

Old Testament Survey: 8

The Lion King

David – Solomon

At this point we are half-way through our studies in the Old Testament. How would you now answer the question “*What's the Old Testament all about?*”. Is your answer different now to what it was a few weeks ago?

Most companies offer us their products or services with great promises or guarantees that what they sell is far superior to their competitors or they bring out a new improved version of their product which is 10 times better than before. For those of us who fall prey to these claims are often left disappointed when they appear to be just the same as before, or on some occasions worse.

So far we've traced God's faithfulness to the promises He gave to Abraham, but we will soon see that God is not just content to do what He promised but He goes beyond that. As His promises are being fulfilled He gives more and more and adds blessing on to blessing.

“[Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...](#)” Ephesians 3.20

In our studies we begin by looking at David. Many volumes have been written about this great figure in the history of God's people – perhaps even the greatest figure in their history? To take an in-depth look at David would involve many months of intense study which we do not have the time for this time.

God rejected Saul as king and He raised up David - a new king for them who was “[a man after His own heart](#)” (1 Samuel 13.13-14).

He was a **worshipper** – a man who spent time with God, who loved God. A man who talked with Him and knew His ways.

He was a **musician** – writing many of the psalms and songs

He was a **warrior** – defeating the enemies of Israel. The women sang about his triumphs.

He was a **prophet** – he had many revelations from God and spoke/wrote about the coming of the Messiah. He is one of the most quoted by the New Testament writers.

He was a **type of Christ** – He didn't just prophesy of the Christ he resembled him in many ways.

Similarities between David and Jesus.

David	Jesus
David was born in Bethlehem	Jesus was born in Bethlehem
David was born into a humble family	Jesus was born into a humble family
David was a shepherd of sheep	Jesus is the Great Shepherd of the sheep

David was persecuted by Saul but did not retaliate	Jesus was persecuted yet opened not his mouth
David was king with an 'everlasting' kingdom	Jesus is King of Kings with an everlasting kingdom

2 Samuel 7.1-17

David is now on the throne and wants to build God a place to dwell in but God has His own plans first. He wants to bring His people into total fulfilment of His promises. At this point in their history the future of Israel looks very bright. God promises them:

- that His (David's) seed would build Him a house to dwell in (v13)
- that there would be a special bond between Himself and Israel's king
"I will be his Father and he will be My son" (vs14)
- that David's kingdom would be established forever (v16)

(vs14) Even though men may sin God promises to be merciful and faithful to them.

2 Samuel 7.18-29

When David hears these words He responds to the magnitude of God's promises by asking Him the questions - Who am I? and What have I done to deserve all this?

This shows us the extent that God will go to bless His people who love and obey Him.

However, things do go wrong! David commits sin big time – he neglects his duty as king, has an adulterous affair and commits murder. He repents of his sin and is forgiven but the consequences of this sin affect the royal family which last for generations to come. There are family feuds, rivalry, murderous desires, brother takes on brother – but with all this God springs a big surprise.

God raises up **Solomon** as king over His people. Solomon is a son of the relationship between David and Bathsheba. Under Solomon God's people enjoy a time of peace and prosperity.

God gives Solomon the opportunity to ask for anything – riches, wealth, health, mighty army to conquer his enemies, anything he wants. What would we ask for? Solomon requests wisdom to judge the people of God righteously and justly. This shows us that he has the purposes of God in mind. God grants him his request and a lot more besides, everything he could have asked for – **that's His extravagant nature again!**

Under Solomon's rule

- the Promised Land is established
- Israel becomes a world power
- He builds the Temple in Jerusalem (which replaces the Tabernacle)
- the wisdom and fame of Solomon spreads far and wide

But there are some sure signs that **things aren't quite as they should be.**

If ever there was a tragedy, it was the rule and reign of Solomon. A man who penned a thousand songs and wrote 3000 wise proverbs failed to put into practice what he preached.

Alexander Whyte described his life as 'a shipwreck' – It started off so well but hit the rocks. He was a shining type of Christ but through a series of basic errors his light went dim and was extinguished.

Deuteronomy 17.16-17

Long before Solomon, God gave very clear instructions to Moses about the behaviour of kings. These three things were to be especially avoided

- Not going back to Egypt
- Not taking many wives – lest his heart be turned away from God
- Not to multiply silver, gold and riches for himself

Solomon did not avoid these things and they caused his deterioration.

1 Kings 6.38 – 7.1

As well as building the Temple, Solomon also built himself a brand new palace. He spent much more time building his own palace (almost double the time)

1 Kings 6.2 and 1 Kings 7.2

If we compare the dimensions of the Temple and that of his own palace, we see that the king's home is a much more impressive building.

** Silver is common and is counted as nothing in his time (1 Kings 10.21, 27)

1 Kings 3.1-4

Solomon makes a treaty with Pharaoh (king of Egypt); He marries outside of his own people and brings this new wife (a Gentile 'foreigner') to the City of David. He also burns sacrifices at the high places [a pagan custom].

He takes many foreign wives (700) and has many concubines (300). These women turn his heart from the Lord (Nehemiah 13.26) and he falls hard into idolatry to satisfy and please them (1 Kings 11:1-9).

There appears to be no record that Solomon repented of his sin. Although the Scriptures tell us of his remorse, his disgust and self-contempt (Ecclesiastes) yet there is no penitent psalm penned like that of David, his father (Psalm 51) This is what makes his story such a tragedy. Yet we can be encouraged to do what Solomon failed to do – keep God's commands and we will live (Proverbs 4.4-27)

Yet again we've seen the Old Testament pointing towards Jesus through David and Solomon

Comparison between Solomon and Jesus.

Solomon	Jesus
Solomon was the first king by birthright	Jesus is the King of Kings by right
Solomon's reign was one of wisdom	Jesus is our wisdom
Solomon was David's son	Jesus is David's Greater Son
Solomon's rule was one of greatness	Jesus' ministry was one of humility
Solomon's priorities were in himself	Jesus' priority was to fulfil His Father's will