

## Preview of 2 Chronicles

The Book of 2 Chronicles covers the same historical time period as 1 and 2 Kings. The account begins with glory and ends with tragedy. In chapter 1, a humble, God-fearing King Solomon occupies the throne of a united, magnificent Israel. Chapter 36 records the termination of the throne of Judah, the devastation of Jerusalem and of God's temple, and the deportation of Judah into Babylon. Whereas 1 and 2 Kings detail the history of both the Northern and the Southern kingdoms, 2 Chronicles focuses on Judah's history, including only those events in Israel that affect Judah.

This book, like 1 Chronicles, was likely written after the Jews' return from captivity, to inspire them to true worship and loyalty to God. Like 1 Chronicles, this book emphasizes that the secret of Judah's strength lay in her religious life and that religious apostasy would occasion her downfall. Thus, the glory of Israel's golden age under Solomon is linked to Solomon's worship experiences and to his leading of Israel into wholesome worship. Comments linking a king's prosperity and victory to his spiritual fidelity are common in this book (see 14:6—7; 17:13—6; 26:4—5; 27:6; 31:20—21).

The Book of 2 Chronicles divides into three historical movements: Chapters 1 through 9 detail Solomon's reign, chapter 10 describes the division of the kingdom into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, chapters' 11–36 detail the subsequent history of Judah.

Second Chronicles teaches us the important role that worship fills in our experience. Spiritual prosperity and God's blessing upon us relate directly to the quality of our worship. When we go wrong in worship, we open the door to spiritual darkness and deception.

## Lesson 7    20 September, 2020

### Solomon's Kingdom Strengthened

#### **Lesson Scope:** [2 Chronicles 1](#)

*References in brackets relate to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise*

#### **Lesson Focus**

With the help of David, his father, Solomon was grasping the important place that worship must fill in the life of God's people. David used the tabernacle and altar at Gibeon and had the ark at Jerusalem, making worship a priority in his life (1 Chronicles 16:39).

Solomon was anointed, and his father gave him a solemn charge. Soon after he took the throne, he gave an invitation to his chief officers to come to worship God for providing for their needs in the changing of the generations. The officers responded positively to this invitation, and common people may have also been present. Solomon offered one thousand offerings, setting an example of putting worship first.

Solomon's request to God shows he understood that he did not deserve the divine favours he had received. He sensed his lack of ability to fill the responsibility placed in his hands. It was the heart cry of a committed servant for divine assistance. In today's religious climate, many people claim to be earnestly seeking the Lord. Our purpose in this lesson is to teach what is included in earnestly seeking Him, along with the results that follow.

All people receive responsibilities in life—some many and some not as many. It takes divine wisdom and the help of others to fill these responsibilities. We must see the benefit of brethren in fulfilling our responsibilities. Verses 14 and 15 indicate that Solomon gathered chariots and horses, horsemen, silver, gold, and cedar. Deuteronomy 17:16-17 does not state how much is multiplying, but Solomon claims he gathered gold and silver as an experiment (Ecclesiastes 2:8-11). It would appear that there was a lot of interest in the material state as well as in protecting it. Though Solomon had great riches in Proverbs 23:4-5 he counsels against them. One of the most positive influences a man can have on the next generation is when he understands he made a poor choice, acknowledges it, and chooses differently

The Lord desires man's worship and communion. He graces with divine favour and fullness those who respond in faith and commitment.

**Lesson Aim:** To see involvements of earnestly seeking the Lord.

**Theme Verse:** [Psalm 119:10](#). With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

## Lesson Text

### “Solomon Went Up . . . Before the Lord”

#### [2 Chronicles 1:1-6](#)

<sup>1</sup> (KJV) And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God *was* with him, and magnified him exceedingly. <sup>2</sup> Then Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every governor in all Israel, the chief of the fathers. <sup>3</sup> So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that *was* at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness. <sup>4</sup> But the ark of God had David brought up from Kirjathjearim to *the place which* David had prepared for it: for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> Moreover the brasen altar, that Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD: and Solomon and the congregation sought unto it. <sup>6</sup> And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the LORD, which *was* at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it.

### “Solomon Said, . . . Give Me Now Wisdom”

#### [2 Chronicles 1:7-12](#)

<sup>7</sup> (KJV) In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee. <sup>8</sup> And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. <sup>9</sup> Now, O LORD God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. <sup>10</sup> Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, *that is so* great? <sup>11</sup> And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the

life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: <sup>12</sup> Wisdom and knowledge *is* granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that *have been* before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

### **“Solomon . . . Reigns Over Israel”**

#### **2 Chronicles 1:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> (KJV) Then Solomon came *from his journey* to the high place that was at Gibeon to Jerusalem, from before the tabernacle of the congregation, and reigned over Israel. <sup>14</sup> And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, which he placed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup> And the king made silver and gold at Jerusalem *as plenteous* as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that *are* in the vale for abundance. <sup>16</sup> And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. <sup>17</sup> And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a chariot for six hundred *shekels* of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so brought they out *horses* for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means.

### **Questions for Study**

#### **“Solomon Went Up . . . Before the Lord”**

1. Suggest reasons why Solomon may have desired that all officers be present at this worship experience.
2. What can we learn from the magnitude of Solomon's sacrifice?
3. How will fervent worship be expressed today?

#### **“Solomon Said, . . . Give Me Now Wisdom”**

4. How did Solomon view himself? How did he view God's people?
5. What purpose did God intend for Israel by giving Solomon more than he requested? See Deuteronomy 8:18.
6. What is our greatest need in filling our responsibilities today?

#### **“Solomon . . . Reigns Over Israel”**

7. What duties required Solomon's diligent response?
8. How can we discern between needs and excess when there is plenty?

## **Analysing the Passage**

The Lord first magnified Solomon (1 Chronicles 29:25; 2 Chronicles 1:1); then Solomon magnified the Lord through this outstanding worship experience. And then the Lord in turn further magnified Solomon through His promise (1:11-12).

David had put much effort into unifying and centralizing Israel's worship, but the process was not yet complete. The ark, the symbol of God's presence, was at Jerusalem, but the tabernacle and the brazen altar were still at Gibeon (1:3-6).

Sought (1:5) means "to tread or frequent, usually to follow." Israel understood that the tabernacle was where God met with His people.

Solomon offered one thousand burnt offerings upon the brazen altar. He planned and directed this great worship event. He was not a priest, so he did not personally do the offering. Apparently God was well pleased with these offerings, for He asked Solomon the same night what He should give him. Solomon's response displayed a most excellent attitude for a new king. He desired wisdom and knowledge so that he could reign justly over this great people. God blessed him far above what he asked.

Was this multiplying of horses and of silver and gold a hint that all was not well (1:14-15)? On the one hand, the passage reads as if all this was the direct blessing of the Lord; on the other hand, God had specifically forbidden Israel's kings from multiplying these things (Deuteronomy 17: 16-17).

## **Principles and Applications**

### **"Solomon Went Up . . . Before the Lord"**

1. The Lord's presence and blessing enrich those who purpose to fill their place in His kingdom (1:1). God works with man's choices. As men seek to put God's kingdom first, it opens the way for greater blessings. "Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" improves brotherhood relationships. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves in public worship is important. Divine assistance comes to those who willingly put their best effort into filling their responsibilities.

2. A unified effort greatly enhances the seeking of the Lord (1:2-3).

Congregational worship is a vital part of personal victory. Worshiping with others opens the door for greater understanding of God and our-

selves and aids in finding God's will for us. Here we see God with us in the tests of life, encouraging right choices and rebuking wrong ones. Understanding God's care draws from us love and commitment. We give responsibility and accountability to God and others its rightful place.

3. Those who truly seek the Lord follow divinely prescribed patterns of worship (1:3-6). Singing, teaching, and preaching in a group setting reveal God's thoughts toward us. Our sisters keep silent in the church.

There is no room for entertainment. Rather, we strengthen our hatred for sin and love for the truth. Not only do we increase knowledge, but we also receive direction to make it practical in life. There will be a willing response of obedience to revealed truth.

4. Earnestly seeking the Lord involves much sacrifice (1:6). Everything we have we received. Our bodies, time, talents, and material goods belong to God. Even the trades we have and how we pursue them reveal our view of God. Are my blessings available for brotherhood needs? Do I take time to invite others to Christ? Diligent attention to pleasing God is my reasonable service.

#### **“Solomon Said, . . . Give Me Now Wisdom”**

5. Only those who humbly recognize their dependence upon the Lord truly seek Him (1:8-10). “Who can judge this thy people?” Solomon saw his utter helplessness to be a judge. We know nothing of ourselves. Even the care of our bodies requires wisdom. Am I praying in thought about small choices? Do I read God's Word every day and meditate throughout the day? Do I take time to see where God is working? Do I thank Him for the tests and benefits of life?

6. Earnestly seeking the Lord requires laying aside personal interests for the good of the kingdom (1:10). We must provide for our own. But interest in ourselves must be tempered to needs. Physical health, desire to live, reputation, living standards, business security, and physical pleasures affect thought patterns. Do I support the standards of the church or only fulfill what is required? What is more important business security or spiritual safety? Wearing casual attire helps us blend with the world rather than represent the kingdom.

7. The Lord delights in those who earnestly seek Him (1:11-12). “Because this was in thine heart” shows God's recognition of Solomon's surrender of his own desire to God's will. Do I choose God's will only

or try to blend His will and mine? Concentration in worship requires self-discipline. Participating in class and taking notes during a message brings its own blessing.

God has blessed us with sins forgiven, eternal life, Holy Spirit presence, Scriptural church life, wholesome family life, and our own schools; these unmerited gifts show God's delight in us.

### **“Solomon . . . Reigns Over Israel”**

8. The Lord enables those who seek Him to fill their places courageously (1:13). God always supplies the resources for what He calls people to do. The task may appear overwhelming, but He will supply what we need. Our fathers saw the need for Christian day schools. Could they provide all that was needed? God graciously enabled them to produce a Biblical curriculum. He is still providing teachers and resources for the work today. “Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest (Joshua 1:9).

9. The Lord richly blesses those who earnestly seek Him (1:14-17). We are richly blessed with “all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). Personal, family, and congregational worship all provide for needs that are left unmet in society. The seven ordinances and our participation in them build a relationship of faith and trust in God. A written standard defines boundaries and encourages living above them. God has made it possible for us and our posterity to find our way to heaven.

### **Important Teachings**

1. The Lord's presence and blessing enrich those who purpose to fill their place in His kingdom (1:1).
2. A unified effort greatly enhances the seeking of the Lord (1:2-3).
3. Those who truly seek the Lord follow divinely prescribed patterns of worship (1:3-6).
4. Earnestly seeking the Lord involves much sacrifice (1:6).
5. Only those who humbly recognize their dependence upon the Lord truly seek Him (1:8-10).
6. Earnestly seeking the Lord requires laying aside personal interests for the good of the kingdom (1:10).
7. The Lord delights in those who earnestly seek Him (1:11-12).

8. The Lord enables those who seek Him to fill their places courageously (1:13).
9. The Lord richly blesses those who earnestly seek Him (1:14-17).

### **Answers to Questions**

1. Suggest reasons why Solomon may have desired that all officers be present at this worship experience.

Solomon was new on the throne, and worship was important to him. He was responding in gratitude for God's provision, both personally and nationally (verse 1-2). He was showing the officers the important place of worship in national efforts. He wanted to strengthen brotherhood accountability.

2. What can we learn from the magnitude of Solomon's sacrifice?

Solomon offered the best that he had. Though king, Solomon was on the same level as the rest of the people—acceptable worship called for only the best. Solomon was making it clear—man's choices do affect God's blessing. The brazen altar was where God accepted their sacrifices and met with His people.

3. How will fervent worship be expressed today?

In acceptable worship, there will be full surrender of self and allowing the Lord to rule our life. We will have proper priorities—time for God first, then time for family and others, and last for ourselves. We will meet with God's people where God meets with them. Entertainment has no place in fervent worship. Our sisters will keep silent in the church. We will support the spirit of the discipline of our group, not just what is required.

4. How did Solomon view himself? How did he view God's people?

Solomon realized that his health, family, nation, and throne were gifts of divine favour, and recognized that divine favour in past generations. He knew nothing—"go out" and "come in" indicates needing wisdom for the details of life. He viewed them as the dust of the earth, more than could be numbered. Only God knew how to judge the people. Solomon did not, and he needed divine assistance. He saw that God kept them as the apple of His eye. They were God's people, not his.

5. What purpose did God intend for Israel by giving Solomon more than he requested? See Deuteronomy 8:18.



Plenty should have brought thankfulness, trust, and appreciation for What God was doing. It should have strengthened commitment. Riches could provide rest because there was enough, wealth can be shared, and the honour of the nations brought opportunities to tell of God's great works (9:23).

6. What is our greatest need in filling our responsibilities today?

We need clear identity as God's people in speech, attire, and conduct. We must see our own inability. We must study the Word to show ourselves approved unto God. Worship is a priority. The Holy Spirit guides us into truth. Prayer is as important as our breath. We must recognize the value of others input. We must be diligent in doing all we know that pleases God.

7. What duties required Solomon's diligent response?

Solomon reigned over Israel; his position of authority called for faithfulness and diligence. He had many material things to look after. He did not do all this himself, but he needed to see that these responsibilities were faithfully discharged. He needed to order the kingdom in such a way that the people served together peacefully. (1 Kings 10:8).

8. How can we discern between needs and excess when there is plenty?

We must provide for our own. Can I take cheerfully the spoiling of my goods? What is the reason for extra protection for my goods? Do I willingly share in others' needs as much as I am able? Does business security or spiritual safety make the final choice? How much do I acquire to improve my self-image? Is there time for evangelism?

### **Summarizing the Lesson**

God has provided for every need in man's life. Whether or not a man has his needs met depends on his faith and commitment to God.

### **Research Guide**

1. Study the parallel passage in 1 Kings 3:4-15.
2. Read about Gibeon in a Bible dictionary.