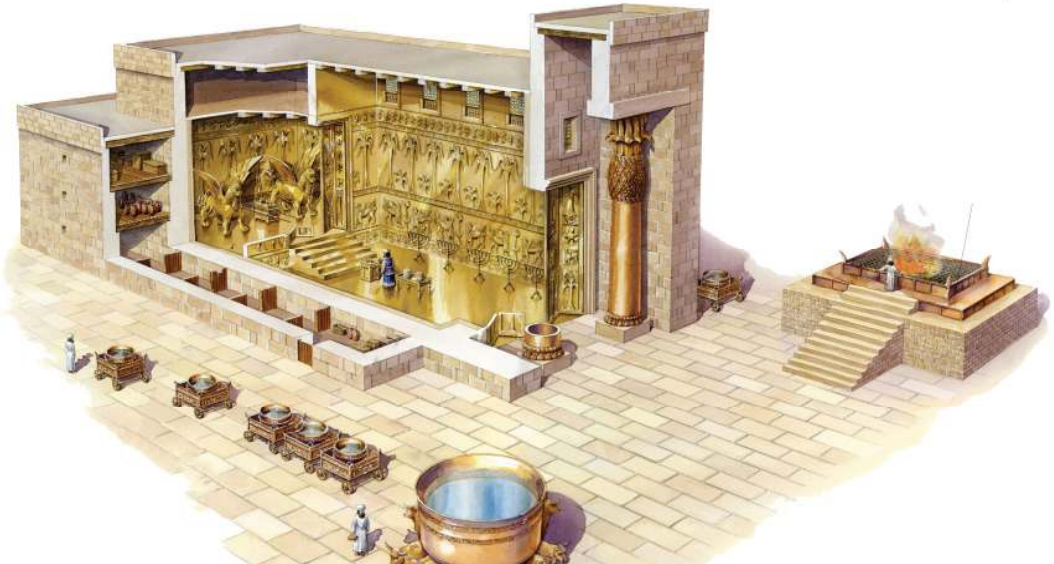

Bible Study
Study 6 — Solomon and the Temple of God

The story so far

Summarise the story so far.

What we missed along the way

Today's study is about the kings of Israel and how they were meant to lead the people. We will focus on King Solomon and the Temple of God, but lots has happened along the way. So let's look at what we missed.

After King David was King Solomon, and these two kings were the most successful kings of Israel. After them everything started going bad. King David was known as the king after God's own heart, meaning that he loved God, and Solomon was known as the wise king. However both kings also sinned greatly and made bad mistakes. Today we shall look at the achievements and mistakes of King Solomon. Some of his mistakes contributed to the kingdom of Israel splitting into two.

Read 1 Kings 2:1–4,10–12 (for background story).

Read 1 Kings 3:1–15; 4:29–34.

What did Solomon ask from God and why did it please God?

- 3:7-12

What else did God give Solomon?

- 3:13
- 4:29

What conditions did Solomon have to keep?

- 3:14

Read 1 Kings 6:1,11–13,37.

What conditions did God put on Solomon and the people?

- 6:12

What did God promise and what was the purpose of the temple?

- 6:13

Read 1 Kings 11:1–13,41–43.

What happens next

The greatest achievement of Solomon was building God's temple. When Solomon was old, he failed to keep the conditions that God had given him — he married many foreign wives. And so God used a man named Jeroboam to rebel against Solomon. Jeroboam was a godless man. When Solomon died Jeroboam rebelled against Solomon's son Rehoboam. The result was a split in the Kingdom of Israel.

The northern 10 tribes became known as "Israel", with Samaria as her capital. The southern Kingdom was known as "Judah", with Jerusalem as her capital. (See map.) The temple remained in Jerusalem but the king in the North setup alternative worship places for the people. These worship places were for idol worship and the North became godless. The kingdom would never be united again.

Read 1 Kings 8:1–13.

Why was the temple of God so important to the Jewish people? What was the meaning of the temple?

- 8:13

How can God (who is holy) live amongst his people (who are sinful)?

What does the New Testament say?

Read Hebrews 10:1-14.

What is the difference between Christ's sacrifice and the temple sacrifices?

How is Jesus superior to the Jerusalem temple?

Relevance

How does the temple help us appreciate Jesus more?

How is Christianity different from the Old Testament Jewish religion?

Summary

Try to summarise this episode. You can tell a story, draw pictures or use diagrams.

Special Note

Very sadly, in 722 BC Assyria conquered Israel (the Northern Kingdom) and to subdue the colony Assyria brought many foreigners into Israel and the people intermarried. So by Jesus' time the people were only half-Jews, known as the Samaritans. They were hated by the Jews because the Samaritans were only half-Jews.

Pray