

WEEK 20 — SOLOMON'S WISDOM, PART 1

Date: about 930-970 BC (Proverbs and the summaries of Solomon's reign and activities) • about 966 to after 946 BC (the narratives in 1 Kings 8-9 and 2 Chronicles 4-8)

The Story: God is honored as Solomon completes the temple and dedicates it with prayer and celebration. But God's pleasure in the temple and the king is not absolute: he blesses both, but with the stipulation that Solomon and his people must continue to walk faithfully before God. Will they? Time will tell. Meanwhile, God has endowed Solomon with exceptional wisdom, one sign of which is the three thousand proverbs he writes during his lifetime (1 Kings 4:29-34). Many of those are collected in the Bible's book of Proverbs. It begins with poems teaching principles for wise living and some short proverbs (chapters 1-9), then moves into a collection of short proverbs (10:1 to 22:16) identified as "The proverbs of Solomon" (10:1).

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

MAY 15 2 CHRONICLES 4 • 1 KINGS 8

Today's reading repeats some material from 1 Kings 7 in 2 Chronicles 4, describing the new temple's furnishings. In 1 Kings 8, the ark of the covenant is brought to its new home in the new temple, and Solomon dedicates the temple with a lengthy prayer and a celebration. This prayer is one of the finest in all of Scripture. Note the relationship that Solomon is praying that God will have with his people—really, with all people. In later Old Testament readings, notice how God does indeed answer this great prayer, hearing when his people and foreigners pray to him at or even toward his temple.

Date: about April 966 to September/October 959 or 958 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Kings 8

Kids' Reading*: 1 Kings 8:1-21 • 1 Kings 8:62-66

MAY 16 1 KINGS 9 • 2 CHRONICLES 5-6

Today's reading picks up after the dedication of the new temple with a message of God to Solomon. The message is encouraging, but notice the "if" that it contains: if Israel ever turns away from God, God will turn away from them and from the temple they built for him. In other words, it is not the temple itself that God wants most, but his people's hearts. After this message, 1 Kings 9 offers an overview of Solomon's reign and various accomplishments. 2 Chronicles 5-6 repeats much of the material from 1 Kings 8. Chronicles often repeats Kings word-for-word (Kings was written first), but also omits some material and adds some new information; watch for these changes in Chronicles as the writer brings new insights to our attention.

Date: September/October 959 or 958 BC (2 Chronicles 5-6) • during or after about 946 BC (1 Kings 9:1-14) • 1 Kings 9:15-28 summarizes events from throughout Solomon's reign, about 970-930 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Kings 9 • 2 Chronicles 6:12-42

Kids' Reading*: 1 Kings 9

MAY 17 2 CHRONICLES 7-8 • PROVERBS 1

Today's reading covers much of the same ground in 2 Chronicles 7-8 as in 1 Kings 8-9, with a little extra emphasis on the celebration of the temple's dedication and God's response to the new temple. Then we begin the book of Proverbs, a collection of wise sayings and teachings. Most of them come from Solomon (see 1:1, 10:1, and 25:1). Proverbs 1 opens the book with a call to seek wisdom rather than a foolish life.

Date: 959 or 958 to during or after 946 BC (2 Chronicles 7:1 to 8:2) • 2 Chronicles 8:3-18 summarizes events from throughout Solomon's reign, about 970-930 BC • Proverbs comes primarily from during Solomon's reign, 970-930 BC (though its final form comes from at least as late as the reign of Hezekiah, about 715-686 BC; see Proverbs 25:1).

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Chronicles 7 • Proverbs 1

Kids' Reading*: Proverbs 1

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

MAY 18 PROVERBS 2-5

Today's reading continues our journey through the first section of Proverbs with poems urging the reader to pursue wisdom (chapters 1-9) and with a few short proverbs on the same theme (chapter 3). Notice the warnings against unwise living, especially against adultery, which is a prime example of folly in Proverbs.

Date: Proverbs comes primarily from during Solomon's reign, 970-930 BC (though its final form comes from at least as late as the reign of Hezekiah, about 715-686 BC; see Proverbs 25:1).

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Proverbs 3-5

Kids' Reading*: Proverbs 3

MAY 19 PROVERBS 6-8

Today's reading brings us another chunk of Proverbs' opening section (chapters 1-9). In chapters 6-7, the warnings are intense: Stay away from laziness! Avoid the sins that the Lord hates! Most of all, beware of adultery! Chapter 8 takes a more positive approach, listing wisdom's benefits for all who listen to her.

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In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Proverbs 6-8

Kids' Reading*: Proverbs 4 • Proverbs 6:1-19

MAY 20 PROVERBS 9-11

Today's reading concludes the opening section of Proverbs (chapters 1-9) with a final appeal from both Wisdom and Folly. To which voice will you listen? Chapter 10 begins, "The proverbs of Solomon", marking a new section in the book, the first of two collections of proverbs composed by Solomon.

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In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Proverbs 9-10

Kids' Reading*: Proverbs 10

MAY 21 PROVERBS 12-14

Today's reading brings us more words of wisdom from the first collection of Solomon's proverbs. Notice the different styles of proverbs here: proverbs of contrast, comparing something positive with something negative to encourage us to seek what is better (12:4); proverbs of observation, pointing out the good or bad in a situation (12:14); proverbs of warning, giving admonition to avoid evil (14:7); etc.

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In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Proverbs 13-14

Kids' Reading*: Proverbs 12

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

PG-13 preview for under age 13

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

Pr 1:11-19 (V), 32 (T)

Pr 5:15-20 (S)

none

Pr 2:16-17 (S), 18-19 (T), 22 (T)

Pr 7:17-20 (S)

Pr 5:3-14 (S, T), 22-23 (T)

Pr 6:17 (V), 24-35 (S, T, V)

Pr 7:5 (S), 10 (S), 13 (S), 22-23 (V),
26-27 (T)

Pr 9:18 (T)

Pr 10:6 (V), 13 (V), 27 (T)

C = Circumcision
N = Nudity
S = Sexuality
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes
V = Violence