

WEEK 22 — ISRAEL IS DIVIDED

Date: about 946-913 BC (some texts provide summaries from Solomon's reign, about 970-930 BC)

The Story: God has blessed Israel through Solomon—but Solomon proves unfaithful to God. So God removes most of Israel from the control of David's descendants. Is Israel doomed? Will its faith endure? What will happen to David's dynasty? Faith and faithlessness collide as the kings lead their people sometimes toward God and sometimes away from him. Hope endures as long as the people of Israel and Judah look to God. This week's readings cover the last of Solomon's wisdom writings, his two psalms, and the story of his fall and the tragic breakup of Israel.

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

MAY 29 ECCLESIASTES 7-10

Today's reading continues Ecclesiastes' contemplation of the meaning of life in light of death and of God's ultimate authority. Proverbs in chapters 7 and 10 help us reflect on time, wisdom, death, and God's rule. Chapters 8-9 consider wise conduct, injustice, death, and the joy that God provides through simple things.

Date: perhaps between 946 and 930 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Ecclesiastes 7-9

Kids' Reading*: Ecclesiastes 7:8-14 • Ecclesiastes 8:1-6 • Ecclesiastes 9:13 to 10:20

MAY 30 ECCLESIASTES 11-12 • SONG OF SONGS 1-3

Today's reading closes Ecclesiastes with a call to seek God, who will judge every person and every deed. Only in remembering him and living by his commands do we find purpose. Song of Songs (also called Song of Solomon) celebrates a romantic relationship between a man and a woman. Perhaps Solomon wrote it or it was written in his honor; it may even have been written to correct him for his many marriages (compare 6:8-9 with 1 Kings 11:1-8). Solomon appears in the song (3:7-11, 8:11-12), but his appearances are only cameos. It's not about him. Song of Songs is about romance at its best—not Solomon's easy access to all the women he wants, but one couple's pure, passionate delight in one another.

Date: perhaps between 946 & 930 BC (Ecclesiastes) • during Solomon's reign, 970-930 BC (Song of Songs)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Ecclesiastes 11-12 • Song of Songs 1-2

Kids' Reading*: Ecclesiastes 11-12

MAY 31 SONG OF SONGS 4-8

Today's reading completes the song of the two lovebirds in Song of Songs. They delight in each other (chapter 4), grieve over being apart (5:2 to 6:3), go back to effusive delight when together again, and finally disappear together into the pleasures of, presumably, a joyful marriage (8:14). Notice the song's emphasis on the strength of real love (8:6-7) and its repeated call to wait for love's timely arrival (2:7, 3:5, 8:4). The ripening of love, like good fruit, should not be rushed. It's worth waiting for.

Date: sometime during Solomon's reign, 970-930 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Song of Songs 5-8

Kids' Reading*: Psalm 72 • Psalm 127

JUNE 1 PSALM 72 • PSALM 127 • 1 KINGS 10

Today's reading takes us to our only two psalms written by Solomon. Psalm 72 is a prayer for God's blessing on the king. Psalm 127 teaches us to let God be the builder and guardian of our homes. 1 Kings 10 brings us back into the story of Solomon's reign with accounts of Solomon's vast wisdom and wealth.

Date: during Solomon's reign, 970-930 BC (Psalms 72, 127; 1 Kings 10:14-29) • after 946 BC (1 Kings 10:1-13)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Psalm 72 • Psalm 127 • 1 Kings 10

Kids' Reading*: 2 Chronicles 9

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

JUNE 2 1 KINGS 11 • 2 CHRONICLES 9

Today's reading, if we envision Solomon glowing with holiness in the limelight of God's blessing, wrecks that image. Solomon turns away from God in his later years. 1 Kings 11 tells how his hundreds—*hundreds*—of wives and concubines move him toward idolatry. In response, God raises up opponents who cause trouble for Solomon. 2 Chronicles 9 skips over this unfortunate period in Solomon's reign, repeating the description of Solomon's splendor given in 1 Kings 10 and then telling of Solomon's death.

Date: perhaps between 946 and 930 BC (1 Kings 11:1-40, 2 Chronicles 9:1-12) • sometime during Solomon's reign, 970-930 BC (2 Chronicles 9:13-28) • about 930 BC (1 Kings 11:41-43, 2 Chronicles 9:29-31)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Kings 11 • 2 Chronicles 9

Kids' Reading*: 1 Kings 12

JUNE 3 1 KINGS 12-13

Today's reading brings about God's foretold judgment on David's monarchy. When Rehoboam proves himself an unwise king, most of Israel rebels and appoints Jeroboam king. Yet David's family retains Judah, so that God's promise of an enduring monarchy for David may continue. King Jeroboam quickly turns Israel to worship idols, and a prophet of God confronts him—but even the prophets are not entirely faithful to God.

Date: about and soon after 930 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Kings 12-13

Kids' Reading*: 1 Kings 13

JUNE 4 1 KINGS 14 • 2 CHRONICLES 10-12

Today's reading from 1 Kings finds God confronting King Jeroboam through another prophet—but will Jeroboam listen? Meanwhile, in Judah, Rehoboam faces difficulty throughout his reign, and Judah is not fully faithful to God. 2 Chronicles 10-12 repeats the stories about Judah from 1 Kings 12-14—but not about Israel, as usual for Chronicles. It adds the news that the priests and Levites in Israel moved south into Judah because Jeroboam had rejected the Lord, and it offers a fuller account of Shishak's assault on Jerusalem.

Date: about 930-913 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Kings 14 • 2 Chronicles 11:5 to 12:16

Kids' Reading*: 1 Kings 14

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

1K 11:1-3 (S)

1K 12:18 (V)

1K 13:2 (V), 4 (V), 24-28 (V)

1K 14:10-14 (T, V), 17-18 (T), 25 (V), 30 (V)

2Chr 11:21 (S)

2Chr 12:2 (V)

Ecc 7:1-2 (T)

Ecc 8:9-14 (T)

Ecc 9:1-6 (T), 12 (T)

Ecc 11:8 (T)

Ecc 12:1-8 (T)

SOS 5:1 (S), 7 (V), 10-16 (S)

SOS 6:8-9 (S)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

1K 14:24 (S)

SOS 1:1-4 (S), 12-14 (S), 16 (S)

SOS 4:3-6 (S), 10-16 (S)

SOS 6:2-3 (S)

SOS 7:2-13 (S)

SOS 8:1-3 (S), 8 (S), 10 (S)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

SOS 2:3-6 (S)

SOS 8:5 (S)

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