

Dr. Elaine Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 24, Wisdom Literature (Proverbs) 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 24, Wisdom Literature (Proverbs), 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. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 24 – 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
on24.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 24, Wisdom Literature (Proverbs)

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 24, Wisdom Literature (Proverbs)

Solomon's Reign: Consolidation, Temple, and Seeds of Division

Study Guide Sections:

I. Review of David's Reign:

- Political and religious unity created by David
- Significance of moving the ark to Jerusalem
- David's expansion of the kingdom
- Preparation for the Temple's location: the threshing floor of Araunah/Mount Moriah

II. Solomon's Accomplishments & Attributes (the Four W's):

- Wisdom: Prayer for a discerning heart and examples of wise judgment
- Women: Political alliances through marriage, Pharaoh's daughter & Gezer
- Wealth: Sources of wealth (trade, taxation, tribute), geopolitics
- Worship: Building the Temple, design, dedication, and significance

III. Solomon's Temple:

- Purpose of the Temple: Central worship place, representation of sacred space, connection to heaven
- Similarities and differences from the Tabernacle
- Design and furnishing elements, including cherubim, laver/sea
- Role of Levites and Priests
- Dedication ceremony and Solomon's prayer
- God's response to Solomon's prayer

IV. Solomon's Disobedience and its Consequences:

- Violations of Deuteronomy 17: Multiple wives, wealth accumulation, horses
- Idolatry and its impact

- Prophecies of the kingdom's division
- Adversaries: Edom, Aram, and Jeroboam

V. Connections to Other Biblical Books:

- 1 Kings vs. 1 & 2 Chronicles
- Deuteronomy (Laws for the Kings)
- Hebrews 8 & 9 (Temple is a copy of Heaven)
- Ezekiel 1 (Ezekiel's vision of God's chariot)

Quiz:

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. How did David establish both political and religious unity in his kingdom?
2. What were Solomon's "Four W's," and how did they contribute to his reign?
3. Describe the differences between the accounts of Solomon's rise to the throne in 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles.
4. Why was Solomon's request to marry Abishag considered a transgression?
5. What did Solomon ask God for in his prayer at Gibeon, and why was this request significant?
6. How did Solomon's actions regarding wives, wealth, and horses contradict the instructions given in Deuteronomy 17?
7. Why was Gezer such an important city for Solomon to control?
8. What purpose did the cherubim serve in Solomon's Temple, and how did they connect with other biblical visions of God's throne room?
9. What was the role of the Levites in Solomon's Temple?
10. What were the consequences of Solomon's disobedience, and what adversaries did he face at the end of his reign?

Quiz Answer Key:

1. David established political unity by moving the capital to Jerusalem, a city more appealing to the northern tribes. He created religious unity by moving the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, centralizing religious symbols in the new capital.

2. Solomon's "Four W's" were Wisdom, Women, Wealth, and Worship. They contributed to his reign through wise governance and judgment, political alliances through marriage, economic prosperity, and the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem.
3. In 1 Kings, Solomon's rise to the throne is marked by the intrigue and conflict surrounding Adonijah's attempt to become king. In 1 Chronicles, this conflict is absent, and Solomon's ascension to the throne is presented as a straightforward and divinely ordained event.
4. Adonijah's request to marry Abishag was considered a transgression because Abishag had been part of David's royal household. His request was perceived as a claim to David's legacy and a challenge to Solomon's authority.
5. Solomon asked God for a discerning heart to govern the people and to distinguish between right and wrong. This request was significant because it demonstrated Solomon's humility and his recognition of his own limitations in leading Israel.
6. Solomon's actions contradicted Deuteronomy 17 by accumulating many foreign wives, amassing great wealth, and acquiring numerous horses. Deuteronomy 17 warned against kings doing these things, fearing they would lead the king away from God.
7. Gezer was an important city for Solomon to control because it was located on the international coastal highway, a major trade route. By fortifying Gezer, Solomon could control trade and exact taxes on goods passing through his kingdom.
8. The cherubim in Solomon's Temple guarded the Ark of the Covenant and symbolized God's presence and throne. They connected with other biblical visions of God's throne room, such as Ezekiel's vision of living creatures and the chariot throne of God.
9. The Levites in Solomon's Temple served as gatekeepers, musicians, treasurers, officials, and judges. They played a significant role in maintaining the Temple, leading worship, and administering justice within the kingdom.
10. The consequences of Solomon's disobedience included the prophecy of the kingdom's division and the rise of adversaries such as Edomites, Syrians, and Jeroboam. His idolatry and failure to follow God's commands ultimately led to the fracturing of the kingdom after his death.

Essay Questions:

1. Compare and contrast the portrayal of David and Solomon in 1 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles. How do the different emphases of these books shape our understanding of their reigns?
2. Analyze the significance of Solomon's Temple. How did it function as a central place of worship, a symbol of sacred space, and a connection to the heavenly realms?
3. Discuss the "Four W's" of Solomon's reign (Wisdom, Women, Wealth, and Worship). How did each of these elements contribute to both the success and the downfall of Solomon's kingdom?
4. Explore the parallels and differences between the reigns of David and Solomon. To what extent did Solomon build upon David's foundation, and where did he deviate from his father's example?
5. Evaluate the consequences of Solomon's disobedience to God's commands, particularly his violations of Deuteronomy 17. How did his actions lead to the division of the kingdom and the eventual exile of Israel?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Ark of the Covenant:** A sacred chest containing the tablets of the Ten Commandments, symbolizing God's presence.
- **City of David:** The original urban center of Jerusalem, located on a narrow ridge south of the Temple Mount.
- **Concubine:** A woman who lives with a man but has a lower social status than a wife; they had some legal protection but enjoyed little social standing.
- **Deuteronomy 17:** A passage in the Book of Deuteronomy that outlines the limitations and responsibilities of the king of Israel.
- **Gibeon:** A city where the Tabernacle was located during the early part of Solomon's reign; Solomon visited Gibeon to offer sacrifices and pray for wisdom.
- **Gihon Spring:** The primary source of water for Jerusalem, located in the Kidron Valley.

- **Gezer, Megiddo, Hazor:** Three strategically important cities fortified by Solomon, located along the international coastal highway.
- **Jeroboam:** An official in Solomon's court who led a rebellion against Solomon and later became the first king of the divided northern kingdom of Israel.
- **Mount Moriah:** The location where Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac and the site where Solomon built the Temple.
- **Sheol:** The Hebrew term for the abode of the dead, often translated as "grave" or "underworld."
- **Tabernacle:** A portable tent that served as the primary place of worship for the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings.
- **Temple:** The central place of worship in Jerusalem, built by Solomon to house the Ark of the Covenant and serve as a dwelling place for God's name.
- **Tribute:** Mandatory payments or gifts made by one ruler or nation to another, often as a sign of submission or allegiance.

5. FAQs on Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 24, Wisdom Literature (Proverbs), 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 act was perceived as a symbolic grab at the power that Solomon possessed, and Solomon needed to react to protect his kingship.

6. What specific instructions did David give Solomon on his deathbed, and why were they important?

David instructed Solomon to be obedient to God's laws, build the temple, and address certain unfinished business. Specifically, he urged Solomon to deal with Joab, who had shed blood unjustly, to show kindness to the sons of Barzillai for their past loyalty, and to address the case of Shimei, who had cursed David. These instructions were crucial for establishing justice and stability in the kingdom, ensuring that Solomon ruled with righteousness and maintained loyalty among his subjects.

7. How did Solomon amass wealth and power during his reign, and what were the potential downsides?

Solomon gained wealth through international trade, taxation, and tribute from conquered territories. He controlled key trade routes, such as the International Coastal Highway, and fortified strategic cities like Megiddo, Hazor, and Gezer to protect his interests. However, his pursuit of wealth and power led him to transgress God's commands in Deuteronomy 17. He acquired many wives from foreign lands to forge political alliances, accumulated horses and chariots, and imposed conscripted labor on his people. These actions fostered pride and disobedience, ultimately leading to his downfall.

8. What role did the temple play in Israelite worship, and how did its design reflect the heavenly realm?

The temple served as the central place of worship in Israel, a sacred space where people could come to celebrate pilgrim festivals and experience God's presence. Its design, though simplified, reflected the heavenly realm. Elements such as cherubim guarding the Ark of the Covenant and the sea representing cleansing, were symbolic representations of what was going on in the heavenly realms. These symbols were meant to be a reflection of worship rather than idols. This is all a call back to some of the passages in Ezekiel. These details, as well as many others, are simplified and made understandable so that people could worship God. It housed the Ark of the Covenant and served as a storehouse for the nation's wealth. The temple's architecture and furnishings were also inspired by the tabernacle but were significantly larger and more elaborate, signifying a shift from a nomadic lifestyle to a more established kingdom.