

Walking
Faithfully
with God

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HOW TO GET STARTED...



We don't know if you have ever used one of the books in our New Inductive Study Series before, so let us acknowledge that reading directions is sometimes difficult and hardly ever enjoyable! Most often, you just want to get started. Only if all else fails are you ready to tackle the instructions! We understand—we're not into details either. But read "How to Get Started" before you begin. Believe us, it will help! This is a vital part of getting started on the right foot! The pages are few...and they will help you immensely.

FIRST

As you study the books of 1 and 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, you will need four things in addition to this book:

1. A Bible you are willing to mark in. Marking is essential because it is an integral part of the learning process and will help you remember and retain what you learn. An ideal Bible for this purpose is *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*. The *NISB* comes in a single-column text format with larger, easy-to-read type, and is ideal for marking. The page margins are wide and blank for note-taking.

The *NISB* also has instructions for studying each book of the Bible, but it does not contain any commentary on the text. The *NISB* isn't compiled from any particular theological stance since its purpose is to teach you how to discern truth for yourself through the inductive method of study.

Inductive Bible study simply means that the Bible itself is one's primary source for study. (The various charts and maps that you will find in this study guide are taken from the *NISB*.) Whatever Bible you use, just know you will need to mark in it, which brings us to the second item you will need.

2. A fine-point, four-color ballpoint pen or various colored fine-point pens (such as Micron pens) for writing in your Bible. The Micron pens are best for this purpose. Office supply stores should have these.

3. Colored pencils or an eight-color Pentel pencil.

4. A composition notebook or loose-leaf notebook for working on your assignments and recording your insights.

SECOND

1. As you study 1 and 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, you'll find specific instructions for each day's study. The study should take you 15 to 25 minutes a day. However, just know that the more time you can give to this study, the greater the spiritual dividends, the greater your intimacy with the Word of God and the God of the Word. If you are doing this study within the framework of a class and you find the lessons too heavy, simply do what you can. To do a little is better than to do nothing. Don't be an all-or-nothing person when it comes to Bible study.

As a word of warning, you need to be aware that any time you get into the Word of God, you enter into more intensive warfare with the devil (our enemy). Why? Every piece of the Christian's armor is related to the Word of God. And the enemy doesn't want you prepared for battle. Thus, the warfare! Remember that our one and only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and it is enough to fell the enemy.

To study or not to study is a matter of choice first, discipline second. It's a matter of the heart. On what or whom are you setting your heart? Get armed for war! And remember, victory is certain.

2. As you read each chapter, train yourself to think through the content of the text by asking the “5 W’s and an H”: who, what, when, where, why, and how. Posing questions like these and searching out the answers helps you see exactly what the Word of God is saying. When you interrogate the text with the 5 W’s and an H, you ask questions like:

- a. **What** is the chapter about?
- b. **Who** are the main characters?
- c. **When** does this event or teaching take place?
- d. **Where** does this happen?
- e. **Why** is this being done or said?
- f. **How** did this happen?

3. The “when” of events or teachings is very important and should be marked in an easily recognizable way in your Bible. We do this by putting a clock (like the one shown here)  in the margin of our Bibles beside the verse where the time phrase occurs. Or you may want to underline references to time in one specific color. As a reminder, note on your key word bookmark (which is explained next in this section) how you are going to mark time references in each chapter.

4. You will be told about certain key words that you should mark throughout this study. This is the purpose of the colored pencils and the colored pen. While this may seem a little time-consuming, you will discover that it is a valuable learning tool. If you develop the habit of marking your Bible, you will find it will make a significant difference

in the effectiveness of your study and in how much you retain as a result of your study.

A **key word** is an important word that is used by the author repeatedly in order to convey his message to his reader. Certain key words will show up throughout the book, while other key words will be concentrated in specific chapters or segments of the book. When you mark a key word, you should also mark its synonyms (words that mean the same thing in the context) and any pronouns (*he, his, she, her, it, we, they, us, our, you, their, them*) in the same way you have marked the key word. Because some people have requested them, we will give you various ideas and suggestions in your daily assignments for how to mark different key words.

Marking words for easy identification can be done by colors, symbols, or a combination of colors and symbols. However, colors are easier to distinguish than symbols. If you use symbols, we suggest you keep them very simple. For example, one of the key words in these books is *Israel*. You could draw a star of David over the word like this:  *Israel*. If a symbol is used in marking a key word, it is best for the symbol to convey the meaning of the word.

When we mark the members of the Godhead (which we do not always mark), we use a triangle to represent the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We then color it yellow. Then playing off the triangle we mark the Son this way:  *Jesus* , and the Holy Spirit this way:  *Spirit* . We find that when you mark every reference to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit your Bible becomes cluttered. Therefore we suggest you only do this in specific instances. Obviously, since we are studying Old Testament history there will be few references to Jesus or the Holy Spirit. However, you learn much about the Father in the Old Testament. When you gain insight

into God's character, power, or ways, you may want to draw a triangle in the margin of the text and record what you learn about Him from that particular text. As you do so, eventually you will form a biblical "theology" about the person of God that will increase your confidence and your faith.

As you begin this new venture, we recommend that you devise a color-coding system for marking key words that you decide to mark throughout your Bible. Then, when you glance at the pages of your Bible, you will have instant recognition of the words.

When you start marking key words, it is easy to forget how you are marking them. Therefore, we recommend you use the bottom portion of the perforated card in the back of this book and write the key words on it. Mark the words in the way you plan to mark them in the Bible text, and then use the card as a bookmark. It might be good to make one bookmark for words you are marking throughout your Bible and a different one for any specific book of the Bible you are studying. Or record your marking system for the words you plan to mark throughout your Bible on a blank page in your Bible.

5. Because locations are important in a historical or biographical book of the Bible (and 1 and 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles are historical books), you will find it helpful to mark locations in a distinguishable way in your study. Try double underlining every reference to a location in green (grass and trees are green!). We suggest that you make a note on your key word bookmark to mark locations. Maps are included in this study so you can look up the locations in order to put yourself into context geographically.

6. Charts called 1 KINGS AT A GLANCE, 2 KINGS AT A GLANCE, and 2 CHRONICLES AT A GLANCE are

located at the end of the book. When you complete your study of each chapter of the book, record the main theme of that chapter on the appropriate chart. A chapter theme is a brief description or summary of the main or predominant subject, teaching, or event covered in that chapter. Usually in historical or biographical books, the chapter themes center around events.

When stating chapter themes, it is best to use words found within the text itself and to be as brief as possible. Make sure that you do it in such a way as to distinguish one chapter from another.

You will record themes on the AT A GLANCE chart. Doing this will help you to remember what each chapter is about. In addition, it will provide you with a ready reference if you desire to find something in the book rather quickly and without a lot of page turning.

If you develop the habit of filling out the AT A GLANCE charts as you progress through the study, you will have a complete synopsis of the book when you finish. If you have *The New Inductive Study Bible*, you will find the same charts in your Bible. If you record your chapter themes on the charts in your Bible, you'll always have them for ready reference.

7. Begin your study with prayer. Don't start without it. Why? Well, although you are doing your part to handle the Word of God accurately, remember that the Bible is a divinely inspired book. The words you are reading are absolute truth, given to you by God so you can know Him and His ways more intimately. These truths are divinely understood:

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths
of God. For who among men knows the thoughts

of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

This is why you need to pray. Simply tell God you want to understand His Word so you can live accordingly. Nothing pleases Him more than obedience—honoring Him as God—as you are about to see.

8. Each day, when you finish your lesson, take some time to think about what you read, what you saw with your own eyes. Ask your heavenly Father how you can apply these insights, principles, precepts, and commands to your own life. At times, depending on how God speaks to you through His Word, you might want to record these “Lessons for Life” in the margin of your Bible next to the text you have studied. Simply put “LFL” in the margin of your Bible, then, as briefly as possible, record the lesson for life that you want to remember. You can also make the note “LFL” on your key word bookmark as a reminder to look for these when you study. You will find them encouraging...sometimes convicting...when you come across them again.

THIRD

This study is designed so that you have an assignment for every day of the week. This puts you where you should be—in the Word of God on a daily basis. If you will do your study daily, you will find it more profitable than doing a week’s study in one sitting. Pacing yourself this way allows time for thinking through what you learn on a daily basis. However, whatever it takes to get it done, do it!

The seventh day of each week has several features that differ from the other six days. These features are designed to aid in one-on-one discipleship, group discussions, and

Sunday school classes. However, they are also profitable even if you are studying this book by yourself.

The “seventh” day is whatever day in the week you choose to finish your week’s study. On this day, you will find a verse or two for you to memorize and STORE IN YOUR HEART. This will help you focus on a major truth or truths covered in your study that week.

To assist those using the material in a Sunday school class or a group Bible study, there are QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY. Whatever your situation, seeking to answer these questions will help you reason through some key issues in the study.

If you are using this study in a group setting, make sure the answers given are supported from the Bible text itself. This practice will help ensure that you are handling the Word of God accurately. As you learn to see what the text says, you will find that the Bible explains itself.

Always examine your insights by carefully observing the text to see what it *says*. Then, before you decide what the passage of Scripture *means*, make sure you interpret it in the light of its context. Context is what goes with the text...the Scriptures preceding and following what is written. Scripture will never contradict Scripture. If it ever seems to contradict the rest of the Word of God, you can be certain that something is being taken out of context. If you come to a passage that is difficult to understand, reserve your interpretations for a time when you can study the passage in greater depth.

The purpose of a THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK is to help you apply what you’ve learned. We’ve done this for your edification. In this, a little of our theology will inevitably come to the surface; however, we don’t ask that you always agree with us. Rather, think through what is

said in light of the context of the Word of God. You can determine how valuable it is.

Remember, books in the New Inductive Study Series are survey courses. If you want to do a more in-depth study of a particular book of the Bible, we suggest you do a Precept Upon Precept Bible Study Course on that book. The Precept studies are awesome but require five hours of personal study a week. However, you will never learn more! They are top of the line! You may obtain more information on these courses by contacting Precept Ministries International at 800-763-8280, visiting our website at www.precept.org, or filling out and mailing the response card at the back of this book.

1 KINGS

INTRODUCTION TO 1 KINGS



The book of 1 Kings recounts the history of the kings of Israel from Solomon to Zedekiah. Although the book opens with the great King David sitting on the throne of Israel, the first words of 1 Kings tell us David is nearing the end of his life. Thus, the time had come to anoint another king. Although many vied for the throne, only one could take the seat.

God desired a king who would cling to Him, who would follow Him fully, who would keep His commandments—one who would lead His people in His ways. God’s king would be a man after His own heart, even as David was.

God’s desire toward you is the same. As the Scripture says, He looks for men and women whose hearts are fully His so that He can strongly support them. That is our desire, our prayer for you as you study the book of 1 Kings. As you observe our God and the greatness of His faithfulness to His people, we pray that your study will deepen your desire to fully walk in His ways.

HOW CAN YOU HAVE SUCCESS EVERY WAY YOU TURN?



Before you begin your study, if you have not read the “How to Get Started” section in the front of this book, it would be beneficial to do so before you go any further. It will explain the method of study we will be using in this book and define the terms we use in the instructions which follow. Next, make a bookmark for your key words in this study from the perforated card in the back of this book as suggested in the “How to Get Started” section. Write the following words on the card and mark or color-code them in the same way you plan to mark them in your Bible: *heart*,¹ *walk*²(*ed*),³ *pray* (*prayer, prays, praying, prayed, supplication*⁴), *covenant*(*ed*)⁵ (don’t mark it when it refers to the ark of the covenant of the Lord), *wisdom*⁶ (*wise[r]*), *curse*⁷(*d*),⁸ *command*⁹(*ed*)/*commandment*(*s*)¹⁰ (*statutes, ordinances, testimonies*), *promise*¹¹(*d*),¹² *high place*(*s*),¹³ *evil* (*wicked, wickedness*),¹⁴ *house*¹⁵ (when it refers to the *house of God*), *sin*(*ned*),¹⁶ *transgress*(*ed*),¹⁷ *Israel*,¹⁸ and *Judah*.¹⁹ Again, as a reminder, be certain to mark in the same way any pronouns or synonyms that refer to each of these words.

As you complete your weekly lessons, there are several exercises that you will want to incorporate into your study times.

First, each day as you read the assigned material, identify and mark the key words that you have been instructed

to put on your bookmark. Also mark time phrases, such as numbers of days, years, specific months, and geographical locations.

Second, in some instances you'll want to compile lists on the information you glean from the key words in your notebook to help broaden your understanding of those words. If you compile a list, each day add the insights you see from marking the key words. Leave room in your notebook for your lists.

Third, chart information on each king you study. The chart you will use to record these insights is *THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH* (pages 121-24). Fill in the king's name, the length of his reign, and any insights you gain about his character and lifestyle.

Finally, begin each day with prayer. Ask God to give you wisdom and insight into the lives of the kings of Israel and Judah so that you might learn practical lessons of life from their lives and God's dealings with them. God has great things in store for you in this study of Kings; be diligent and be willing to allow the Holy Spirit to be your teacher.

As you have noticed, our study covers 1 and 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. Reading parallel Scriptures will allow you to glean additional information about the kings and the events surrounding this period of Israel's history. As a final note of preparation, be aware that some differences exist in the accounts of events related by the different writers of Kings and Chronicles. The differences in the accounts range from something as simple as the difference in the way the name of a king is spelled to the inclusion of additional details and information surrounding the events. These kinds of differences exist since different authors had different purposes for their writings.

The author of Kings was concerned with the response of each king to the covenant requirements established by

God. The books of 1 and 2 Kings also give accounts of the rulers of both the Northern and Southern kingdoms. The author of 2 Chronicles focuses more on worship and the celebrations that were given to Israel as a safeguard. The Chronicles author highlights in a special way the great moments of trial and victory in the reigns of the great kings of the Southern Kingdom. Therefore, Chronicles often gives details in the lives of the kings of Judah that are not mentioned in Kings. You will want to take notes on any additional information you learn from 2 Chronicles in your notebook.



DAY ONE

Read 1 Kings 1 today and mark any key words you see in the text. Then read it again, marking the time phrases. Note what is happening and when. Also mark in a distinctive way each of the following men: *David*, *Adonijah*, and *Solomon*, including synonyms (such as *king*, but be careful to check the context to see if it's referring to *David* or *Solomon*) and pronouns (such as *he* or *my*) that refer to each one. Notice what happened when men tried to establish themselves as kings apart from God's plan.

When you have completed your observations of the chapter, record the relevant information on THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH chart beginning on page 121.

If you did the New Inductive Study Series on 1 and 2 Samuel, then you recorded quite a bit of information on David. Should you want to complete the process, it would be good to record all you learn about King David from 1 Kings. You might also want to start compiling a list of all you learn about Solomon from these books. Set aside several pages in your notebook for this list.

Identify and record the theme of chapter 1 on the 1 KINGS AT A GLANCE chart on page 115.


 DAY TWO

Read 1 Kings 2 and mark the key words. Note David's charge to Solomon, and record the outcome of obedience on your list of insights about Solomon. This charge shows God's heart for His king and His people. Identify the theme of chapter 2 and record it on your 1 KINGS AT A GLANCE chart on page 115.

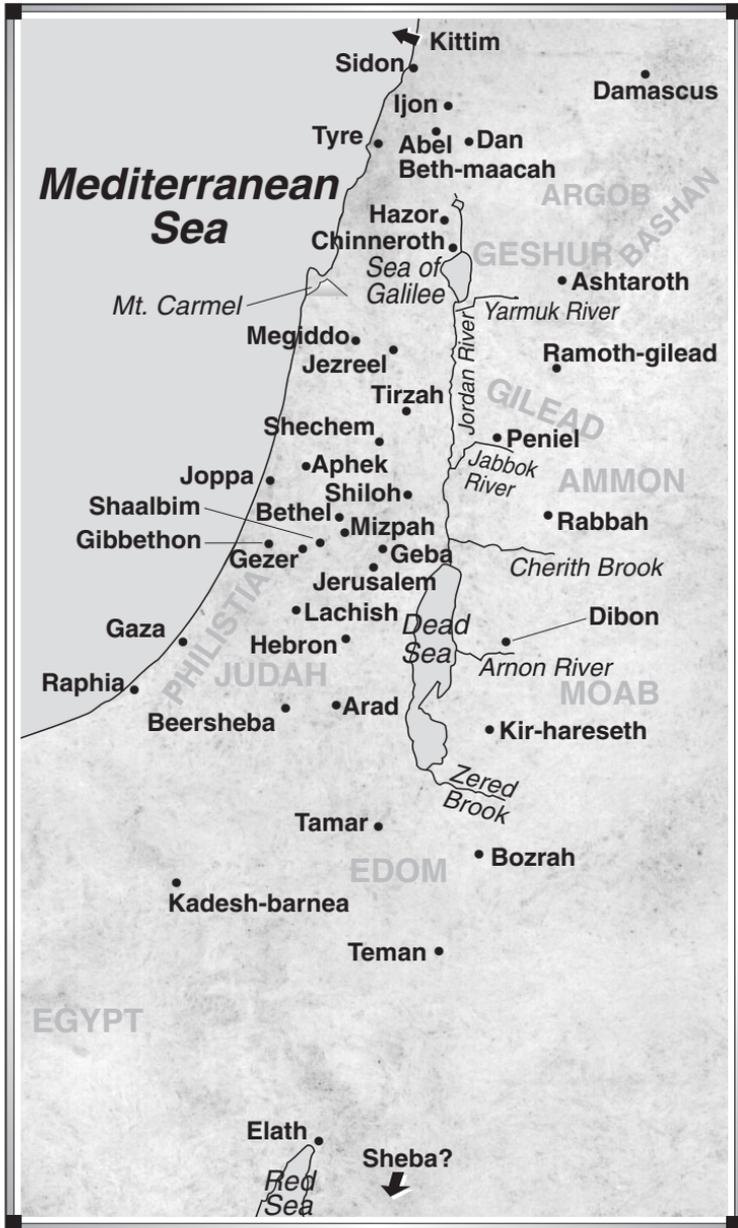

 DAY THREE

First Kings 3 is a wonderful chapter. As you read and mark the key words, note how Solomon responded when God said, "Ask what *you wish* me to give you." Take special note of God's response. Did God answer Solomon's request? Why? What incident in this chapter gives evidence of God's decision? Record the answers to these questions on your list on Solomon. Also read 2 Chronicles 1 and mark the key words; it is the parallel account of chapter 3 in 1 Kings.

Add to your lists any new insights. Then, after discerning the themes of 1 Kings 3 and 2 Chronicles 1, record them on the appropriate AT A GLANCE charts on pages 115 and 117, respectively.


 DAY FOUR

Read 1 Kings 4–5. Chapter 4 may seem tedious, but read it carefully. Mark the key words. Then on the map



Solomon's Kingdom

SOLOMON'S KINGDOM (page 23), highlight the boundaries that were under his rule. Add any new insights to your lists. As you add to your list on Solomon, be sure to note the reason he was permitted to build a house for the Lord (5:1-6). Since *house* is a key word, you might want to keep a list of what you learn from marking this word.

Go back and read 1 Kings 5:12 to see the certainty of the promises of God. Mark this verse in a distinctive way. List in your notebook what you learn about God from the first five chapters.

Identify and record the themes of 1 Kings 4–5 on the 1 KINGS AT A GLANCE chart on page 115.



 DAY FIVE

Read 2 Chronicles 2–3:2 (the parallel passage to 1 Kings 4–5). As you read, mark the key words and time phrases. Add any additional insights about Solomon and your key words to your lists in your notebook.

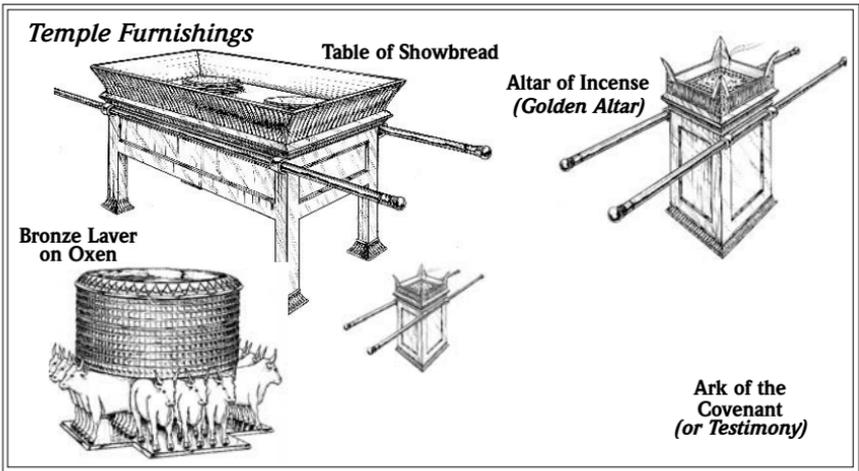
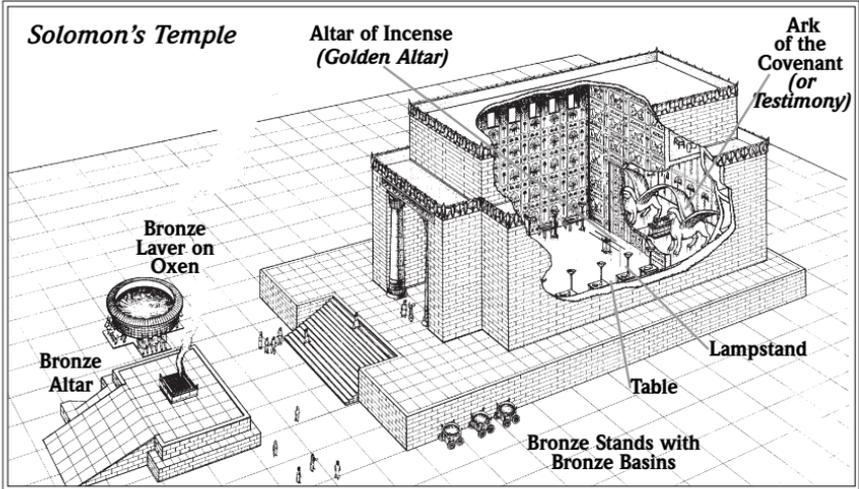
Identify and record the theme of 2 Chronicles 2 on the 2 CHRONICLES AT A GLANCE chart on page 117.



 DAY SIX

Read 1 Kings 6–7. Then read 2 Chronicles 3–5:1. As you mark the key words in these two segments of Scripture, watch especially for any references to time and geographical locations. (When marking references to the *house of the LORD*, don't miss marking the pronouns *it* and *its* when they refer to God's house.) When you finish, note in the margin of your Bible (for easy reference) or in your notebook when the temple (the house) of the Lord was

built—when it was begun and when it was completed. As you read, give special attention to 1 Kings 6:11-13. On your list of Solomon, record what he was to do and what God would do if Solomon obeyed. If you do not have *The New Inductive Study Bible* with its illustrations of the temple and its furniture as described in these passages, you will find a drawing of the house of the Lord below.



Solomon's Temple and Its Furnishings

Add to your key words lists and list on Solomon. After you discern the themes of 1 Kings 6–7 and 2 Chronicles 3–4, record them on the appropriate AT A GLANCE charts. Also, did you see any “Lessons for Life” (LFLs) in this first week of study? (See page 13 in the “How to Get Started” section.) If so, write them in the margin of your Bible or in your notebook.



 DAY SEVEN



Store in your heart: 1 Kings 3:9.

Read and discuss: 1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:1-9; 6:11-13.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

1 Kings 2:1-4

- ☞ What is the charge given to Solomon from his father, David?
- ☞ Discuss what he was told to do with respect to the Word of God and what would happen to him if he was obedient.

1 Kings 3:1-9

- ☞ What do you see about Solomon that was different from his father?
- ☞ Why did Solomon go to Gibeon?
- ☞ What did God ask of Solomon?
- ☞ What was Solomon’s response?

1 Kings 6:11-13

- ☞ Discuss the conditions God gave Solomon in relation to the house of God and the behavior of the children of

Israel. What are the promises God makes in return for obedience?

- ☞ What principles or precepts did you learn this week from the lives of David and Solomon that you can apply to your own life?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Solomon was given an incredible responsibility as the new king of Israel. He was to follow in his father's steps, and he was to build a house of the Lord—something no one had been allowed to do. The expectations were high but not impossible. As God had been with David, so He would be with Solomon. Solomon began well. When God gave him the opportunity to make any request of Him, Solomon, recognizing his human impotence, cried for an understanding heart and for the ability to discern between good and evil so that he could properly judge God's people. Pleased with his response, God granted this request, along with many riches. There would be no one like Solomon. First Kings 3:3 tells us, "Now Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places." Solomon compromised in his worship of the Lord. It was a compromise that would lead to others, as you will see. It was a compromise that would eventually divide the nation he wanted to judge wisely.

As you continue your study, tell God that you want to be obedient in all things, not in just some or most. When we begin to compromise, to give in to the smallest of things that this world has to offer, our hearts begin to drift away from our first love. Don't let that happen to you. Don't let that happen to you, beloved of God. You have more than Solomon had. You have the indwelling Holy Spirit.