

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 65 – Solomon's Reign Begins Through Rebellion Against Rehoboam (II Chronicles 1-10)

1. Was Solomon willing to make sacrifices to God?
 - Yes, he offered a thousand burnt offerings (**II Chronicles 1:6**) at Gibeon (**II Chronicles 1:3; 13**).
2. When God offered Solomon the opportunity to ask for anything, what did Solomon ask for?
 - “(7) *In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee. (8) And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. (9) 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. (10) 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*” (**II Chronicles 1:7-10**)?
3. How did God respond to Solomon's request?
 - “(11) *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: (12) 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*” (**II Chronicles 1:11-12**).
 - It is good that Solomon, at this point, is not greedy (**Proverbs 15:27**).
4. What did Solomon request from Hiram [Hiram] the king of Tyre?
 - Since it is now time for Solomon to build God's house (**II Chronicles 2:1-2**), the following is what Solomon sent to Hiram: “(3) *And Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, As thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him an house to dwell therein, even so deal with me. (4) Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel. (5) And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods. (6) But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him? (7) Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide. (8) Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon: for I know that thy servants can skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and, behold, my servants shall be with thy servants, (9) Even to prepare me timber in abundance: for the house which I am about to build shall be wonderful great. (10) And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand*”

measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil” (II Chronicles 2:3-10).

5. Did Hiram [Hiram] have any respect for God or Solomon?

- Seemingly so: “(11) *Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because the LORD hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them. (12) Hiram said moreover, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom” (II Chronicles 2:11-12).*

6. Did Hiram [Hiram] answer Solomon’s request favorably?

- He sure did. He sent a skillful man along with others to help. Materials etc. would be provided (II Chronicles 2:13-16).

7. Where was the house of the Lord built?

- “Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at *Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite” (II Chronicles 3:1).*
- This (Mt. Moriah) might sound familiar because Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac there (Genesis 22:2).
- Jerusalem is where the new house of the Lord began too (Isaiah 2:2-3, Luke 24:47, and I Timothy 3:15)?

8. Would you say that the cherubims in the most holy house of the temple were small?

- No, they were not. There were two wings on each of the cherubims of five cubits per (20 in total combining both cherubims). A cubit was about 18 inches. Therefore, each wing was about 7.5 feet long. Each cherub was ten cubits high which would mean 15 feet high (I Kings 6:26).
- “(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” (II Chronicles 3:10-13).*
- The mercy seat would be between the cherubs (Exodus 25:19).
- Cherubims were huge in the description (Ezekiel 10).

9. What two things did Solomon do when the temple was finished?

- “(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” (II Chronicles 5:1-10).

- We know that the manna and Aaron’s rod is missing now (**Exodus 16:32-34**, **Numbers 17:10**, and **Hebrews 9:4**).

10. Why were the priests unable to stand to minister in the temple?

- *“(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” (II Chronicles 5:10-14).*

11. What did Solomon say when he “blessed the whole congregation of Israel”?

- *“(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 [Solomon gives GOD the glory; **Jeremiah 13:16**], 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 [**Psalms 116:19**], 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” (II Chronicles 6:3-11).

12. What did Solomon request of God when he stood before the altar and spread forth his hands?

- Solomon essentially asked for God to hear his prayers, Israel’s, and the stranger who came with the right heart before Him (**Job 35:13, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 1:15, Jeremiah 7:11-15, and I Peter 3:12**): “(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 caterpillars; 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 doth 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" (II Chronicles 6:12-42).

13. What happened to the burnt offering and the sacrifices when Solomon finished praying?
 - "Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house" (II Chronicles 7:1).
 - God flexed His "muscles" to show He is the Almighty (Job 27:23).
14. What did the people do when they saw what happened to the burnt offering and sacrifices?
 - "And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever" (II Chronicles 7:3).

15. How much was sacrificed when the house of God was dedicated?

- “And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God” (II Chronicles 7:5).

16. Did Solomon put his heart into the making of the house of God?

- Sure did: “Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, he prosperously effected” (II Chronicles 7:11).

17. How did the Lord answer Solomon's request to hear their prayers?

- “(12) And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. (13) If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; (14) If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (15) Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. (16) For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. (17) And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments; (18) Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel. (19) But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; (20) Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations. (21) And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house? (22) And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them” (II Chronicles 7:12-22).

18. Were there still heathens among God's people that they should have purged from the land?

- Yes: “(7) As for all the people that were left of the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which were not of Israel, (8) But of their children, who were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel consumed not, them did Solomon make to pay tribute until this day” (II Chronicles 8:7-8).

19. Did Solomon make servants from among the children of Israel?

- No, (II Chronicles 8:9).

20. What did Solomon do with the wife he had which was a daughter of Pharaoh?

- “And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come” (II Chronicles 8:11).

21. How did the queen of Sheba intend to prove [test] Solomon?

- “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” (II Chronicles 9:1).

22. How did Solomon do with the test of the queen of Sheba?

- “(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 [in essence, it took her breath away]. (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” (II Chronicles 9:2-6).
- Consider: “The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here” (Luke 11:31).

23. How long did Solomon reign and who reigned in his stead?

- “(30) And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. (31) And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead” (II Chronicles 9:30-31).
- Remember also, which is not indicated here, Solomon fell away because of his wives (I Kings 11:1-8).

24. What request did Jeroboam and all Israel make to Rehoboam?

- “(3) And they sent and called him. So Jeroboam and all Israel came and spake to Rehoboam, saying, (4) Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore ease thou somewhat the grievous servitude of thy father, and his heavy yoke that he put upon us, and we will serve thee” (II Chronicles 10:3-4).

25. Was Rehoboam willing to consider the request that Jeroboam and all Israel made to him?

- Yes: “And he said unto them, Come again unto me after three days. And the people departed” (II Chronicles 10:5).

26. What advice did Rehoboam receive?

- “(6) And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this

people? (7) And they spake unto him, saying, *If thou be kind to this people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants for ever.* (8) But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him. (9) And he said unto them, What advice give ye that we may return answer to this people, which have spoken to me, saying, *Ease somewhat the yoke that thy father did put upon us?* (10) And the young men that were brought up with him spake unto him, saying, *Thus shalt thou answer the people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it somewhat lighter for us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.* (11) *For whereas my father put a heavy yoke upon you, I will put more to your yoke: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions*" (II Chronicles 10:6-11).

- Young or old, it is the counsel of God first and the wise (spiritually) second to which we should listen (**Job 12:12-13, Proverbs 11:14, Proverbs 12:5, and Psalms 1:1-2**).
- For sure, don't trust the wisdom of men young or old (**I Corinthians 3:19-20**).

27. Why didn't the king hearken unto the people?

- *"So the king hearkened not unto the people: for the cause was of God, that the LORD might perform his word, which he spake by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat"* (II Chronicles 10:15; cf. I Kings 11:29-39).

28. Did Rehoboam's decision cause peace among the children of Israel?

- No, they rebelled and will be divided: *"(16) And when all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? and we have none inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to your tents, O Israel: and now, David, see to thine own house. So all Israel went to their tents. (17) But as for the children of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. (18) Then king Rehoboam sent Hadoram that was over the tribute; and the children of Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. But king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. (19) And Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day"* (II Chronicles 10:16-19).