

1 KINGS 10-15

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

We left off last week with Solomon building the temple for the Lord. Solomon was known as the wisest man to ever live, and the word spread about his knowledge and insight that came from the Lord. **Wisdom** is finding out what to do and doing it. The Queen of Sheba, who was a ruler of a distant land and not a part of God's people, had heard about him. The Queen of Sheba traveled all the way to Solomon to hear this wisdom for herself. She asks Solomon questions and is amazed by his responses. She in turn blesses the God of Israel because of Solomon's wisdom saying, "Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness." This provides a powerful glimpse into God's heart for the nations. The Queen of Sheba, a foreign ruler, travels from a distant land to seek out Solomon's wisdom and in turn praises God. This is an example of God's promise to Abraham being played out; all nations of the earth will be blessed through Abraham's family.

Solomon started off his rule pretty strong, but he eventually turned from God and went his own way. Back in Deuteronomy 17, God gave specific instructions for the qualifications for kings and what they were supposed to do. They were to live simply and follow God's laws. They were to rule in a way that served the interests of the people, and not their own benefit. Kings were to avoid the pursuit of riches because of the temptation to trust in wealth instead of the Lord. Solomon did not follow most of these instructions, and as a result we see his decline. God told Solomon that as a result of his unfaithfulness, the Kingdom of Israel would be torn in two and from his son Rehoboam.

Solomon ruled for forty-years and then his son Rehoboam took over. The people asked him to lighten the work load that Solomon gave them, but he decided to go against the advice of the elders. An **elder** is someone who God has chosen to lead with wisdom and care. Rehoboam does the opposite, and the northern tribes of Israel revolt and make a man named Jeroboam their king. 1 Kings 14 tells us about the future of Israel. As a result of their disobedience they would one day be conquered by a foreign nation and go into exile. There will be a long list of kings that will come, most of which are not good, before this happens. As we read these chapters, we can look at it in light of the King of Kings that would come to rule with justice and righteousness.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solomon was the wisest man to ever live, but did not take his own advice
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Queen of Sheba ● The Fall of Solomon ● Rehoboam and Jeroboam ● The Old Prophet ● Two kings in North and South
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 Kings 11:4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.” ● 1 Kings 12:28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, ‘It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’” ● 1 Kings 14:16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “And he will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit.” ● 1 Kings 15:14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Although he did not remove the high places, Asa’s heart was fully committed to the LORD all his life.”
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wisdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finding out what to do and doing it ● Elder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Someone who God has chosen to lead with wisdom and care

Reflection Questions

1.	Why did the Queen of Sheba travel from a distant land to meet Solomon?
2.	What does this teach us about God’s heart for the nations?
3.	What does Deuteronomy 17 give instructions for? Did Solomon follow this?
4.	What happened as a result of Solomon’s disobedience?