

Women's Bible Study
Study Intensive Questions for February 8, 2012
Kings & Kingdoms: God's Sovereign Hand in Israel's History
"The Unwise King Solomon: Part II" (1 Kings 5-11) – Gretchen Steer

Remember to support your answers with specific verses whenever possible.

Key verse: "The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice." (1 Kings 11:9)

1. Although Solomon spent 7 years building the temple, he also spent 13 years building his own palace. The labor for those buildings came from conscripted workers or slaves – thousands of them. Did God intend that his house be built by people who were working involuntarily? Compare the building of the temple in 1 Kings 5-6, and 7:13-51, to the building of the tabernacle in Exodus 36:8-38. What was similar? What was different? Do you think that God was as pleased with the temple as he was with the tabernacle? (See 1 Kings 8:10-12.)

2. King Solomon had an astounding amount of wealth and influence in his day. Think of a celebrity or famous person from the past 100 years who also had tremendous wealth and influence. Compare Solomon to that person. How are they the same? How are they different? List at least five indicators of Solomon's great wealth. (See 1 Kings 10:14-29)

3. In chapters 5 through 11 of 1 Kings, what indications do we have that Solomon's love for the Lord was diminishing? What indicators do we have that he was still holding on to his love for God? Now look up Deut. 6:5-6, John 14:23-24, and James 2:8. Was Solomon meeting those criteria for loving God? Are we?

4. Read through Solomon's prayer of dedication in 1 Kings 8:22-61. List at least four requests that Solomon makes of God. Were those requests met? List some of the promises that Solomon makes to God. Did he keep those promises?

5. Solomon was described as the wisest person who ever lived. But were the actions of his forty year reign really wise? Think of the following incidents – the judgment on the prostitutes (1 Kings 3); the visit from the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10); marrying Pharaoh's daughter (1 Kings 7:8); Solomon's relationship with King Hiram (1 Kings 9:10-14). Taking them one by one, do they demonstrate wisdom, or not? Why or why not?

