

# Dr. Robert Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 3-11 -- Solomon Resources from NotebookLM

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

## 1. Abstract of Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 3-11 -- Solomon, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

**Dr. Vannoy's lecture, as transcribed and edited, centers on the early reign of Solomon as depicted in 1 Kings.** The lecture specifically analyzes Solomon's consolidation of power after David's death, including dealing with Adonijah and Shimei, as well as David's instructions regarding Joab, Barzillai, and Shimei. **It explores Solomon's administrative structure, particularly the establishment of twelve districts for providing resources to the royal household.** The lecture notes that Solomon's reign, while initially prosperous and peaceful, displays signs of future instability due to heavy taxation and a move towards kingship more like other nations. **The lecture stresses the spiritual implications of seemingly mundane details, arguing that all aspects of life impact one's relationship with God.**

**2. 13 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 3 – 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 → Historical Books → Exodus to Exile).**



**Vannoy\_ExttoExileK\_  
Session03.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 3-11 -- Solomon

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. Robert Vannoy's lecture on 1 Kings 3-11, focusing on Solomon's reign:

#### Briefing Document: 1 Kings 3-11 – Solomon

##### Main Themes:

- **David's Instructions and Legacy:** The lecture begins with David's final instructions to Solomon regarding Joab, Barzillai, and Shimei. These instructions reveal David's concern for loyalty, justice, and the consolidation of Solomon's rule. The contrasting treatment of Barzillai (rewarded for loyalty) and Shimei (punished for cursing the king) highlights David's understanding of divine law and political stability.
- **Consolidation of Solomon's Rule:** A significant portion of the lecture focuses on how Solomon solidifies his power. This includes taking decisive action against potential rivals like Adonijah, Abiathar, and Joab, as well as dealing with Shimei. The underlying idea is that Solomon, chosen by the Lord, takes the necessary steps to firmly establish his kingship.
- **Characterization of Solomon's Reign:** Dr. Vannoy delves into the details of Solomon's administration as described in 1 Kings 4. This includes an examination of the list of officials, the division of the kingdom into 12 administrative districts for taxation, and the scale of provisions required to maintain the royal household. While the reign appears prosperous and peaceful on the surface, Vannoy identifies potential "cracks" in the kingdom.
- **The Seeds of Discontent: Taxation, Favoritism, and Militarization:** Vannoy argues that beneath the surface of prosperity, Solomon's policies sow the seeds of future division and discontent. He points to heavy taxation (reminiscent of Samuel's warning in 1 Samuel 8), potential favoritism towards Judah, and the build-up of a large military force with horses and chariots.
- **Kingship Like Other Nations Contra Deut. 17:** Vannoy highlights how, despite initial differences, Solomon's kingship begins to resemble that of surrounding nations. He references Deuteronomy 17, which discourages the king from

acquiring many horses, contrasting this with Solomon's vast stables. This shift is portrayed as a departure from the ideal of Israel being distinct.

- **Spiritual Significance of Mundane Details:** Vannoy emphasizes the importance of seeing spiritual significance in seemingly mundane details. He argues that life is not divided into spiritual and non-spiritual realms, and that even the statistics about Solomon's court reveal important truths about the direction of his reign and the potential for future problems.

### Important Ideas and Facts:

- **David's Instruction on Barzillai:** Barzillai was to be rewarded because "They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom." This exemplifies loyalty being remembered and rewarded.
- **David's Instruction on Shimei:** David instructs Solomon to "Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood." This instruction, seemingly contradictory to David's previous oath, is justified by Vannoy as necessary to uphold the law against cursing the king (Exodus 22:28 and the incident with Naboth in 1 Kings 21:10). David, the king, must protect the office. Vannoy says, "I think it's part of David's political testament, given to ensure confirmation of Solomon's kingship and something that was done to protect the office that Solomon would assume on the basis of the law of God."
- **Adonijah's Request for Abishag:** Solomon saw Adonijah's request to marry Abishag as another attempt to claim the throne. Vannoy quotes the NIV study Bible stating, "The possession of the royal harem was widely regarded as signifying the rights of succession."
- **Joab's Grabbing the Horns of the Altar:** Vannoy explains that the horns of the altar and the cities of refuge were places of asylum, primarily for those who committed unintentional manslaughter. Solomon was justified in denying asylum to Joab because of his intentional murders. Vannoy quotes the NIV study Bible stating, "The right of the asylum was extended to those who accidentally caused someone's death (Exod. 21:14). Solomon was justified in denying this right to Joab, not only for his complicity in Adonijah's conspiracy, but for his murder of Abner and Amassa."
- **Solomon's Administrative Districts:** Solomon established twelve districts to provide supplies for the royal household. This system seemingly exempted the tribe of Judah from these levies, possibly leading to resentment.

- **The Scale of Solomon's Provisions:** The lecture details the vast quantities of food required daily, emphasizing the burden on the districts. For example, "Solomon's daily provisions were thirty cors of fine flour, sixty cors of meal." This highlights the immense resources needed to support Solomon's court. A cor, as explained, is about 185 bushels.
- **Solomon's Military Build-Up:** Solomon's accumulation of horses and chariots, with "4,000 stalls for chariot horses and 12,000 horses," directly contrasts with the earlier practice of destroying enemy horses and chariots (Joshua 11:6) and the prohibition in Deuteronomy 17:16. Vannoy states, "It seems to me the Lord did not want Israel to be like the nations round about them when it came to military organization and armaments. But with Solomon all that seems to change."
- **Conflicting Signals:** While Solomon's reign is characterized by peace and wisdom, the statistics surrounding his kingdom point to growing problems. Vannoy points out, "I think primarily the statistics seem to say in this kingdom, peace has come under the rule of Solomon...But as I said, there's conflicting signals. At the same time, these statistics raise some disturbing questions. It seems that the kingship of Solomon is beginning to be conformed to the pattern of the kingship of the nations round about."

### **Overall Argument:**

Dr. Vannoy presents a nuanced view of Solomon's reign. While acknowledging the initial blessings and prosperity, he emphasizes the subtle but significant deviations from God's original plan for Israel's kingship. These deviations, particularly in taxation, favoritism, and militarization, laid the groundwork for future division and the eventual decline of the kingdom. He implies that the seeds of the kingdom's destruction were sown during Solomon's reign, despite the outward appearance of peace and prosperity.

## 4. Study Guide: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 3-11 -- Solomon

### 1 Kings 3-11: Solomon - Study Guide

#### I. Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What specific instructions did David give Solomon regarding Barzillai, and what was the basis for this instruction?
2. What was Shimei's offense against David, and what previous action of David complicated his instruction to Solomon regarding Shimei?
3. What request did Adonijah make through Bathsheba, and why did Solomon view this request as a threat?
4. What actions did Solomon take to consolidate his rule after Adonijah's request?
5. What agreement did Solomon make with Shimei, and how did Shimei break this agreement?
6. How did Solomon organize the provision of supplies for the royal household, and what is significant about the tribes mentioned in the list of governors?
7. Describe the scale of Solomon's daily provisions as detailed in 1 Kings 4.
8. How did Solomon's accumulation of horses differ from the instructions given in Deuteronomy 17:16 and the actions of David?
9. What positive aspects characterized Solomon's reign as described in 1 Kings 4?
10. According to the lecture, how did the "mundane matters" in 1 Kings 4 have spiritual significance?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. David instructed Solomon to show kindness to the sons of Barzillai and allow them to eat at his table. This was because Barzillai had provided vital assistance to David when he fled from Absalom, demonstrating loyalty at great risk.
2. Shimei cursed David and threw stones at him when David fled from Absalom. However, David had previously sworn an oath not to put Shimei to death, which created tension with his later instruction to Solomon.

3. Adonijah requested that Abishag the Shunammite, who had been secured to keep David warm in his old age, be given to him as his wife. Solomon saw this as a veiled attempt to strengthen Adonijah's claim to the throne, as possession of the royal harem signified rights of succession.
4. Solomon ordered the execution of Adonijah, removed Abiathar from the priesthood, and had Joab killed. These actions eliminated potential rivals and solidified his control over the kingdom.
5. Solomon made an agreement with Shimei that he should remain in Jerusalem. Shimei broke this agreement when he left Jerusalem to search for a runaway servant.
6. Solomon divided Israel into twelve administrative districts, each responsible for providing supplies to the royal household for one month of the year. Judah is not mentioned as one of the tribal districts, raising the possibility that they received preferential treatment regarding taxation.
7. Solomon's daily provisions included thirty cors of fine flour, sixty cors of meal, ten head of stall-fed cattle, twenty of pasture-fed cattle, and a hundred sheep, among other items. This substantial daily intake demonstrates the vast scale of Solomon's royal household and its demands.
8. Unlike David who hamstringed the majority of captured horses, Solomon acquired a large number of horses (12,000), which directly contradicted the warning in Deuteronomy 17:16, which cautioned against a king acquiring many horses.
9. Solomon's reign was characterized by peace, safety, and abundance. The people lived securely, and Solomon was renowned for his exceptional wisdom and understanding.
10. The lecture argues that even mundane matters such as taxation, administration, and military build-up have spiritual significance because they reflect choices that either advance or hinder one's relationship with God. The choices can lead to either a Godly or worldly view of the kingdom and can impact the trajectory of a nation.

## II. Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Answer each question in essay format.

1. Discuss the tensions between justice and mercy as exemplified in David's instructions regarding Joab, Barzillai, and Shimei. How do these instructions reflect David's character and his understanding of kingship?
2. Analyze Solomon's actions in consolidating his rule, focusing on the motivations behind his decisions regarding Adonijah, Abiathar, and Shimei. How effective were these actions in establishing Solomon's authority?
3. Evaluate the impact of Solomon's administrative and economic policies on the kingdom of Israel. Did his policies ultimately strengthen or weaken the nation, and what evidence supports your conclusion?
4. Compare and contrast the kingship of David and Solomon, focusing on their adherence to or departure from the ideals outlined in Deuteronomy 17. How did their respective approaches shape the future of Israel?
5. Explore the theme of conflicting signals in 1 Kings 4, considering the coexistence of peace, prosperity, and growing internal tensions. How did these tensions foreshadow the division of the kingdom after Solomon's death?

### III. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Adonijah:** David's son who attempted to seize the throne before Solomon.
- **Abishag:** A Shunammite woman who attended to David in his old age; Adonijah requested to marry her.
- **Abiathar:** A priest who supported Adonijah's claim to the throne; he was later removed from the priesthood by Solomon.
- **Joab:** David's former military commander who was complicit in Adonijah's conspiracy and was executed by Solomon.
- **Barzillai:** A wealthy Gileadite who provided assistance to David when he fled from Absalom.
- **Shimei:** A relative of Saul who cursed David during Absalom's rebellion; Solomon later had him executed for violating an agreement.
- **Cor:** A unit of measurement for dry goods, estimated to be around 185 bushels.
- **Deuteronomy 17:** A passage outlining the law of the king, including restrictions on acquiring horses and returning to Egypt.
- **Royal Harem:** The collection of wives and concubines belonging to the king; possession of the royal harem was associated with succession rights.
- **Administrative Districts:** Twelve distinct territories established by Solomon for the purpose of providing supplies to the royal household.



## 5. FAQs on Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 3-11 -- Solomon, Biblealearning.org (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions About 1 Kings 3-11

- **Why did David instruct Solomon to show kindness to the sons of Barzillai?**
- David instructed Solomon to show kindness to the sons of Barzillai because Barzillai provided essential support to David when he fled from his son Absalom's rebellion. Barzillai's loyalty and assistance came at a considerable risk, and David wanted his family to be rewarded for their faithfulness.
- **Why did David instruct Solomon to deal with Shimei?**
- David instructed Solomon to deal with Shimei because Shimei had cursed David and thrown stones at him during Absalom's rebellion. Although David had spared Shimei's life at the time, he recognized that Shimei's actions were a violation of the law against cursing the ruler. David saw this as a matter of protecting the integrity of the kingship and ensuring the stability of Solomon's reign.
- **Why did Solomon have Adonijah killed after he requested Abishag as his wife?**
- Solomon saw Adonijah's request to marry Abishag, who had been secured to keep David warm in his old age and was considered part of the royal harem, as a veiled attempt to strengthen his claim to the throne. Solomon believed Adonijah was trying to reignite his pursuit of the kingship, which Solomon had already secured.
- **How was Joab's grabbing of the horns at the altar an attempt to seek refuge, and why was it denied?**
- Joab's grasping of the horns of the altar was an attempt to claim the right of asylum, which was typically extended to those who had committed accidental or unintentional killings. However, Solomon denied Joab this refuge because Joab was guilty of deliberate murder, specifically the murders of Abner and Amassa.

- **What was the purpose of Solomon's division of Israel into twelve administrative districts?**
- Solomon divided Israel into twelve administrative districts to efficiently provide supplies and provisions for the royal household. Each district was responsible for providing for the king's needs for one month of the year, ensuring a steady and organized system of taxation and resource management.
- **Why was the tribe of Judah not mentioned in the list of Solomon's administrative districts?**
- Some interpreters believe that the absence of Judah from the list of administrative districts suggests that Judah, Solomon's own tribe, may have been exempt from the heavy taxation imposed on the other tribes. This favoritism could have been a source of resentment and contribute to later divisions within the kingdom.
- **How did Solomon's kingship differ from the earlier leadership of judges and King Saul?**
- Solomon's kingship differed significantly as it became more extravagant and resembled the kingships of surrounding nations. Solomon had a large court, built a palace, and established a large military force with horses and chariots. This was a departure from the earlier, more modest leadership of judges and King Saul, who maintained a smaller organization and acted more like a judge than a king.
- **How did Solomon's accumulation of horses and chariots deviate from previous commands?**
- Deuteronomy 17:16 states, "The king must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself." Solomon's accumulation of horses and chariots deviated from the earlier practice of Joshua, who was commanded to hamstring captured horses, and even from David who hamstrung all but a hundred horses. Solomon's large military force with numerous horses and chariots signaled a shift toward emulating the military strength of other nations, a departure from the idea of Israel being distinct.