

Last Sunday we studied a most interesting OT bible Prophet: Jonah.

Today I'd like for us to read about and study a most interesting OT King: Solomon.

Solomon is a well-documented king of Israel. His history is recorded in the opening sections of both I Kings, II Chronicles, and of course, he wrote 3 OT letters: Pro.(most), S of Solomon and Ecclesiastes.

So, we know much about Him, but there are a few things that stand out when I recollect His life-story:

I. He came from a godly father

- a. David, under whose rule Solomon was raised was a righteous leader (**II Sam. 23:1-7**)
- b. And David left Solomon with a legacy of faithfulness to uphold (**I Kings 2:1-4**)
- c. We know Solomon got wisdom from God, but the wisdom to ask for wisdom? From David!

II. He was given wisdom from heaven

- a. **I Kings 3:6-9** – Learning humility and trust in God from his father David, he makes the ultimate wise request. Because of this request Solomon made wise decisions, wrote wise letters (largely about wisdom!) and has changed countless lives, even ours (ECCL!)
- b. **I Kings 3:10-13** – God was pleased and granted him many other things.

III. He built a dwelling place for God

- a. For 500 years God's presence was connected to an elaborate tent, called the tabernacle.
- b. **I Kings 6:1-2; 8:6-11** – A place in Jerusalem for God to come among men and serve them, as they came to Him. God's glory filled that dwelling in the presence of all His people.
- c. This became a hub for their relationship with God for 1,000 years!

IV. He gave in to the flesh for himself

- a. He did great things for God and God's people, but he also did things for himself.
- b. **I Kings 11:1-6** – He followed his lusts to foreign women, whom God had restricted.
- c. And this led to poorer choices, even unthinkable choices: (**v7-8**).
- d. It is not known if he returned to God after this. I certainly hope so.

V. From afar, Solomon's words drew listeners

- a. Not a perfect man, but in most areas of his life, a great man. And his words were so perfectly wise and discerning (**I Ki. 3:23-28** – story of two mothers)
- b. **I Kings 10:1-10** – Queen of Sheba came with questions and good: she was blown away.
 - i. And she showered him with honor through gifts for his wisdom!

Solomon was a great man. A great king. A wise man. But... **Something Greater than Solomon is Here!**
(Who saw that point coming?)

Matthew 12 – Jesus has been dealing with the Pharisees through the whole chapter.

To them, nothing Jesus did was GOOD ENOUGH for them to change their ways. (Pride/Arrogance)

12:1-2 – false accusations. **V8** – The Truth.

12:13 – Jesus heals a man. **V14** – Pharisees want him out of their lives

12:22 – Jesus cast out demons. **V24** – they accuse him of working with demons.

12:38 – They just don't want to change their lives. (Not an easy thing to do).

So, they ask for MORE. Show us a sign! Give us more proof! (nothing would be enough for them)

Read **12:42** – One day the Queen of Sheba will rise up against these Pharisees and judge them unto condemnation, because she came to hear Solomon and showered him with glory...

And something greater than Solomon is before them!

--How is Jesus Greater than Solomon?--

I. He is God from the Father.

- a. David was a great father and charged Solomon to “be a man.”
- b. **John 8:42-43** – Many loved Solomon for his father. How much more should we love Jesus, since He preceded forth from God. (**John 17:6-8** – “to whom shall I go? You are from God)

II. He is Wisdom from Heaven

- a. In both of the above readings, Jesus reveals that His wisdom is from God. His words are heavenly, divine, perfect. But he is more than just a PROPHET!
- b. **John 1:1-5, 14, 17** – He is Wisdom. He is Right and Good and Truth in its purest and most sincere, sinless and wonderful form. He is THE WORD.
- c. *Solomon was honored for Words he learned from God. Jesus is to be worshipped because he is the Word, God!*

III. He made us the dwelling place of God

- a. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of Solomon’s reign was the building of the temple. He got a lot of help from his father (who collected material) and brought God to Jerusalem.
- b. Jesus has done something so much greater!
 - i. **Eph. 2:19-22** – He has made you the temple. That God would dwell, not in a building or a city or in a place where only some could go, but in each of His children!
 - ii. **II Co. 6:16** – quote from OT concerning Tabernacle, now true in you!
- c. How worthy is Jesus to be HEARD, BELIEVED, OBEYED, He can bring God to dwell in me!

IV. He mastered His flesh for us

- a. Ultimately, as Great as Solomon was, he was flawed, sinful, subject to judgment, and therefore left his people vulnerable to Judgment.
- b. **Heb. 2:14-16** – Jesus has never and will never let us down, leave us vulnerable or lost. He inspires confidence, a confidence Solomon lost in his actions, Jesus will never endanger.
- c. **Luke 1:32-33** – And while Solomon died and lost his kingdom, Jesus will abide forever!

V. In His presence, they would not listen to Jesus

- a. As imperfect as Solomon was, millions of Jews and even a queen from a far away land listened to him. Hung on every word. Lauded him with praise for his knowledge.
- b. **Matt. 12:42** – And yet, they will cry against the Pharisees, for Jesus was in their midst and they rejected His teaching, His ministry, message and Gospel.
 - i. “We saw God’s truth in God’s servant Solomon, how could you not in His Son Jesus!”
- c. Jesus has spoken – Repent (Matt. 4:17) , Be Baptized, Be His Disciple (Mt. 28:19-20)
- d. *Sometimes we can only appreciate things through comparison. Several years ago, in Houston, we built the Texans Stadium. All on its own, I saw pictures of it and said, “wow, that’s awesome.” If you looked at it laid next to a picture of the smallest stadium in the league, you’d say, “wow, that’s really amazing.” But when I first saw it in person right next to the famed 8th wonder of the world, the Astrodome, which had drawn crowds from all over the US in its day, you say, “this is truly incredible.”*
- e. *I know we believe Jesus is amazing. And if we compare Him to others, it is even more so. But today we compare Him to the richest most powerful and wise ruler of the ages, a man that drew admirers and followers from nations away, and in this we can see the true majesty of Jesus, He is so much greater.*
- f. Listen, nothing greater is coming. It’s not like – If Jesus doesn’t impress you as so much greater than Jonah and Solomon that the Lord will send something or someone else:
- g. **John 5:24-27** – It just doesn’t get any greater than Jesus. Who believes that? Who believes it enough to obey? In the judgment the Queen of Sheba will say to so, so many: I believed Solomon, how could you not believe Jesus? ... Not me.