

Dr. Elaine Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 23, Solomon Consolidating the Empire Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 23, Solomon Consolidating the Empire, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Phillips' lecture focuses on the reign of Solomon and the consolidation of his kingdom, building upon David's legacy. The lecture reviews David's creation of political and religious unity, then transitions to Solomon's wisdom, wealth, worship, and wives, highlighting both the positive and negative aspects of his reign. **It explores Solomon's geopolitical strategies, including international trade and alliances, as well as his construction of the temple in Jerusalem.** The lecture analyzes the temple's design and its significance as a central place of worship. **The professor contrasts the books of Kings and Chronicles, pointing out different emphases related to Solomon's actions and their consequences.** Ultimately, the lecture foreshadows the division of the kingdom due to Solomon's disobedience and idolatry.

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 23 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → OT Introduction → OT Lit).



**Phillips_OTLit_Sessi
on23.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 23, Solomon Consolidating the Empire

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. Elaine Phillips' Old Testament Literature Lecture 23:

Briefing Document: Old Testament Literature, Lecture 23 (Solomon and the Consolidated Kingdom)

I. Administrative Matters & Prayer

- **Class Attendance & Assignments:** Dr. Phillips emphasizes the importance of consistent class attendance and proactive engagement with the course material, particularly the upcoming one-page paper. She stresses the need for thorough preliminary work and warns against last-minute efforts. "A one-page paper means that you work really, really hard at it because it starts out as a four or a five-page paper, and then it gets boiled down and refined so that every word in that one page has a lot of punch behind it."
- **Review Sessions:** Students struggling with exams are encouraged to utilize review sessions led by Carrie and Matt.
- **Prayer:** The lecture begins with prayer, focusing on gratitude for blessings and intercession for those in need, particularly those affected by flooding in northern Minnesota and North Dakota. "Father, we do pray for those who don't have these things that we just so often take for granted. In your mercy, please meet the needs of your people."

II. Review of David's Reign & Transition to Solomon

- **David's Political and Religious Unification:** The lecture starts with a review of how David unified the kingdom. He did so by moving the capital to Jerusalem, moving the ark there, and expanding the boundaries of the kingdom.
- **Preparation for the Temple:** David's purchase of the threshing floor of Araunah on Mount Moriah after the plague serves as the foundation for the future temple's location.
- **Four W's of Solomon's Reign:** To remember Solomon, think of Wisdom, Women, Worship, and Wealth. These themes will be explored throughout the lecture. Each has both a positive and negative side.

- **Distinction between Wife and Concubine:** A wife had higher status than a concubine, often related to political alliances. "A wife is someone who is betrothed and actually serves in that capacity, and Solomon's wives are often there because he has made political alliances...So, there's a stature associated with the position of wife that is not what a concubine would enjoy."
- **Differences Between 1 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles:** Chronicles omits negative aspects of Solomon's reign (like idolatry) and glosses over the succession struggles (Adonijah).

III. Solomon's Accession to the Throne & David's Instructions

- **Adonijah's Failed Attempt to Seize the Throne:** The narrative surrounding David's old age and Adonijah's attempt to become king is analyzed. Adonijah's request for Abishag, David's attendant, is seen as a politically motivated act, similar to Absalom's sleeping with David's concubines, symbolizing a claim to the throne. "If Adonijah does it, what belonged to David in his old age, Abishag, is Adonijah's, then he's making inroads."
- **David's Preparation for Solomon's Reign:** David is portrayed as not always being the best of fathers, by not correcting Adonijah. Bathsheba warns David that Adonijah would eliminate any threat to his kingdom. However, David is shown to have been planning and preparing for the building of the temple, providing Solomon with plans and resources based on divine inspiration. "The Holy Spirit has given David the plan for the temple."
- **David's Dying Instructions to Solomon (1 Kings 2):Obedience:** Solomon must follow God's commands as written in the Torah.
- **Justice:** Solomon is instructed to deal with Joab (for his past violence) and Shimei (for cursing David), but also to show kindness to the sons of Barzillai (for their past hospitality). "Deal with him according to your wisdom, but don't let his gray hair go down to Sheol in peace."
- **Sheol:** Is discussed as the Hebrew word showing up in both prose and poetic contexts, generally being a parallel to the grave. In poetic passages, it seems like spirits of the dead are restless there.
- **Adonijah's Death:** Solomon initially gives Adonijah a chance, but Adonijah's request for Abishag is perceived as a threat, leading to his execution.

IV. Solomon's Wisdom, Geopolitics, and Wealth

- **Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom:** Solomon's prayer for a "heart that hears" (an obedient heart) to govern the people is highlighted. God answers this prayer, granting him wisdom in governance (illustrated by the case of the two women). "Give your servant a heart that hears... to govern your people and to distinguish between what is right and wrong."
- **Deuteronomy 17 & Kingship:** Solomon's actions are contrasted with the requirements for kingship outlined in Deuteronomy 17 (avoiding excessive wives, wealth, and horses). Solomon seems to transgress these regulations. "Not many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away."
- **Political Alliances & Geopolitical Power:** Solomon's numerous marriages to foreign women are presented as political alliances. His control of the international coastal highway allows him to levy taxes on trade, contributing to his wealth. He extracts tribute from those under his reign.
- **The Dangers of Pride:** Dr. Phillips suggests Solomon is succumbing to temptations that come with power. Leaders should be prayed for to not succumb to the "horrors that accompany pride."
- **Peace and Security:** Solomon's reign is characterized by peace and security, where people "lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree."
- **International Trade:** Solomon engaged in international trade relations, exemplified by the visit of the Queen of Sheba.
- **Gezer as a Wedding Gift:** Pharaoh's gift of the captured and burned city of Gezer to Solomon as a wedding present is explained as a strategic advantage, allowing Solomon to rebuild it according to his plans and fortify a key location on the international trade route.

V. Solomon's Temple & Worship

- **Location & Significance:** The City of David, the Gihon Spring (site of Solomon's coronation), and the location of the future temple on higher ground are discussed. The lecturer reinforces that the City of David was not large, only about 10-11 acres.
- **Temple's Role:** The temple is the fulfillment of Deuteronomy 12, and the place where God chose to put his name. The temple is a central place of worship, a sacred space, and representative of God's presence.

- **Temple vs. Tabernacle:** The Temple is a bigger, more permanent structure, reflecting the shift from a nomadic to a settled existence.
- **Relationship to Heavenly Realities:** The temple's design, particularly the cherubim and the "chariot," is presented as a simplified representation of the heavenly realm, drawing connections to Ezekiel's vision and the book of Hebrews. "These are not idols for worship. These are things that God has said to represent symbolically what's going on in the heavenly realms."
- **Storage of Wealth:** The temple also serves as a storage place for the nation's wealth.
- **Levites & Worship: Functions:** Levites transition from moving the tabernacle to serving as gatekeepers, musicians, treasurers, officials, and judges in the temple.
- **Music:** Temple musicians are highly trained and their music is excellent.
- **Dedication of the Temple: Timing:** The dedication takes place during the Feast of Tabernacles.
- **Solomon's Prayer:** Emphasizes God's promises, the power of His name, and the consequences of disobedience.
- **God's Response:** God promises restoration if His people humble themselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways. "If my people will humble themselves, pray, seek my face, turn from their wicked ways...then God will indeed restore us."

VI. Solomon's Downfall & The Divided Kingdom

- **Idolatry:** Solomon's foreign wives lead him astray to idolatry, violating God's covenant. "His wives led him astray, so that he turns to idolatry."
- **God's Judgment:** God declares that the kingdom will be torn from Solomon and given to his subordinates, leaving only one tribe for David's sake.
- **Adversaries:** Edom, Aram, and Jeroboam rise as adversaries. Jeroboam is told by the prophet Ahijah that he will receive ten tribes.
- **Solomon's Death:** Solomon dies after a 40-year reign, setting the stage for the divided kingdom.

- **Transition to Wisdom Literature:** Before delving into the divided kingdom, the course will explore wisdom literature, particularly Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Job, all associated with Solomon.

4. Study Guide: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 23, Solomon Consolidating the Empire

Solomon's Reign: Consolidation and Seeds of Division

Study Guide Outline

This study guide covers key themes and events from Dr. Phillips' Lecture 23, focusing on Solomon's reign, including its achievements, the seeds of the kingdom's division, and the significance of the temple.

I. Review of David's Reign and Preparation for Solomon * David's role in unifying the kingdom politically and religiously * David's purchase of the threshing floor of Araunah and its significance for the temple location * David's preparations for the temple construction

II. Solomon's Reign: The Four W's * **Wisdom:** * Solomon's prayer for wisdom at Gibeon * Examples of Solomon's wisdom in judgment * **Women:** * Political alliances through marriage (Pharaoh's daughter, etc.) * The implications of Solomon's many wives * **Wealth:** * Sources of Solomon's wealth (trade, tribute, etc.) * Building projects (Megiddo, Hazor, Gezer) * The potential dangers of wealth and power * **Worship:** * The building and dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem * The Temple as a central place of worship and sacred space * The symbolic connections between the Temple and the heavenly realms * The role of the Levites in temple worship

III. Political and Geographical Context * The extent of Solomon's kingdom on the map * The importance of the International Coastal Highway * Gezer as a wedding gift and strategic location

IV. Foreshadowing the Division of the Kingdom * Solomon's disobedience to Deuteronomy 17 (wives, horses, wealth) * The rise of adversaries (Edom, Aram, Jeroboam) * Ahijah's prophecy and the tearing of the cloak

V. Key Figures * Solomon * David * Adonijah * Bathsheba * Nathan * Joab * Abiathar * Benaiah * Jeroboam * Ahijah

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. How did David create political and religious unity in his kingdom?

2. What event prepared for the future building of the temple, particularly in terms of its location?
3. What are the "Four W's" associated with Solomon's reign, and what do they represent?
4. What is the significance of Adonijah's request to marry Abishag after David's death?
5. What did Solomon request from God in his prayer at Gibeon, and how was his request answered?
6. How did Solomon acquire Gezer, and why was it a strategic acquisition?
7. According to Dr. Phillips, how did the building of the temple fulfill Deuteronomy 12?
8. What does Sheol mean in the context of 1 Kings?
9. How did the role of Levites change once the temple was constructed?
10. What were the key elements of God's response to Solomon's prayer at the temple dedication?

Quiz Answer Key

1. David created political unity by moving the capital to Jerusalem, a city more appealing to northern tribes. He created religious unity by moving the Ark of the Covenant there, centralizing religious symbols in the new capital. Finally, he expanded the boundaries of the kingdom considerably as well.
2. David's purchase of the threshing floor of Araunah, located on Mount Moriah, prepared for the temple's future building. This purchase, made in gratitude after the plague stopped, established the site as sacred and designated it for sacrifice. It laid the groundwork for Solomon's construction of the temple.
3. The "Four W's" associated with Solomon's reign are Wisdom, Women, Wealth, and Worship. They represent the defining characteristics of his reign, highlighting his renowned wisdom, his political alliances through marriage, his economic prosperity, and his construction of the Temple. Each "W" also carried a potential for both good and bad consequences.
4. Adonijah's request to marry Abishag was a political statement, as Abishag had been David's concubine. By requesting her, Adonijah was symbolically asserting a

claim to David's authority and potentially undermining Solomon's position as king. This transgression led to his downfall.

5. In his prayer at Gibeon, Solomon requested a heart that hears and is obedient in order to govern God's people and distinguish between right and wrong. God answered this prayer by granting him wisdom, as well as wealth and security beyond what he had requested, as demonstrated by the two women and the baby.
6. Solomon acquired Gezer when Pharaoh captured and burned the city, then gave it to his daughter as a wedding gift when she married Solomon. This was a strategic acquisition because Solomon could rebuild the city according to his plans and because Gezer was located on the international trade route, increasing Solomon's control over trade and tribute.
7. The building of the temple fulfilled Deuteronomy 12 because it provided the centralized location "where I will choose to put my name" for sacrifices and worship. This designated location in Jerusalem replaced the decentralized worship practices that had occurred before the temple was constructed.
8. Dr. Phillips states the Hebrew word, Sheol, shows up in both prose contexts, such as this one, and in poetic contexts in the Hebrew Bible. In most prose contexts, it seems to be pretty much just a parallel to the grave. In other words, dying. Even though there's another word for grave, it seems to be that.
9. Once the temple was constructed, the Levites' role shifted from packing, carrying, and setting up the Tabernacle to serving as gatekeepers, musicians, officials, and judges. They also had a very significant role in maintaining the treasuries of the temple. However, they were all still supposed to be teachers of the law.
10. God's response to Solomon's prayer at the temple dedication included a promise to hear the prayers of his people if they humbled themselves, prayed, sought his face, and turned from their wicked ways. God promised to restore them and heal their land as a result of their repentance. The response was God's response both to Solomon and the people of Israel.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the "Four W's" of Solomon's reign, analyzing both the positive and negative aspects of each. How did these aspects contribute to the consolidation of the kingdom and the seeds of its later division?
2. Compare and contrast the accounts of Solomon's rise to power in 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles. What differences in emphasis exist, and how do these differences reflect the distinct purposes of each book?
3. Analyze the significance of the Temple in Jerusalem during Solomon's reign. How did it function as a center of worship, a symbol of God's presence, and a representation of the heavenly realms?
4. Evaluate Solomon's successes and failures as a leader, focusing on his adherence to or departure from the guidelines laid out in Deuteronomy 17. How did his choices impact the kingdom and its future?
5. Trace the foreshadowing of the division of the kingdom throughout Solomon's reign. What factors contributed to the growing unrest and the eventual tearing apart of the kingdom under his successor?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Abishag:** A young woman brought to King David in his old age to keep him warm. Her later connection with Adonijah becomes politically significant.
- **Adonijah:** David's fourth-born son who attempted to seize the throne before Solomon.
- **Ark of the Covenant:** A sacred chest containing the tablets of the Ten Commandments, symbolizing God's presence.
- **Bathsheba:** The mother of Solomon, who played a key role in securing his place as king.
- **Benaiah:** Commander of David's bodyguard and a loyal supporter of Solomon.
- **Concubine:** A woman who cohabitates with a man but has a lower social status than a wife; often part of political alliances.
- **Gibeon:** A city where Solomon offered sacrifices and received his dream of wisdom.

- **Gihon Spring:** The primary water source for Jerusalem, and the location where Solomon was anointed king.
- **Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer:** Key cities fortified by Solomon, strategically located along the International Coastal Highway.
- **International Coastal Highway:** An important trade route running through Israel, providing economic opportunities for Solomon.
- **Jeroboam:** An official in Solomon's court who led a rebellion and later became the first king of the divided northern kingdom of Israel.
- **Joab:** Commander of David's army, known for his ruthlessness; Solomon was instructed to deal with him.
- **Levites:** Members of the tribe of Levi, responsible for temple service, music, and teaching.
- **Mount Moriah:** The location of the threshing floor of Araunah, where David offered sacrifices, and the future site of the Temple.
- **Nathan:** A prophet who advised David and played a crucial role in Solomon's succession.
- **Pharaoh's Daughter:** Solomon's wife, a symbol of his political alliance with Egypt.
- **Sheol:** The Hebrew term for the afterlife or the grave.
- **Shimei:** A man who cursed David during Absalom's rebellion; Solomon was instructed to deal with him.
- **Solomon:** David's son and successor, known for his wisdom, wealth, and the construction of the Temple.
- **Temple:** The central place of worship in Jerusalem, built by Solomon, symbolizing God's presence and serving as a national treasury.
- **Tribute:** Payments or goods exacted from conquered peoples as a sign of submission.

5. FAQs on Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 23, Solomon Consolidating the Empire, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQs from Old Testament Literature, Lecture 23 by Dr. Elaine Phillips

Here are some frequently asked questions regarding the material covered in Dr. Phillips' Old Testament Literature Lecture 23:

1. How did David establish political and religious unity in his kingdom?

David united the kingdom politically by moving the capital to Jerusalem, a city strategically located between the northern and southern tribes and previously known as Jebus. This location was more appealing to the northern tribes, particularly the tribe of Benjamin. He also unified the kingdom religiously by bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, establishing it as the central place of worship. Furthermore, David significantly expanded the boundaries of the kingdom, solidifying his power and influence.

2. What event paved the way for the future construction of the temple, especially concerning its location?

David's purchase of the threshing floor of Araunah on Mount Moriah, after the plague resulting from his sin of numbering the people, prepared for the temple's construction. David offered a sacrifice on this site in gratitude to God, marking it as the designated location for the future temple. This act is detailed in 2 Chronicles 3.

3. What are the four "W's" associated with Solomon, and how do they relate to his reign?

The four "W's" associated with Solomon are Wisdom, Women, Wealth, and Worship. Solomon was renowned for his wisdom, as demonstrated in his judgments and governance. His numerous wives (women) represented political alliances with various kingdoms. He amassed great wealth through trade, taxation, and tribute. Finally, he oversaw the construction of the temple, centralizing worship in Jerusalem. While all four aspects contributed to his success, the pursuit of wealth and relationships with foreign women ultimately led to his downfall due to idolatry and disobedience to God's commands.

4. What are the key differences between the accounts of Solomon's reign in 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles?

1 Kings provides a more comprehensive narrative, including details about Adonijah's attempt to seize the throne before Solomon became king, as well as Solomon's idolatry at the end of his reign. In contrast, 2 Chronicles omits these events, presenting a more idealized image of Solomon. It focuses more on the temple and the presence of God during its dedication.

5. Why did Adonijah's request to marry Abishag, David's caregiver, pose a threat to Solomon's kingship?

In ancient Near Eastern culture, taking possession of a former king's concubine or wife symbolized claiming his power and legitimacy. Adonijah's request to marry Abishag was thus perceived as a challenge to Solomon's authority. It mirrored Absalom's actions of sleeping with David's concubines, an act that openly proclaimed Absalom's claim to the throne, and Reuben sleeping with Bilhah. This is why Solomon viewed it as an act of treason and took action against Adonijah.

6. What specific advice did David give to Solomon before his death, and why was it significant?

David instructed Solomon to remain obedient to God's laws, to build the temple, and to address certain acts of injustice. He urged Solomon to punish Joab for his past crimes, to show kindness to the sons of Barzillai for their loyalty to David during Absalom's rebellion, and to deal with Shimei, who had cursed David. These instructions were significant because they were David's last wishes and were considered his charge to Solomon for his reign.

7. How did Solomon's actions contradict the instructions given to kings in Deuteronomy 17, and what were the consequences?

Deuteronomy 17 outlines certain restrictions on Israelite kings, including prohibitions against acquiring many wives, accumulating excessive wealth, and obtaining numerous horses. Solomon violated all of these commands. He had hundreds of wives from foreign nations, amassed great wealth, and acquired horses from Egypt. As a consequence, his heart was turned away from God, leading him into idolatry, and God ultimately declared that the kingdom would be torn away from his descendants.

8. How was the design and purpose of Solomon's Temple both similar to and different from the Tabernacle?

Both the Tabernacle and the Temple served as central places of worship and represented God's presence among his people. The Temple, however, was a permanent structure built in Jerusalem, while the Tabernacle was a portable tent used during the Israelites' wandering in the wilderness. The Temple was also significantly larger and more elaborate than the Tabernacle, reflecting Israel's established kingdom. Both had similar furnishings and design, however, the Temple had multiples of certain items (ten lampstands instead of one) and the design is meant to mirror God's throne room in Heaven.