

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 13 – THE KING WHO HAD IT ALL

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God's grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God's expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

Key Events: Solomon becomes king after David's death, Solomon's reign, Solomon's wisdom, the temple

DIGGING IN

- 1) What was the advice that David gave to Solomon just before his death? (pg 176) What do David's words tell us about his faith in his old age?
- 2) When Solomon was presented with an opportunity to ask God for whatever he wanted, he asked for a discerning heart. How did the LORD show that he was pleased with Solomon's request?
- 3) Solomon was known as the wisest man to have ever lived. What does it mean to be wise by God's standards? Think of someone you consider to be spiritually wise and describe that person.

- 4) Pages 179-183 record a series of the Proverbs which Solomon wrote. Scan those pages and choose one or two proverbs that you find especially insightful. Be ready to explain why you chose them.

- 5) The construction of the temple took seven years and at its completion it was a building of magnificent beauty and purpose. Why was so much effort put into its construction? In what sense is a Christian church today “God’s house”? What impact, if any, should that have on a church building’s construction and design?

- 6) Solomon experienced unprecedented success and worldly glory. What temptations are present when people experience success? How can a person remain grounded in their faith when their efforts are met with such success?

- 7) Solomon’s weakness was an affinity for foreign women. Eventually he adopted the false worship practices of his foreign wives. While we are not forbidden from marrying someone of another faith, what advice would you give to some who is considering dating someone who is not a Christian?

Chapter 14: A Kingdom Torn in Two
Bible Reference: 1 Kings 12-16