

MONARCHY (Solomon) TO THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

1A. Solomon's kingship

1B. Text

1 Kings 2:12-11:43 [2 Chron. 1-9]

2B. Summary of his life

Under Solomon, a peace was attained and Israel reached an apex of unparalleled prosperity and glory.

1C. Master sage

He asked God for wisdom and in his reign had time for literary pursuits (1 Ki. 3:9-10a; 12).

2C. Merchant, statesman, builder

He governed with wise statemanship (cf. districts, 1 Ki. 4:7; developed international relations and trade, cf. Queen of Sheba visit).

This brought happiness (1 Ki. 4:20).

But the happiness was mixed because of the draft of laborers (1 Ki. 5:13; a harsh yoke, 1 Ki. 12:4).

He built the great temple for which preparations had been made by David (480 years after Egypt, 1 Ki. 6:1).

3C. Sinner

1 Kings 11 is very straightforward concerning this wise and glorious king: as he grew old, his wives turned his heart to other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord (11:4-6).

God was angry and pronounced judgment (11:11, the kingdom will be torn from you).

But judgment is restrained: not in your life time and not completely (11:12-13). Why? Because of God's choice of Israel and His covenant with David.

2A. Theme cf. the sins of Solomon and his greatness)

Israel, by grace, received land, a city, a king and the temple dwelling place of the Lord with her despite her sins. These things are forever, but they are given provisionally with tests of obedience in a stage-like progressive unfolding looking ahead to the coming of Christ and to eternal Sabbath rest.

3A. Message for us

Jesus is greater than the temple, than Solomon (Mt. 12:6, 42). What He intends for us is a greater glory than that of Solomon's (Matt. 6:28-30). The lilies surpass Solomon and God's glorious purpose for you will surpass the beauty of meadow and valley.

Christ is our wisdom and through Him the church is the temple of the living God. Jesus has brought to realization the promises of land, king, and temple; these are now and not yet in their unfolding as God works out His purposes in stages, day by day, and week by week moving steadily toward consummation.