

SOLOMON LESSONS FROM A FALLEN KING

STUDY ONE

Stepping into Big Sandals

Selected Scriptures

Solomon was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He stepped into a fabulous dynasty with the brightest hope for the future that you could imagine.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

SOLOMON became king at the best of times. His father, King David, had polished the kingdom to a shine. Israel's coffers were overflowing, the nation was united, and the worship of God was vibrant. When the people lifted their praise, they sang the psalms David wrote. They loved their godly king, who modeled a spiritual passion they longed to emulate.

No young monarch could have hoped for a finer foundation on which to build his own rule . . . or had a higher standard to live up to. Solomon was stepping into big sandals when he became king.

Have you ever had to step into big sandals? Perhaps you were the one to inherit the family business. Maybe your parent or sibling had a standout talent, and everyone measured your ability by his or hers. Maybe your boss left unexpectedly, and the reins of leadership fell to you.

Young Solomon was unsteady and overwhelmed at first. But when he honestly expressed his need for God's help, God blessed him—not because Solomon deserved it but because of his humble heart. That's a trait anyone can live up to.



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

As you embark on this study of Solomon, open your heart to receive the truth God has for you in His Word. Pray David's prayer as a start and then write your own.

*Open my eyes to see
the wonderful truths in your instructions.* (Psalm 119:18)



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Out of his nineteen sons, David picked Solomon to wear his crown.¹ Why Solomon? How did David know that Solomon was the one? Read David's recounting of Solomon being chosen in *1 Chronicles 22:6–10*. What did David say to his young son?

Two of Solomon's older brothers, however, made a play for power. Absalom attempted a coup but was killed by David's top commander, Joab (*2 Samuel 18:9–15*). Adonijah tried to steal the throne while his aging father was infirm (*1 Kings 1:5–13*). The prophet Nathan alerted David of Adonijah's scheming, and from his sickbed, David ordered a quick coronation for Solomon (*1:28–40*).

The Lord had His hand on Solomon, guarding him from rivals and guiding him into his destiny. Let's go back to the beginning of Solomon's life to see how he grew into the wisest, richest, and most renowned king of Israel.



Observation: Solomon's Rise and God's Blessings

Observation is the foundational phase in *Searching the Scriptures*.² Ask yourself while reading, "What does the passage say?" Don't rush. Notice the context, action, and dialogue. Observe characters, contrasts and comparisons, and cause-and-effect. Accurate interpretation depends on careful observation.

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Birth to Coronation: “Long Live King Solomon!” (1 Kings 1:34)

Solomon was born in the stormy aftermath of David’s adultery with Bathsheba, murder of Bathsheba’s husband Uriah, and shameful cover-up ([2 Samuel 11](#)). David had sunk to his lowest point spiritually. And yet, into this pit of sin, the Lord shined His light of hope through the birth of Solomon.

Birth and Naming

After the baby conceived by David’s adultery died, Solomon was born. What do you observe in [2 Samuel 12:24–25](#) about the birth? What does *Solomon* mean (see [1 Chronicles 22:9](#))? What message from God did his second name, *Jedidiah*, convey to his mother and father?

Childhood and Training

Because God used Nathan to confer upon Solomon a special name, it’s possible that the prophet also took the young prince under his protective tutelage through the turbulent days ahead. Scan [2 Samuel 13–18](#) and list some of the abuses and violence that tore apart David’s family.

Imagine young Solomon’s trauma as he watched his family tear apart. And yet, Solomon was walking with God when he came of age—thanks to Nathan’s godly influence.

*Don’t think your child is doomed if he or she has suffered even horrible events.
One godly life can change a person’s life and make up for the hard years.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

Inauguration and Reign

Solomon was probably in his early twenties when he became king. Review the account of his crowning in [1 Kings 1:28–35](#). Reflect on David’s counsel for his son in [1 Kings 2:1–4](#), and ponder the wonders of Solomon’s reign in [1 Chronicles 29:23–25](#). Write down your observations. What impresses you about Solomon?

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Forty Years as King: “The LORD His God Was with Him” (2 Chronicles 1:1)

Solomon’s humble character proved he was worthy of the throne. When the Lord offered Solomon anything he wished, Solomon responded:

“I am like a little child who doesn’t know his way around. And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?”
(1 Kings 3:7–9)

How did God answer Solomon’s request, according to [1 Kings 3:10–13](#)?

“The LORD his God was with him,” penned the chronicler (2 Chronicles 1:1), and the Lord exalted him greatly. In the following chart, read the passages and describe the blessings God showered on Solomon.

Blessing	Description
Wisdom 1 Kings 4:29–34	
Riches 1 Kings 10:14–22	
Fame 1 Kings 10:1–9, 23–24	

“Judah and Israel lived securely, everyone under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon” (1 Kings 4:25 NASB). An incredible prosperity fell on the people during Solomon’s reign.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Interpretation: A Model to Follow

At the beginning of his reign, Solomon lived by his father's final words to him: "Take courage and be a man. Observe the requirements of the LORD your God, and follow all his ways" (1 Kings 2:2–3).

Thinking back on the passages you observed, what character qualities in Solomon stand out?

These early years were abundant and peaceful for Solomon and the nation. If Solomon could speak, what counsel would he give regarding this season of his life? What truth is God conveying through Solomon's example?



Correlation: Praise God in Every Circumstance

From a family in crisis to a kingdom of untold abundance—Solomon experienced the lowest lows and the highest highs. Through it all, he learned to lean on God in every circumstance. Perhaps Solomon quoted *Psalms 103:1–5* in praise as he pondered his life at this stage. In what ways had God redeemed Solomon and his family?

With what blessings did the Lord crown Solomon that were more valuable than all the gold in his treasury?

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Through God's grace and through His Spirit, we can handle our blessings. God just keeps getting all the praise and all the glory. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Forget None of the Lord's Benefits

When we receive God's abundance, it's human nature to forget the source. Take time to think of the blessings the Lord has showered on you. Drawing from Solomon's example, you can find them in at least four possible parts of your life.

First, *your mind*. When we ask for wisdom, the Lord dispenses it “to all generously” (James 1:5 NASB), not just to Solomon. In what areas of wisdom and knowledge has God blessed you? *Acknowledge Him*.

Second, *your stability*. Solomon's name means “peace,” and during his lifetime, “all of Judah and Israel lived in peace and safety” (1 Kings 4:25). What peaceful stability has God granted you during your lifetime? *Praise Him*.

Third, *your possessions*. Christians sometimes are made to feel guilty when God blesses them materially. But we can receive from His hand with gratitude, knowing it all comes from Him. Consider what God has given you. *Thank Him*.

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Fourth, *your hope*. Solomon in all his glory foreshadowed the Prince of Peace, Jesus, who came to secure our salvation and will one day return, arrayed in far greater glory. Through Solomon, God gave David's family hope, despite their sin. What hope has Christ given you? *Trust in Him*.

Solomon stepped into big sandals when he became king after David, but with God's help, he flourished. And so can you when you are called to do something great. Close your study with praise on your lips.

*The LORD is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. . . .
He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west. . . .
For he knows how weak we are;
he remembers we are only dust. . . .
But the love of the LORD remains forever
with those who fear him. (Psalm 103:8, 12, 14, 17)*



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, thank You for sending Your Son—the Prince of Peace—to give His life in ransom for my sins and as a guarantee of a future kingdom of peace over which He will reign forever. All I am and all I have, my hope and my security rest solely in Him, my true glorious King. In His name, amen.

ENDNOTES

1. For a list of David's eight wives and nineteen sons, see the chart, "David's Family," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament*, eds. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 460.
2. See the online article, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)" for an overview of the *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method.

For the 2024 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Bryce Klabunde, vice president, *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 1978, 2024 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

