

CHAPTER TWENTY

SOLOMON AND HIS WORKS

Just as I Chronicles is a supplement to I and II Samuel, so is II Chronicles a supplement to I and II Kings which was originally written as one book. The opening events recorded in I Kings include the death of David and Solomon becoming king. Solomon's reign at first was called the "Golden Age of Israel." He became famous for his wisdom. He displayed discriminating judgment. The growth of his dominions was terrific. The splendor of his court and palaces were beyond words. The construction of the temple added to his fame. This temple was to replace the tabernacle as the sacrificial center. It was patterned after the tabernacle, but was much more complex and ornate. The temple was noted for lavish beauty of detail rather than for great size. It was accessible only to the priest. The Israelites came to it, but never entered it. Seven years were required to complete the temple, which was dedicated in Solomon's 11th year. The life of Solomon was a type of Christ.

I KING 6:38

38 AND IN THE ELEVENTH YEAR, IN THE MONTH BUL, WHICH IS THE EIGHTH MONTH, WAS THE HOUSE FINISHED THROUGHOUT ALL THE PARTS THEREOF, AND ACCORDING TO ALL THE FASHION OF IT. SO WAS HE SEVEN YEARS IN BUILDING IT.

The temple was a prefabricated building. It was made of limestone finished at the quarries.

I KING 6:7

7 AND THE HOUSE, WHEN IT WAS IN BUILDING, WAS BUILT OF STONE MADE READY BEFORE IT WAS BROUGHT THITHER: SO THAT THERE WAS NEITHER HAMMER NOR AXE NOR ANY TOOL OF IRON HEARD IN THE HOUSE, WHILE IT WAS IN BUILDING.

When the stones were brought to the building site they were built into the wall according to plan. From this arose the tradition of rejected corner-stone.

PS 118:22

22 THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REFUSED IS BECOME THE HEAD STONE OF THE CORNER.

1 PET 2:6-8

6 WHEREFORE ALSO IT IS CONTAINED IN THE SCRIPTURE, BEHOLD, I LAY IN SION A CHIEF CORNER STONE, ELECT, PRECIOUS: AND HE THAT BELIEVETH ON HIM SHALL NOT BE CONFOUNDED.

7 UNTO YOU THEREFORE WHICH BELIEVE HE IS PRECIOUS: BUT UNTO THEM WHICH BE DISOBEDIENT, THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS DISALLOWED, THE SAME IS MADE THE HEAD OF THE CORNER,

8 AND A STONE OF STUMBLING, AND A ROCK OF OFFENCE, EVEN TO THEM WHICH STUMBLE AT THE WORD, BEING DISOBEDIENT: WHEREUNTO ALSO THEY WERE APPOINTED.

The temple consisted of three sections: (1) the porch through which the temple proper was entered; (2) the Holy Place, which was lighted by overhead windows; and (3) the Holy of Holies. The dimensions of the Holy Place were 30 feet wide and 60 feet long and 45 feet high. It was paneled with Lebanon cedar wood. This wood was probably finished by skilled Phoenician craftsmen. Gold inlay was used to break the monotony of the wood and to give the impression of grandeur. The Holy of Holies was a 30-foot cube, windowless and overlaid with gold. The floor was raised and steps from the Holy Place reached the cubicle. It was here in *the* Holy of Holies that God especially manifested His presence by the Shekinah glory cloud.

2 CHR 3:8-13

8 AND HE MADE THE MOST HOLY HOUSE, THE LENGTH WHEREOF WAS ACCORDING TO THE BREADTH OF THE HOUSE, TWENTY CUBITS, AND THE BREADTH THEREOF TWENTY CUBITS: AND HE OVERLAID IT WITH FINE GOLD, AMOUNTING TO SIX HUNDRED TALENTS.

9 AND THE WEIGHT OF THE NAILS WAS FIFTY SHEKELS OF GOLD. AND HE OVERLAID THE UPPER CHAMBERS WITH GOLD.

10 AND IN THE MOST HOLY HOUSE HE MADE TWO CHERUBIMS OF IMAGE WORK, AND OVERLAID THEM WITH GOLD.

11 AND THE WINGS OF THE CHERUBIMS WERE TWENTY CUBITS LONG: ONE WING OF THE ONE CHERUB WAS FIVE CUBITS, REACHING TO THE WALL OF THE HOUSE: AND THE OTHER WING WAS LIKEWISE FIVE CUBITS, REACHING TO THE WING OF THE OTHER CHERUB.

12 AND ONE WING OF THE OTHER CHERUB WAS FIVE CUBITS, REACHING TO THE WALL OF THE HOUSE: AND THE OTHER WING WAS FIVE CUBITS ALSO, JOINING TO THE WING OF THE OTHER CHERUB.

13 THE WINGS OF THESE CHERUBIMS SPREAD THEMSELVES FORTH TWENTY CUBITS: AND THEY STOOD ON THEIR FEET, AND THEIR FACES WERE INWARD.

The temple was built on a nine-foot high foundation, which made it necessary to climb 10 steps to reach the entrance. Two giant pillars stood by the doors which led to the porch. The cypress doors were carved with cherubim, palm trees and open flowers inlaid with gold.

I KING 6:18

18 AND THE CEDAR OF THE HOUSE WITHIN WAS CARVED WITH KNOPS AND OPEN FLOWERS: ALL WAS CEDAR; THERE WAS NO STONE SEEN.

I KING 6:32

32 THE TWO DOORS ALSO WERE OF OLIVE TREE; AND HE CARVED UPON THEM CARVINGS OF CHERUBIMS AND PALM TREES AND OPEN FLOWERS, AND OVERLAID THEM WITH GOLD, AND SPREAD GOLD UPON THE CHERUBIMS, AND UPON THE PALM TREES.

I KING 6:35

35 AND HE CARVED THEREON CHERUBIMS AND PALM TREES AND OPEN FLOWERS: AND COVERED THEM WITH GOLD FITTED UPON THE CARVED WORK.

The Holy Place contained ten golden lampstands, not candlesticks as King James states. Twelve tables held the 12 loaves of shewbread. The incense altar stood near the entrance of the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies contained two guardian cherubim, made of olive wood and adorned with gold. They were there to symbolize the majestic presence of God. On the floor beneath them stood the Ark of the Covenant, the box overlaid with gold, its lid called the mercy seat, upon which the atoning blood was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement.

LEV 16:14-15

14 AND HE SHALL TAKE OF THE BLOOD OF THE BULLOCK, AND SPRINKLE IT WITH HIS FINGER UPON THE MERCY SEAT EASTWARD; AND BEFORE THE MERCY SEAT SHALL HE SPRINKLE OF THE BLOOD WITH HIS FINGER SEVEN TIMES.

15 THEN SHALL HE KILL THE GOAT OF THE SIN OFFERING, THAT IS FOR THE PEOPLE, AND BRING HIS BLOOD WITHIN THE VAIL, AND DO WITH THAT BLOOD AS HE DID WITH THE BLOOD OF THE BULLOCK, AND SPRINKLE IT UPON THE MERCY SEAT, AND BEFORE THE MERCY SEAT:

At both sides and at the rear of the temple were built three-storied storage rooms. They were not as high as the central structure and thus light from the windows supplied illumination. In the courtyard before the temple stood two objects intimately connected with the temple worship: the sacrificial altar and the laver or molten sea. The altar of burnt offering was the central object in the sacrificial service. It was made of brass and probably stood on the great rock which is today covered by the Dome of the Rock.

South of the altar stood the copper alloy laver or molten sea. This mammoth cast "sea" was made in the Jordan Valley where clay suitable for molding the metal was to be found. It was 3 1/2 inches thick, about 15 feet in diameter, and 7 1/2 feet high and stood on the back-backs of 12 bulls, three facing each direction.

The purpose of the temple was to be a palace for the housing of the presence of God. For this reason only the best materials could be used. Just as the tabernacle's construction and contents were symbolic of spiritual things, so it was with the temple. For instance, the wood was in the highest degree durable, and not liable to decay and corruption. This is symbolic of purity and heavenly. Gold stood for heavenly and divine. Even the size and shape of the temple had spiritual significance.

When the temple was completed, the glory of the Lord filled the house. It was dedicated to the Lord by Solomon.

2 CHR 5:1-6:42

1 THUS ALL THE WORK THAT SOLOMON MADE FOR THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WAS FINISHED: AND SOLOMON BROUGHT IN ALL THE THINGS THAT DAVID HIS FATHER HAD DEDICATED; AND THE SILVER, AND THE GOLD, AND ALL THE INSTRUMENTS, PUT HE AMONG THE TREASURES OF THE HOUSE OF GOD.

2 THEN SOLOMON ASSEMBLED THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL, AND ALL THE HEADS OF THE TRIBES, THE CHIEF OF THE FATHERS OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, UNTO JERUSALEM, TO BRING UP THE ARK OF THE COVENANT OF THE LORD OUT OF THE CITY OF DAVID, WHICH IS ZION.

3 WHEREFORE ALL THE MEN OF ISRAEL ASSEMBLED THEMSELVES UNTO THE KING IN THE FEAST WHICH WAS IN THE SEVENTH MONTH.

4 AND ALL THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL CAME; AND THE LEVITES TOOK UP THE ARK.

5 AND THEY BROUGHT UP THE ARK, AND THE TABERNACLE OF THE CONGREGATION, AND ALL THE HOLY VESSELS THAT WERE IN THE TABERNACLE, THESE DID THE PRIESTS AND THE LEVITES BRING UP.

6 ALSO KING SOLOMON, AND ALL THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL THAT WERE ASSEMBLED UNTO HIM BEFORE THE ARK, SACRIFICED SHEEP AND OXEN, WHICH COULD NOT BE TOLD NOR NUMBERED FOR MULTITUDE.

7 AND THE PRIESTS BROUGHT IN THE ARK OF THE COVENANT OF THE LORD UNTO HIS PLACE, TO THE ORACLE OF THE HOUSE, INTO THE MOST HOLY PLACE, EVEN UNDER THE WINGS OF THE CHERUBIMS:

8 FOR THE CHERUBIMS SPREAD FORTH THEIR WINGS OVER THE PLACE OF THE ARK, AND THE CHERUBIMS COVERED THE ARK AND THE STAVES THEREOF ABOVE.

9 AND THEY DREW OUT THE STAVES OF THE ARK, THAT THE ENDS OF THE STAVES WERE SEEN FROM THE ARK BEFORE THE ORACLE; BUT THEY WERE NOT SEEN WITHOUT. AND THERE IT IS UNTO THIS DAY.

10 THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE ARK SAVE THE TWO TABLES WHICH MOSES PUT THEREIN AT HOREB, WHEN THE LORD MADE A COVENANT WITH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, WHEN THEY CAME OUT OF EGYPT.

11 AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN THE PRIESTS WERE COME OUT OF THE HOLY PLACE: (FOR ALL THE PRIESTS THAT WERE PRESENT WERE SANCTIFIED, AND DID NOT THEN WAIT BY COURSE:

12 ALSO THE LEVITES WHICH WERE THE SINGERS, ALL OF THEM OF ASAPH, OF HEMAN, OF JEDUTHUN, WITH THEIR SONS AND THEIR BRETHREN, BEING ARRAYED IN WHITE LINEN, HAVING CYMBALS AND PSALTERIES AND HARPS, STOOD AT THE EAST END OF THE ALTAR, AND WITH THEM AN HUNDRED AND TWENTY PRIESTS SOUNDING WITH TRUMPETS:)

13 IT CAME EVEN TO PASS, AS THE TRUMPETERS AND SINGERS WERE AS ONE, TO MAKE ONE SOUND TO BE HEARD IN PRAISING AND THANKING THE LORD; AND WHEN THEY LIFTED UP THEIR VOICE WITH THE TRUMPETS AND CYMBALS AND INSTRUMENTS OF MUSICK, AND PRAISED THE LORD,

SAYING, FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER: THAT THEN THE HOUSE WAS FILLED WITH A CLOUD, EVEN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD;

14 SO THAT THE PRIESTS COULD NOT STAND TO MINISTER BY REASON OF THE CLOUD: FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD HAD FILLED THE HOUSE OF GOD.

CHAPTER 6

1 THEN SAID SOLOMON, THE LORD HATH SAID THAT HE WOULD DWELL IN THE THICK DARKNESS.

2 BUT I HAVE BUILT AN HOUSE OF HABITATION FOR THEE, AND A PLACE FOR THY DWELLING FOR EVER.

3 AND THE KING TURNED HIS FACE, AND BLESSED THE WHOLE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL: AND ALL THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL STOOD.

4 AND HE SAID, BLESSED BE THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, WHO HATH WITH HIS HANDS FULFILLED THAT WHICH HE SPAKE WITH HIS MOUTH TO MY FATHER DAVID, SAYING,

5 SINCE THE DAY THAT I BROUGHT FORTH MY PEOPLE OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT I CHOSE NO CITY AMONG ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL TO BUILD AN HOUSE IN, THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE THERE; NEITHER CHOSE I ANY MAN TO BE A RULER OVER MY PEOPLE ISRAEL:

6 BUT I HAVE CHOSEN JERUSALEM, THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE THERE; AND HAVE CHOSEN DAVID TO BE OVER MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.

7 NOW IT WAS IN THE HEART OF DAVID MY FATHER TO BUILD AN HOUSE FOR THE NAME OF THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL.

8 BUT THE LORD SAID TO DAVID MY FATHER, FORASMUCH AS IT WAS IN THINE HEART TO BUILD AN HOUSE FOR MY NAME, THOU DIDST WELL IN THAT IT WAS IN THINE HEART:

9 NOTWITHSTANDING THOU SHALT NOT BUILD THE HOUSE; BUT THY SON WHICH SHALL COME FORTH OUT OF THY LOINS, HE SHALL BUILD THE HOUSE FOR MY NAME.

10 THE LORD THEREFORE HATH PERFORMED HIS WORD THAT HE HATH SPOKEN: FOR I AM RISEN UP IN THE ROOM OF DAVID MY FATHER, AND AM SET ON THE THRONE OF ISRAEL, AS THE LORD PROMISED, AND HAVE BUILT THE HOUSE FOR THE NAME OF THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL.

11 AND IN IT HAVE I PUT THE ARK, WHEREIN IS THE COVENANT OF THE LORD, THAT HE MADE WITH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.

12 AND HE STOOD BEFORE THE ALTAR OF THE LORD IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL, AND SPREAD FORTH HIS HANDS:

13 FOR SOLOMON HAD MADE A BRASEN SCAFFOLD, OF FIVE CUBITS LONG, AND FIVE CUBITS BROAD, AND THREE CUBITS HIGH, AND HAD SET IT IN THE MIDST OF THE COURT: AND UPON IT HE STOOD, AND KNEELED DOWN UPON HIS KNEES BEFORE ALL THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL, AND SPREAD FORTH HIS HANDS TOWARD HEAVEN,

14 AND SAID, O LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, THERE IS NO GOD LIKE THEE IN THE HEAVEN, NOR IN THE EARTH; WHICH KEEPEST COVENANT, AND SHEWEST

MERCY UNTO THY SERVANTS, THAT WALK BEFORE THEE WITH ALL THEIR HEARTS:

15 THOU WHICH HAST KEPT WITH THY SERVANT DAVID MY FATHER THAT WHICH THOU HAST PROMISED HIM; AND SPAKEST WITH THY MOUTH, AND HAST FULFILLED IT WITH THINE HAND, AS IT IS THIS DAY.

16 NOW THEREFORE, O LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, KEEP WITH THY SERVANT DAVID MY FATHER THAT WHICH THOU HAST PROMISED HIM, SAYING, THERE SHALL NOT FAIL THEE A MAN IN MY SIGHT TO SIT UPON THE THRONE OF ISRAEL; YET SO THAT THY CHILDREN TAKE HEED TO THEIR WAY TO WALK IN MY LAW, AS THOU HAST WALKED BEFORE ME.

17 NOW THEN, O LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, LET THY WORD BE VERIFIED, WHICH THOU HAST SPOKEN UNTO THY SERVANT DAVID.

18 BUT WILL GOD IN VERY DEED DWELL WITH MEN ON THE EARTH? BEHOLD, HEAVEN AND THE HEAVEN OF HEAVENS CANNOT CONTAIN THEE; HOW MUCH LESS THIS HOUSE WHICH I HAVE BUILT!

19 HAVE RESPECT THEREFORE TO THE PRAYER OF THY SERVANT, AND TO HIS SUPPLICATION, O LORD MY GOD, TO HEARKEN UNTO THE CRY AND THE PRAYER WHICH THY SERVANT PRAYETH BEFORE THEE:

20 THAT THINE EYES MAY BE OPEN UPON THIS HOUSE DAY AND NIGHT, UPON THE PLACE WHEREOF THOU HAST SAID THAT THOU WoulDEST PUT THY NAME THERE; TO HEARKEN UNTO THE PRAYER WHICH THY SERVANT PRAYETH TOWARD THIS PLACE.

21 HEARKEN THEREFORE UNTO THE SUPPLICATIONS OF THY SERVANT, AND OF THY PEOPLE ISRAEL, WHICH THEY SHALL MAKE TOWARD THIS PLACE: HEAR THOU FROM THY DWELLING PLACE, EVEN FROM HEAVEN; AND WHEN THOU HEAREST, FORGIVE.

22 IF A MAN SIN AGAINST HIS NEIGHBOUR, AND AN OATH BE LAID UPON HIM TO MAKE HIM SWEAR, AND THE OATH COME BEFORE THINE ALTAR IN THIS HOUSE;

23 THEN HEAR THOU FROM HEAVEN, AND DO, AND JUDGE THY SERVANTS, BY REQUITING THE WICKED, BY RECOMPENSING HIS WAY UPON HIS OWN HEAD; AND BY JUSTIFYING THE RIGHTEOUS, BY GIVING HIM ACCORDING TO HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

24 AND IF THY PEOPLE ISRAEL BE PUT TO THE WORSE BEFORE THE ENEMY, BECAUSE THEY HAVE SINNED AGAINST THEE; AND SHALL RETURN AND CONFESS THY NAME, AND PRAY AND MAKE SUPPLICATION BEFORE THEE IN THIS HOUSE;

25 THEN HEAR THOU FROM THE HEAVENS, AND FORGIVE THE SIN OF THY PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND BRING THEM AGAIN UNTO THE LAND WHICH THOU GAVEST TO THEM AND TO THEIR FATHERS.

26 WHEN THE HEAVEN IS SHUT UP, AND THERE IS NO RAIN, BECAUSE THEY HAVE SINNED AGAINST THEE; YET IF THEY PRAY TOWARD THIS PLACE, AND CONFESS THY NAME, AND TURN FROM THEIR SIN, WHEN THOU DOST AFFLICT THEM;

27 THEN HEAR THOU FROM HEAVEN, AND FORGIVE THE SIN OF THY SERVANTS, AND OF THY PEOPLE ISRAEL, WHEN THOU HAST TAUGHT THEM THE GOOD WAY, WHEREIN THEY SHOULD WALK; AND SEND RAIN UPON

THY LAND, WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN UNTO THY PEOPLE FOR AN INHERITANCE.

28 IF THERE BE DEARTH IN THE LAND, IF THERE BE PESTILENCE, IF THERE BE BLASTING, OR MILDEW, LOCUSTS, OR CATERPILLERS; IF THEIR ENEMIES BESIEGE THEM IN THE CITIES OF THEIR LAND; WHATSOEVER SORE OR WHATSOEVER SICKNESS THERE BE:

29 THEN WHAT PRAYER OR WHAT SUPPLICATION SOEVER SHALL BE MADE OF ANY MAN, OR OF ALL THY PEOPLE ISRAEL, WHEN EVERY ONE SHALL KNOW HIS OWN SORE AND HIS OWN GRIEF, AND SHALL SPREAD FORTH HIS HANDS IN THIS HOUSE:

30 THEN HEAR THOU FROM HEAVEN THY DWELLING PLACE, AND FORGIVE, AND RENDER UNTO EVERY MAN ACCORDING UNTO ALL HIS WAYS, WHOSE HEART THOU KNOWEST; (FOR THOU ONLY KNOWEST THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN OF MEN:)

31 THAT THEY MAY FEAR THEE, TO WALK IN THY WAYS, SO LONG AS THEY LIVE IN THE LAND WHICH THOU GAVEST UNTO OUR FATHERS.

32 MOREOVER CONCERNING THE STRANGER, WHICH IS NOT OF THY PEOPLE ISRAEL, BUT IS COME FROM A FAR COUNTRY FOR THY GREAT NAME'S SAKE, AND THY MIGHTY HAND, AND THY STRETCHED OUT ARM; IF THEY COME AND PRAY IN THIS HOUSE;

33 THEN HEAR THOU FROM THE HEAVENS, EVEN FROM THY DWELLING PLACE, AND DO ACCORDING TO ALL THAT THE STRANGER CALLETH TO THEE FOR; THAT ALL PEOPLE OF THE EARTH MAY KNOW THY NAME, AND FEAR THEE, AS DOOTH THY PEOPLE ISRAEL, AND MAY KNOW THAT THIS HOUSE WHICH I HAVE BUILT IS CALLED BY THY NAME.

34 IF THY PEOPLE GO OUT TO WAR AGAINST THEIR ENEMIES BY THE WAY THAT THOU SHALT SEND THEM, AND THEY PRAY UNTO THEE TOWARD THIS CITY WHICH THOU HAST CHOSEN, AND THE HOUSE WHICH I HAVE BUILT FOR THY NAME;

35 THEN HEAR THOU FROM THE HEAVENS THEIR PRAYER AND THEIR SUPPLICATION, AND MAINTAIN THEIR CAUSE.

36 IF THEY SIN AGAINST THEE, (FOR THERE IS NO MAN WHICH SINNETH NOT,) AND THOU BE ANGRY WITH THEM, AND DELIVER THEM OVER BEFORE THEIR ENEMIES, AND THEY CARRY THEM AWAY CAPTIVES UNTO A LAND FAR OFF OR NEAR;

37 YET IF THEY BETHINK THEMSELVES IN THE LAND WHITHER THEY ARE CARRIED CAPTIVE, AND TURN AND PRAY UNTO THEE IN THE LAND OF THEIR CAPTIVITY, SAYING, WE HAVE SINNED, WE HAVE DONE AMISS, AND HAVE DEALT WICKEDLY;

38 IF THEY RETURN TO THEE WITH ALL THEIR HEART AND WITH ALL THEIR SOUL IN THE LAND OF THEIR CAPTIVITY, WHITHER THEY HAVE CARRIED THEM CAPTIVES, AND PRAY TOWARD THEIR LAND, WHICH THOU GAVEST UNTO THEIR FATHERS, AND TOWARD THE CITY WHICH THOU HAST CHOSEN, AND TOWARD THE HOUSE WHICH I HAVE BUILT FOR THY NAME:

39 THEN HEAR THOU FROM THE HEAVENS, EVEN FROM THY DWELLING PLACE, THEIR PRAYER AND THEIR SUPPLICATIONS, AND MAINTAIN THEIR CAUSE, AND FORGIVE THY PEOPLE WHICH HAVE SINNED AGAINST THEE.

**40 NOW, MY GOD, LET, I BESEECH THEE, THINE EYES BE OPEN, AND LET THINE EARS BE ATTENT UNTO THE PRAYER THAT IS MADE IN THIS PLACE.
41 NOW THEREFORE ARISE, O LORD GOD, INTO THY RESTING PLACE, THOU, AND THE ARK OF THY STRENGTH: LET THY PRIESTS, O LORD GOD, BE CLOTHED WITH SALVATION, AND LET THY SAINTS REJOICE IN GOODNESS.
42 O LORD GOD, TURN NOT AWAY THE FACE OF THINE ANOINTED: REMEMBER THE MERCIES OF DAVID THY SERVANT.**

Solomon became very popular. It was at this point that he became noted for his writings. However, there are some scholars who believe Hezekiah and his colleagues wrote Proverbs, the Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes. I choose to believe that Solomon's works were simply edited under Hezekiah.

We start with the Book of Proverbs. The first section of the book begins and ends with the statement that the "fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Also, in this book we will find that Jesus, referred to as the Messiah and will always be eternally existent. He is also foretold to be the Son of God.

PROV 1:7

7 THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE: BUT FOOLS DESPISE WISDOM AND INSTRUCTION.

PROV 9:10

10 THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM: AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY IS UNDERSTANDING.

It is obvious therefore that the wisdom extolled in Proverbs is not just a high degree of intelligence but a moral virtue. Wisdom is personified as a righteous woman. Jesus is our wisdom..

PROV 8:1

1 DOTH NOT WISDOM CRY? AND UNDERSTANDING PUT FORTH HER VOICE?

This is natural because "wisdom" in Hebrew is a feminine noun. The harlot, who is given large place in this section, is typical of all sin. She invites men with the same words as wisdom, but she takes them to sin.

PROV 9:4

4 WHOSO IS SIMPLE, LET HIM TURN IN HITHER: AS FOR HIM THAT WANTETH UNDERSTANDING, SHE SAITH TO HIM,

PROV 9:16-18

**16 WHOSO IS SIMPLE, LET HIM TURN IN HITHER: AND AS FOR HIM THAT WANTETH UNDERSTANDING, SHE SAITH TO HIM,
17 STOLEN WATERS ARE SWEET, AND BREAD EATEN IN SECRET IS PLEASANT.**

18 BUT HE KNOWETH NOT THAT THE DEAD ARE THERE; AND THAT HER GUESTS ARE IN THE DEPTHS OF HELL.

It is possible to find in wisdom a foreshadowing of Christ

1 Cor 1:30

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

PROV 8:1-31

1 DOT NOT WISDOM CRY? AND UNDERSTANDING PUT FORTH HER VOICE?

2 SHE STANDETH IN THE TOP OF HIGH PLACES, BY THE WAY IN THE PLACES OF THE PATHS.

3 SHE CRIETH AT THE GATES, AT THE ENTRY OF THE CITY, AT THE COMING IN AT THE DOORS.

4 UNTO YOU, O MEN, I CALL; AND MY VOICE IS TO THE SONS OF MAN.

5 O YE SIMPLE, UNDERSTAND WISDOM: AND, YE FOOLS, BE YE OF AN UNDERSTANDING HEART.

6 HEAR; FOR I WILL SPEAK OF EXCELLENT THINGS; AND THE OPENING OF MY LIPS SHALL BE RIGHT THINGS.

7 FOR MY MOUTH SHALL SPEAK TRUTH; AND WICKEDNESS IS AN ABOMINATION TO MY LIPS.

8 ALL THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH ARE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS; THERE IS NOTHING FROWARD OR PERVERSE IN THEM.

9 THEY ARE ALL PLAIN TO HIM THAT UNDERSTANDETH, AND RIGHT TO THEM THAT FIND KNOWLEDGE.

10 RECEIVE MY INSTRUCTION, AND NOT SILVER; AND KNOWLEDGE RATHER THAN CHOICE GOLD.

11 FOR WISDOM IS BETTER THAN RUBIES; AND ALL THE THINGS THAT MAY BE DESIRED ARE NOT TO BE COMPARED TO IT.

12 I WISDOM DWELL WITH PRUDENCE, AND FIND OUT KNOWLEDGE OF WITTY INVENTIONS.

13 THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS TO HATE EVIL: PRIDE, AND ARROGANCY, AND THE EVIL WAY, AND THE FROWARD MOUTH, DO I HATE.

14 COUNSEL IS MINE, AND SOUND WISDOM: I AM UNDERSTANDING; I HAVE STRENGTH.

15 BY ME KINGS REIGN, AND PRINCES DECREE JUSTICE.

16 BY ME PRINCES RULE, AND NOBLES, EVEN ALL THE JUDGES OF THE EARTH.

17 I LOVE THEM THAT LOVE ME; AND THOSE THAT SEEK ME EARLY SHALL FIND ME.

18 RICHES AND HONOUR ARE WITH ME; YEA, DURABLE RICHES AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

19 MY FRUIT IS BETTER THAN GOLD, YEA, THAN FINE GOLD; AND MY REVENUE THAN CHOICE SILVER.

20 I LEAD IN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, IN THE MIDST OF THE PATHS OF JUDGMENT:

21 THAT I MAY CAUSE THOSE THAT LOVE ME TO INHERIT SUBSTANCE; AND I WILL FILL THEIR TREASURES.
22 THE LORD POSSESSED ME IN THE BEGINNING OF HIS WAY, BEFORE HIS WORKS OF OLD.
23 I WAS SET UP FROM EVERLASTING, FROM THE BEGINNING, OR EVER THE EARTH WAS.
24 WHEN THERE WERE NO DEPTHS, I WAS BROUGHT FORTH; WHEN THERE WERE NO FOUNTAINS ABOUNDING WITH WATER.
25 BEFORE THE MOUNTAINS WERE SETTLED, BEFORE THE HILLS WAS I BROUGHT FORTH:
26 WHILE AS YET HE HAD NOT MADE THE EARTH, NOR THE FIELDS, NOR THE HIGHEST PART OF THE DUST OF THE WORLD.
27 WHEN HE PREPARED THE HEAVENS, I WAS THERE: WHEN HE SET A COMPASS UPON THE FACE OF THE DEPTH:
28 WHEN HE ESTABLISHED THE CLOUDS ABOVE: WHEN HE STRENGTHENED THE FOUNTAINS OF THE DEEP:
29 WHEN HE GAVE TO THE SEA HIS DECREE, THAT THE WATERS SHOULD NOT PASS HIS COMMANDMENT: WHEN HE APPOINTED THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH:
30 THEN I WAS BY HIM, AS ONE BROUGHT UP WITH HIM: AND I WAS DAILY HIS DELIGHT, REJOICING ALWAYS BEFORE HIM;
31 REJOICING IN THE HABITABLE PART OF HIS EARTH; AND MY DELIGHTS WERE WITH THE SONS OF MEN.

PROV 31: 10-31

10 WHO CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS WOMAN? FOR HER PRICE IS FAR ABOVE RUBIES.
11 THE HEART OF HER HUSBAND DOTHS SAFELY TRUST IN HER, SO THAT HE SHALL HAVE NO NEED OF SPOIL.
12 SHE WILL DO HIM GOOD AND NOT EVIL ALL THE DAYS OF HER LIFE.
13 SHE SEEKETH WOOL, AND FLAX, AND WORKETH WILLINGLY WITH HER HANDS.
14 SHE IS LIKE THE MERCHANTS' SHIPS; SHE BRINGETH HER FOOD FROM AFAR.
15 SHE RISETH ALSO WHILE IT IS YET NIGHT, AND GIVETH MEAT TO HER HOUSEHOLD, AND A PORTION TO HER MAIDENS.
16 SHE CONSIDERETH A FIELD, AND BUYETH IT: WITH THE FRUIT OF HER HANDS SHE PLANTETH A VINEYARD.
17 SHE GIRDETH HER LOINS WITH STRENGTH, AND STRENGTHENETH HER ARMS.
18 SHE PERCEIVETH THAT HER MERCHANDISE IS GOOD: HER CANDLE GOETH NOT OUT BY NIGHT.
19 SHE LAYETH HER HANDS TO THE SPINDLE, AND HER HANDS HOLD THE DISTAFF.
20 SHE STRETCHETH OUT HER HAND TO THE POOR; YEA, SHE REACHETH FORTH HER HANDS TO THE NEEDY.
21 SHE IS NOT AFRAID OF THE SNOW FOR HER HOUSEHOLD: FOR ALL HER HOUSEHOLD ARE CLOTHED WITH SCARLET.

22 SHE MAKETH HERSELF COVERINGS OF TAPESTRY; HER CLOTHING IS SILK AND PURPLE.
23 HER HUSBAND IS KNOWN IN THE GATES, WHEN HE SITTETH AMONG THE ELDERS OF THE LAND.
24 SHE MAKETH FINE LINEN, AND SELLETH IT; AND DELIVERETH GIRDLES UNTO THE MERCHANT.
25 STRENGTH AND HONOUR ARE HER CLOTHING; AND SHE SHALL REJOICE IN TIME TO COME.
26 SHE OPENETH HER MOUTH WITH WISDOM; AND IN HER TONGUE IS THE LAW OF KINDNESS.
27 SHE LOOKETH WELL TO THE WAYS OF HER HOUSEHOLD, AND EATETH NOT THE BREAD OF IDLENESS.
28 HER CHILDREN ARISE UP, AND CALL HER BLESSED; HER HUSBAND ALSO, AND HE PRAISETH HER.
29 MANY DAUGHTERS HAVE DONE VIRTUOUSLY, BUT THOU EXCELLEST THEM ALL.
30 FAVOUR IS DECEITFUL, AND BEAUTY IS VAIN: BUT A WOMAN THAT FEARETH THE LORD, SHE SHALL BE PRAISED.
31 GIVE HER OF THE FRUIT OF HER HANDS; AND LET HER OWN

Now we go to the Song of Solomon. It was written around 970 B. C. This book does not have a specific prophecy concerning Jesus Christ, but we know Him as the Bridegroom and the personification of love. In fact, the whole book is about love. So that makes it about Jesus Christ. The Hebrew people call this book “The Song of Songs.”

SONG 1:1

1 THE SONG OF SONGS, WHICH IS SOLOMON'S.

Solomon wrote 1,005 songs. This is the best of all of them.

I KING 4:32

32 AND HE SPAKE THREE THOUSAND PROVERBS: AND HIS SONGS WERE A THOUSAND AND FIVE.

This book centers in the joys and distresses of the love relationship between a man and woman. It gives pictures of broken fellowship, and of the loneliness of the heart that has lost its love. It gives the triumphs of fellowship when the heart walks in the fullness of its privileges. Obviously Solomon had the relationship between Christ and His church in mind when he wrote this book. Of course, he did not know Christ by name.

SONG 1:2-3

2 LET HIM KISS ME WITH THE KISSES OF HIS MOUTH: FOR THY LOVE IS BETTER THAN WINE.

3 BECAUSE OF THE SAVOUR OF THY GOOD OINTMENTS THY NAME IS AS OINTMENT POURED FORTH, THEREFORE DO THE VIRGINS LOVE THEE.

Solomon, in this writing expressed that he believed in a coming Messiah. He called the Messiah “My Beloved.” He referred to Christ as being fair, the Rose of Sharon, and the

Lily of the Valley. He states that the Messiah will call His bride away. The Bride, also, is fair and spotless. She is eager to go with Him.

Apparently, Ecclesiastes was written after Solomon had become very old, however, this is somewhat questionable. Some date it as late as 450 B. C. Although the Book of Ecclesiastes contains no direct or typological prophecies of Jesus Christ, it anticipates a number of teachings of Him who was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

MATT 5:17

17 THINK NOT THAT I AM COME TO DESTROY THE LAW, OR THE PROPHETS: I AM NOT COME TO DESTROY, BUT TO FULFIL.

While Jesus said little about wisdom, Paul had much to say about the wisdom given by God.

ROM 11:33

33 O THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES BOTH OF THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! HOW UNSEARCHABLE ARE HIS JUDGMENTS, AND HIS WAYS PAST FINDING OUT!

Solomon contrasted God's wisdom to the wisdom of the world with its human limitations.

1 COR 1:17-21

17 FOR CHRIST SENT ME NOT TO BAPTIZE, BUT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL: NOT WITH WISDOM OF WORDS, LEST THE CROSS OF CHRIST SHOULD BE MADE OF NONE EFFECT.

18 FOR THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS IS TO THEM THAT PERISH FOOLISHNESS; BUT UNTO US WHICH ARE SAVED IT IS THE POWER OF GOD.

19 FOR IT IS WRITTEN, I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND WILL BRING TO NOTHING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT.

20 WHERE IS THE WISE? WHERE IS THE SCRIBE? WHERE IS THE DISPUTER OF THIS WORLD? HATH NOT GOD MADE FOOLISH THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD?

21 FOR AFTER THAT IN THE WISDOM OF GOD THE WORLD BY WISDOM KNEW NOT GOD, IT PLEASSED GOD BY THE FOOLISHNESS OF PREACHING TO SAVE THEM THAT BELIEVE.

1 COR 3:19-20

19 FOR THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD IS FOOLISHNESS WITH GOD. FOR IT IS WRITTEN, HE TAKETH THE WISE IN THEIR OWN CRAFTINESS.

20 AND AGAIN, THE LORD KNOWETH THE THOUGHTS OF THE WISE, THAT THEY ARE VAIN.

2 COR 1:12

12 FOR OUR REJOICING IS THIS, THE TESTIMONY OF OUR CONSCIENCE, THAT IN SIMPLICITY AND GODLY SINCERITY, NOT WITH FLESHLY WISDOM, BUT BY THE GRACE OF GOD, WE HAVE HAD OUR CONVERSATION IN THE WORLD, AND MORE ABUNDANTLY TO YOU-WARD.

The reason that Paul was putting down human wisdom was because he knew God's wisdom on a personal basis.

1 COR 1:30

30 BUT OF HIM ARE YE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO OF GOD IS MADE UNTO US WISDOM, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND SANCTIFICATION, AND REDEMPTION:

In Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus warned against seeking wealth in this life, urging instead that it be sought in the wealth be sought in the next life.

ECCL 2:1-11

1 I SAID IN MINE HEART, GO TO NOW, I WILL PROVE THEE WITH MIRTH, THEREFORE ENJOY PLEASURE: AND, BEHOLD, THIS ALSO IS VANITY.

2 I SAID OF LAUGHTER, IT IS MAD: AND OF MIRTH, WHAT DOETH IT?

3 I SOUGHT IN MINE HEART TO GIVE MYSELF UNTO WINE, YET ACQUAINTING MINE HEART WITH WISDOM; AND TO LAY HOLD ON FOLLY, TILL I MIGHT SEE WHAT WAS THAT GOOD FOR THE SONS OF MEN, WHICH THEY SHOULD DO UNDER THE HEAVEN ALL THE DAYS OF THEIR LIFE.

4 I MADE ME GREAT WORKS; I BUILDED ME HOUSES; I PLANTED ME VINEYARDS:

5 I MADE ME GARDENS AND ORCHARDS, AND I PLANTED TREES IN THEM OF ALL KIND OF FRUITS:

6 I MADE ME POOLS OF WATER, TO WATER THEREWITH THE WOOD THAT BRINGETH FORTH TREES:

7 I GOT ME SERVANTS AND MAIDENS, AND HAD SERVANTS BORN IN MY HOUSE; ALSO I HAD GREAT POSSESSIONS OF GREAT AND SMALL CATTLE ABOVE ALL THAT WERE IN JERUSALEM BEFORE ME:

8 I GATHERED ME ALSO SILVER AND GOLD, AND THE PECULIAR TREASURE OF KINGS AND OF THE PROVINCES: I GAT ME MEN SINGERS AND WOMEN SINGERS, AND THE DELIGHTS OF THE SONS OF MEN, AS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, AND THAT OF ALL SORTS.

9 SO I WAS GREAT, AND INCREASED MORE THAN ALL THAT WERE BEFORE ME IN JERUSALEM: ALSO MY WISDOM REMAINED WITH ME.

10 AND WHATSOEVER MINE EYES DESIRED I KEPT NOT FROM THEM, I WITHHELD NOT MY HEART FROM ANY JOY; FOR MY HEART REJOICED IN ALL MY LABOUR: AND THIS WAS MY PORTION OF ALL MY LABOUR.

11 THEN I LOOKED ON ALL THE WORKS THAT MY HANDS HAD WROUGHT, AND ON THE LABOUR THAT I HAD LABOURED TO DO: AND, BEHOLD, ALL WAS VANITY AND VEXATION OF SPIRIT, AND THERE WAS NO PROFIT UNDER THE SUN.

ECCL 2:18-26

18 YEA, I HATED ALL MY LABOUR WHICH I HAD TAKEN UNDER THE SUN: BECAUSE I SHOULD LEAVE IT UNTO THE MAN THAT SHALL BE AFTER ME.
19 AND WHO KNOWETH WHETHER HE SHALL BE A WISE MAN OR A FOOL? YET SHALL HE HAVE RULE OVER ALL MY LABOUR WHEREIN I HAVE LABOURED, AND WHEREIN I HAVE SHEWED MYSELF WISE UNDER THE SUN. THIS IS ALSO VANITY.
20 THEREFORE I WENT ABOUT TO CAUSE MY HEART TO DESPAIR OF ALL THE LABOUR WHICH I TOOK UNDER THE SUN.
21 FOR THERE IS A MAN WHOSE LABOUR IS IN WISDOM, AND IN KNOWLEDGE, AND IN EQUITY; YET TO A MAN THAT HATH NOT LABOURED THEREIN SHALL HE LEAVE IT FOR HIS PORTION. THIS ALSO IS VANITY AND A GREAT EVIL.
22 FOR WHAT HATH MAN OF ALL HIS LABOUR, AND OF THE VEXATION OF HIS HEART, WHEREIN HE HATH LABOURED UNDER THE SUN?
23 FOR ALL HIS DAYS ARE SORROWS, AND HIS TRAVAIL GRIEF; YEA, HIS HEART TAKETH NOT REST IN THE NIGHT. THIS IS ALSO VANITY.
24 THERE IS NOTHING BETTER FOR A MAN, THAN THAT HE SHOULD EAT AND DRINK, AND THAT HE SHOULD MAKE HIS SOUL ENJOY GOOD IN HIS LABOUR. THIS ALSO I SAW, THAT IT WAS FROM THE HAND OF GOD.
25 FOR WHO CAN EAT, OR WHO ELSE CAN HASTEN HEREUNTO, MORE THAN I?
26 FOR GOD GIVETH TO A MAN THAT IS GOOD IN HIS SIGHT WISDOM, AND KNOWLEDGE, AND JOY: BUT TO THE SINNER HE GIVETH TRAVAIL, TO GATHER AND TO HEAP UP, THAT HE MAY GIVE TO HIM THAT IS GOOD BEFORE GOD. THIS ALSO IS VANITY AND VEXATION OF SPIRIT.

ECCL 4:4-6

4 AGAIN, I CONSIDERED ALL TRAVAIL, AND EVERY RIGHT WORK, THAT FOR THIS A MAN IS ENVIED OF HIS NEIGHBOUR. THIS IS ALSO VANITY AND VEXATION OF SPIRIT.
5 THE FOOL FOLDETH HIS HANDS TOGETHER, AND EATETH HIS OWN FLESH.
6 BETTER IS AN HANDFUL WITH QUIETNESS, THAN BOTH THE HANDS FULL WITH TRAVAIL AND VEXATION OF SPIRIT.

ECCL 5:8-14

8 IF THOU SEEST THE OPPRESSION OF THE POOR, AND VIOLENT PERVERTING OF JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE IN A PROVINCE, MARVEL NOT AT THE MATTER: FOR HE THAT IS HIGHER THAN THE HIGHEST REGARDETH; AND THERE BE HIGHER THAN THEY.
9 MOREOVER THE PROFIT OF THE EARTH IS FOR ALL: THE KING HIMSELF IS SERVED BY THE FIELD.
10 HE THAT LOVETH SILVER SHALL NOT BE SATISFIED WITH SILVER; NOR HE THAT LOVETH ABUNDANCE WITH INCREASE: THIS IS ALSO VANITY.
11 WHEN GOODS INCREASE, THEY ARE INCREASED THAT EAT THEM: AND WHAT GOOD IS THERE TO THE OWNERS THEREOF, SAVING THE BEHOLDING OF THEM WITH THEIR EYES?

12 THE SLEEP OF A LABOURING MAN IS SWEET, WHETHER HE EAT LITTLE OR MUCH: BUT THE ABUNDANCE OF THE RICH WILL NOT SUFFER HIM TO SLEEP.

13 THERE IS A SORE EVIL WHICH I HAVE SEEN UNDER THE SUN, NAMELY, RICHES KEPT FOR THE OWNERS THEREOF TO THEIR HURT.

14 BUT THOSE RICHES PERISH BY EVIL TRAVAIL: AND HE BEGETTETH A SON, AND THERE IS NOTHING IN HIS HAND.

The stress Jesus laid on heaven likewise mirrors the Preacher's despair of finding true value under the sun in this life. The conclusion to which the Preacher is driven, that true value lies only in reverence and obedience to God.

ECCL 12:13

13 LET US HEAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER: FEAR GOD, AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.

This mirrors the teaching of Jesus. One's values should be first determined by a proper attitude toward God.

MATT 22:37

37 JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND.

MATT 22:37

37 JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND.

Ecclesiastes is the most unique book in the Old Testament. It is a picture of the spiritually-dead man trying to find pleasure in the world. He tries to find it in building, in architectural ambitions. He builds great buildings. He tried to find it in horticulture. He had the most beautiful gardens perhaps the world had ever seen up to that time. He tried it in vast public works. He tried it with wine. He tried it with women and song, and in the conclusion of things he said, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." In the last chapter he sings the song of failure of natural man to achieve the desires of the human spirit.

Now to continue with the historical record. Solomon constructed many other magnificent buildings besides the temple. Word spread of his great kingdom, even to other nations. The Queen of Sheba commented, after meeting with Solomon that she had not even been told half about the magnitude of his wealth.

I KING 10:1-13

1 AND WHEN THE QUEEN OF SHEBA HEARD OF THE FAME OF SOLOMON CONCERNING THE NAME OF THE LORD, SHE CAME TO PROVE HIM WITH HARD QUESTIONS.

2 AND SHE CAME TO JERUSALEM WITH A VERY GREAT TRAIN, WITH CAMELS THAT BARE SPICES, AND VERY MUCH GOLD, AND PRECIOUS STONES: AND WHEN SHE WAS COME TO SOLOMON, SHE COMMUNED WITH HIM OF ALL THAT WAS IN HER HEART.

3 AND SOLOMON TOLD HER ALL HER QUESTIONS: THERE WAS NOT ANY THING HID FROM THE KING, WHICH HE TOLD HER NOT.
4 AND WHEN THE QUEEN OF SHEBA HAD SEEN ALL SOLOMON'S WISDOM, AND THE HOUSE THAT HE HAD BUILT,
5 AND THE MEAT OF HIS TABLE, AND THE SITTING OF HIS SERVANTS, AND THE ATTENDANCE OF HIS MINISTERS, AND THEIR APPAREL, AND HIS CUPBEARERS, AND HIS ASCENT BY WHICH HE WENT UP UNTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD; THERE WAS NO MORE SPIRIT IN HER.
6 AND SHE SAID TO THE KING, IT WAS A TRUE REPORT THAT I HEARD IN MINE OWN LAND OF THY ACTS AND OF THY WISDOM.
7 HOWBEIT I BELIEVED NOT THE WORDS, UNTIL I CAME, AND MINE EYES HAD SEEN IT: AND, BEHOLD, THE HALF WAS NOT TOLD ME: THY WISDOM AND PROSPERITY EXCEEDETH THE FAME WHICH I HEARD.
8 HAPPY ARE THY MEN, HAPPY ARE THESE THY SERVANTS, WHICH STAND CONTINUALLY BEFORE THEE, AND THAT HEAR THY WISDOM.
9 BLESSED BE THE LORD THY GOD, WHICH DELIGHTED IN THEE, TO SET THEE ON THE THRONE OF ISRAEL: BECAUSE THE LORD LOVED ISRAEL FOR EVER, THEREFORE MADE HE THEE KING, TO DO JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE.
10 AND SHE GAVE THE KING AN HUNDRED AND TWENTY TALENTS OF GOLD, AND OF SPICES VERY GREAT STORE, AND PRECIOUS STONES: THERE CAME NO MORE SUCH ABUNDANCE OF SPICES AS THESE WHICH THE QUEEN OF SHEBA GAVE TO KING SOLOMON.
11 AND THE NAVY ALSO OF HIRAM, THAT BROUGHT GOLD FROM OPHIR, BROUGHT IN FROM OPHIR GREAT PLENTY OF ALMUG TREES, AND PRECIOUS STONES.
12 AND THE KING MADE OF THE ALMUG TREES PILLARS FOR THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, AND FOR THE KING'S HOUSE, HARPS ALSO AND PSALTERIES FOR SINGERS: THERE CAME NO SUCH ALMUG TREES, NOR WERE SEEN UNTO THIS DAY.
13 AND KING SOLOMON GAVE UNTO THE QUEEN OF SHEBA ALL HER DESIRE, WHATSOEVER SHE ASKED, BESIDE THAT WHICH SOLOMON GAVE HER OF HIS ROYAL BOUNTY. SO SHE TURNED AND WENT TO HER OWN COUNTRY, SHE AND HER SERVANTS.

2 CHR 9:1-12

1 AND WHEN THE QUEEN OF SHEBA HEARD OF THE FAME OF SOLOMON, SHE CAME TO PROVE SOLOMON WITH HARD QUESTIONS AT JERUSALEM, WITH A VERY GREAT COMPANY, AND CAMELS THAT BARE SPICES, AND GOLD IN ABUNDANCE, AND PRECIOUS STONES: AND WHEN SHE WAS COME TO SOLOMON, SHE COMMUNED WITH HIM OF ALL THAT WAS IN HER HEART.
2 AND SOLOMON TOLD HER ALL HER QUESTIONS: AND THERE WAS NOTHING HID FROM SOLOMON WHICH HE TOLD HER NOT.
3 AND WHEN THE QUEEN OF SHEBA HAD SEEN THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON, AND THE HOUSE THAT HE HAD BUILT,
4 AND THE MEAT OF HIS TABLE, AND THE SITTING OF HIS SERVANTS, AND THE ATTENDANCE OF HIS MINISTERS, AND THEIR APPAREL; HIS CUPBEARERS ALSO, AND THEIR APPAREL; AND HIS ASCENT BY WHICH HE

WENT UP INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD; THERE WAS NO MORE SPIRIT IN HER.

5 AND SHE SAID TO THE KING, IT WAS A TRUE REPORT WHICH I HEARD IN MINE OWN LAND OF THINE ACTS, AND OF THY WISDOM:

6 HOWBEIT I BELIEVED NOT THEIR WORDS, UNTIL I CAME, AND MINE EYES HAD SEEN IT: AND, BEHOLD, THE ONE HALF OF THE GREATNESS OF THY WISDOM WAS NOT TOLD ME: FOR THOU EXCEEDEST THE FAME THAT I HEARD.

7 HAPPY ARE THY MEN, AND HAPPY ARE THESE THY SERVANTS, WHICH STAND CONTINUALLY BEFORE THEE, AND HEAR THY WISDOM.

8 BLESSED BE THE LORD THY GOD, WHICH DELIGHTED IN THEE TO SET THEE ON HIS THRONE, TO BE KING FOR THE LORD THY GOD: BECAUSE THY GOD LOVED ISRAEL, TO ESTABLISH THEM FOR EVER, THEREFORE MADE HE THEE KING OVER THEM, TO DO JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE.

9 AND SHE GAVE THE KING AN HUNDRED AND TWENTY TALENTS OF GOLD, AND OF SPICES GREAT ABUNDANCE, AND PRECIOUS STONES: NEITHER WAS THERE ANY SUCH SPICE AS THE QUEEN OF SHEBA GAVE KING SOLOMON.

10 AND THE SERVANTS ALSO OF HURAM, AND THE SERVANTS OF SOLOMON, WHICH BROUGHT GOLD FROM OPHIR, BROUGHT ALGUM TREES AND PRECIOUS STONES.

11 AND THE KING MADE OF THE ALGUM TREES TERRACES TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, AND TO THE KING'S PALACE, AND HARPS AND PSALTERIES FOR SINGERS: AND THERE WERE NONE SUCH SEEN BEFORE IN THE LAND OF JUDAH.

12 AND KING SOLOMON GAVE TO THE QUEEN OF SHEBA ALL HER DESIRE, WHATSOEVER SHE ASKED, BESIDE THAT WHICH SHE HAD BROUGHT UNTO THE KING. SO SHE TURNED, AND WENT AWAY TO HER OWN LAND, SHE AND HER SERVANTS.

The later years of Solomon's reign brought decline. His extravagant luxury and his notorious sensuality caused him to turn away from God. Enemies became stirred up against him. The death of Solomon is recorded in both I Kings and II Chronicles.