

Summary:

God brings Israel to a high point with Solomon's reign. As God promised to Abraham, He multiplies Israel as the sand on the seashore and establishes them in their land. He gives their king unmatched wisdom. He makes the temple in Jerusalem the symbolic place of His presence, where Israel can seek His forgiveness and favor. He even attracts other nations—the queen of Sheba leaves astonished by Solomon's realm.

But this upward trajectory does not continue. It is at this very point that Israel's kingdom begins to unravel. Although God blesses Israel with a glorious kingdom, the people's hearts persist in unbelief, idolatry, and rebellion. Solomon and Israel turn from the Lord, continuing a centuries-long pattern of sin.

The united kingdom of twelve tribes swiftly divides and declines from there. The Lord is unswervingly kind to them, but the problem runs deep. Israel's story shows that no amount of material blessing can make a sinful heart love God. This world needs a true king and new hearts. That day will come with Jesus but Israel first must enter into a season of judgment for its sin.

-Drew Hunter, Unfolding Grace, 303-304



Unfolding Grace

2022 Sermon Series

We are spending several weeks in 2022 exploring the unfolding grace of God in major portions of the Old Testament. This means we often cover large sections of Scripture and skip many otherwise important things. We encourage you to supplement these sermons with depth reading of the surrounding passages on your own.

The Faithful King

May 22, 2022 | 1 Kings 11 | Pastor Roger Williams

The Lord works through humble trust in his kingly faithfulness to protect, preserve, and bless.

Deuteronomy 17

¹⁴“When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you... One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you...¹⁶Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’ ¹⁷And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

1 Kings 3

³Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places...

1 Kings 10

¹Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions...⁴And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, ⁵the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her.

¹⁴Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold, ¹⁵besides that which came from the explorers and from the business of the merchants, and from all the kings of the west and from the governors of the land...

²⁶And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen...²⁷And the king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone...²⁸And Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt...

1 Kings 11

¹Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ²from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. ³He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the

abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. ⁷Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. ⁸And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their god

⁹And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice ¹⁰and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded. ¹¹Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. ¹²Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. ¹³However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen.”

¹⁴And the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon...²⁶Jeroboam ... also lifted up his hand against the king...⁴⁰Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

⁴¹Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon? ⁴²And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. ⁴³And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

1 Kings 12

¹⁶And when all Israel saw that the king (Rehoboam) did not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.” So Israel went to their tents. ¹⁷But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah.

Luke 11

Jesus said,... ³¹The queen of the South (Sheba) will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.