember there is a greater than Solomon
4. This is Christ - He died for the purpose of saving your soul and my soul from eternal damnation
5. Those who are wise will accept his terms of salvation and will become a member of his church!
6. Will you become a Christian?

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday night Sept. 16, 2007
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