

connect360

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

Solomon:

NO ORDINARY KIND OF WISDOM

A STUDY OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES

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Courtney Gilmore
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 **BaptistWayPress®**
Dallas, Texas

*Solomon: No Ordinary Kind of Wisdom—
Connect 360 Bible Study Guide*

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How to Make the Best Use of This Issue

Whether you're the teacher or a student—

1. Start early in the week before your class meets.
2. Overview the study. Review the table of contents and read the study introduction. Try to see how each lesson relates to the overall study.
3. Use your Bible to read and consider prayerfully the Scripture passages for the lesson. (You'll see that each writer has chosen a favorite translation for the lessons in this issue. You're free to use the Bible translation you prefer and compare it with the translation chosen for that unit, of course.)
4. After reading all the Scripture passages in your Bible, then read the writer's comments. The comments are intended to be an aid to your study of the Bible.
5. Read the small articles—"sidebars"—in each lesson. They are intended to provide additional, enrichment information and inspiration and to encourage thought and application.
6. Try to answer for yourself the questions included in each lesson. They're intended to encourage further thought and application, and they can also be used in the class session itself.

If you're the teacher—

Do all the things just mentioned, of course. As you begin the study with your class, be sure to find a way to help your class know the date on which each lesson will be studied. Here are some suggestions to guide your lesson preparation:

- A. In the first session of the study, briefly overview the study by identifying for your class the date on which each lesson will be studied. Lead your class to write the date in the table of contents on page 8 and on the first page of each lesson.
- Make and post a chart that indicates the date each lesson will be studied.
 - If all your class has e-mail, send them an e-mail with the dates the lessons will be studied.
 - Provide a bookmark with the lesson dates. You may want to include information about your church and then use the bookmark as an outreach tool, too. A model for a bookmark can be downloaded from www.baptistwaypress.org under the “Teacher Helps” menu.
 - Develop a sticker with the lesson dates and place it on the table of contents or on the back cover.
- B. Get a copy of the *Teaching Guide*, a companion piece to this *Study Guide*. The *Teaching Guide* contains additional Bible comments plus two teaching plans. The teaching plans in the *Teaching Guide* are intended to provide practical, easy-to-use teaching suggestions that will work in your class.
- C. After you’ve studied the Bible passage, the lesson comments, and other material, use the teaching suggestions in the *Teaching Guide* to help you develop your plan for leading your class in studying each lesson.
- D. Teaching resource items for use as handouts are available free at www.baptistwaypress.org under the “Teacher Helps” tab.
- E. Additional Bible study comments on the lessons are available online. Call 1-866-249-1799 or e-mail baptistway@texasbaptists.org to order the *Premium Commentary*. It is available only in electronic format (PDF) from our website, www.baptistwaypress.org. The price of these comments for the entire study is \$5 per person. A church or class that participates in our advance order program for free shipping can receive the *Premium Commentary* free. Call 1-866-249-1799 or see

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- G. Enjoy leading your class in discovering the meaning of the Scripture passages and in applying these passages to their lives.
- H. You can receive the lesson preview each week by signing up for the Baptist Standard weekly newsletter at no cost.
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Jared Billups wrote **lessons five through seven.** Jared serves as the Gathering Pastor at Highland Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, overseeing the music, media, and communication teams. He and his wife, Krystal, were married in 2005 and have three children: Karoline, Klaire, and Kade. Jared received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Christian Education and a Master of Arts in Worship Leadership from Dallas Baptist University and has served in local church ministry since 2004. Jared's passion for missions and leading worship has led him to lead conferences in several countries throughout the world.

Courtney Gilmore wrote **lessons eight through ten.** Courtney has been writing and teaching the Bible for over 25 years. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Don, and they have two children, Erica and Hayden. She started teaching before they were born and has taught every age with them along the way. She also wrote and directed their church Christmas plays and Vacation Bible Schools before settling into adult study. Courtney has fallen in love with the Bible and her greatest desire is to express the Word of God in a way that makes others fall in love too.

John Beck wrote **lessons eleven through thirteen, plus the bonus Easter Lesson.** John was born and raised in Alabama. He was educated through the Baptist system earning the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama; the Master of Divinity Degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and the Doctor of Ministry Degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. John and his wife, Sue, and their daughter, Laura, reside in Denton, Texas, where he serves as Adult Life Pastor at First Baptist Church. Back in Alabama, John and Sue have a son, Joel, and his wife, Sarah, and two grandsons, Sam and Charlie.

Solomon

No Ordinary Kind of Wisdom

A Study of 1 & 2 Chronicles

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Introducing

Solomon: No Ordinary Kind of Wisdom

A STUDY OF 1 & 2 CHRONICLES

Solomon grew up in the royal palace of his father David, as the oldest son of David and Bathsheba. David had the dream of building the Temple. But God gave that job to David's son, Solomon. And the rest is history.

Who was Solomon? We know he followed his father as the third king of the united nation of Israel, which he ruled for over forty years. We know he supervised the construction of the first Temple in Jerusalem. And we know a few other notable things about Solomon.

Solomon had many wives. About 700 of them. Plus, another 300 concubines.

Solomon had money. More than anyone had ever had. Enormous wealth.

But what really made Solomon different? It was not his charm, enormous wealth, or good looks. It was something very rare. A virtue that no other man possessed at such a high level. Wisdom. And this was no ordinary kind of wisdom learned from normal life experiences such as a job, war, conflict, marriage, relationships, or even being a long-time ruler of a nation. This wisdom came from God. And God only.

The Temple

“Now it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, that is, the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD”(1 Kings 6:1, NASB).

David became the greatest King in the history of Israel. One day he realized God’s house was the same tent, a tabernacle, Moses had built. So, he planned to build a Temple. But then God told David he could not build the Temple because he had too much blood on his hands. David was a warrior King. So, David accepted God’s restriction, and decided that his son Solomon would build the Temple. And before he died, he had raised all the money needed to build it.

The Temple and all the descriptions of it have enthralled people for centuries and led to all kinds of conjecture and imagination. With that said, the Temple remains an enduring mystery due to the numerous descriptions of it in the Bible. Over 2000 years later, the Temple Mount, to this day, remains the holiest place in Judaism. But archaeological work has been limited because of the placement of the Al-Aqsa mosque, which has been built on the site. Because of this, some have continued to question the Temple’s existence, pointing to the lack of physical evidence. But we know the truth of God’s Word.

Being told he would not be the one to build a house of God in Jerusalem, David set in motion the plans for his son Solomon to build the Temple. God gave David the plan, in full detail, on how to build the Temple and God made David understand “in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern” (1 Chronicles 28:19). The story continues in verse 20 when David tells Solomon, “Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.”

As we go forward into this study, we need to remember that the Temple, as incredible as it was, is just a glimpse of the true tabernacle where Christ sits at the right hand of God.

Solomon and Wisdom in Our Day

Solomon realized the enormity of his position and the job before him. So, he asked God for wisdom. Solomon did not ask God for wealth, possessions, and honor. Only wisdom. He hoped to carry on the legacy of his father David, and he realized that God was the reason for his father’s success. Though he was raised in luxury, Solomon came to power with his eyes wide open, realizing the job would be tough. His desire was to honor God and serve his people.

Solomon asked God for wisdom. But there was a condition. Solomon had to live according to God’s commands just as his father David had done. Fulfilling his father’s last wish, Solomon built a magnificent Temple, the symbol of God’s presence. And when it was finished, he publicly expressed his debt to God before the Ark of the Covenant with sacrificial offerings. Israel finally had a permanent place of worship.

What exactly is true wisdom? It is a very real sense of what to do, how to do it, and to know why it must be done. It is much more than common sense. Knowledge alone is not enough. It is discernment that cannot come by one’s own resources. It is from God and God alone.

What do you ask God for?

Solomon:
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A Study of 1 & 2 Chronicles

Lesson 1	When God Says “No”	1 Chronicles 28:1-10
Lesson 2	Passing the Torch	1 Chronicles 28:11-21
Lesson 3	Where Your Treasure Is	1 Chronicles 29:1-19
Lesson 4	Prayer for Wisdom	2 Chronicles 1:1-13
Lesson 5	Ready to Build	2 Chronicles 2:1-12
Lesson 6	Pillars in the House of God	2 Chronicles 3:1-17
Lesson 7	It’s Amazing What Praising Will Do	2 Chronicles 5:1-14
Lesson 8	The Blessing of Unfulfilled Dreams	2 Chronicles 6:1-11
Lesson 9	Keys to Revival	2 Chronicles 6:12-42
Lesson 10	A Church on Fire	2 Chronicles 7:1-10

Lesson 11	Our Only Hope	2 Chronicles 7:11-22
Lesson 12	Hard Questions	2 Chronicles 9:1-12
Lesson 13	You Can't Take It with You	2 Chronicles 9:13-31
Easter	On the Road Again	Luke 24:13-35

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NOTES

1. Listing a book does not imply full agreement by the writers or BaptistWay Press with all of its comments.

lesson 1

When God Says “No”

MAIN IDEA

We must realize it is God who is in control.

QUESTION TO EXPLORE

How should I react when God says “no?”

STUDY AIM

To understand that God is infinitely wiser than I am

QUICK READ

David gave Solomon some outstanding advice. There is nothing that will prepare him better for life as the new king than to seek, know, and serve God.



Introduction

There was a movie in 2003 entitled *Bruce Almighty*. It involved a man named Bruce who complained about God so much that God appeared to him in human form and endowed him with divine powers. God challenged Bruce to take on the job of being God to see if he can do it any better. In one particular scene in the movie, Bruce received millions of prayer requests from all over the world. He was overwhelmed. To make life easier, he simply answered yes to all the requests. He later discovered that answering yes to all of the prayers was a big mistake. He then realized that there are times when the answer to a request should be no.

God sometimes tells us no when we make requests of Him. In this passage, God says no to David. As He did with David, He will do also to us. He may say no because He knows what is best for us. He may tell us no because yes may make matters worse rather than better. Whatever the case, at those times when God tells us no, we need to realize that God is always in control.

1 Chronicles 28:1-10

¹Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel: the officers of the tribes and the captains of the divisions who served the king, the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officials, the valiant men, and all the mighty men of valor.

²Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I *had* it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. ³But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name, because you *have been* a man of war and have shed blood.'

⁴However the Lord God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah *to be* the ruler. And of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make *me* king over all Israel. ⁵And of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.

⁶Now He said to me, 'It is your son Solomon *who* shall build My house and

My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. ⁷ Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.’ ⁸ Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever.

⁹ “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. ¹⁰ Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.”

An Offer He Can Refuse (28:1-3)

Our lesson comes at a time in the life of David where his life is soon coming to an end. He is not going to be king much longer. Knowing this, David gathered a great assembly of all the important leaders and influential people of Israel. There were the dignitaries, those who served in the palace, and the military. He informed them that he desired to build a house for God; a place that would be a permanent place for the Ark of Covenant. He told those gathered that God told him no to his request. God gave David a reason for His refusal; because David was a man of war and had shed blood (28:3).

David’s desire was well-intentioned. He even went so far as to make preparations for the building of the Temple. It may be helpful at this point to refer to 1 Chronicles 23—26; it gives details on how David made preparations to build the Temple. Although all this was done, God told David he would not be the one who would build the Temple. With all that in mind, I wonder if David was frustrated because while he did all the planning and preparation for the Temple, he was still told no by God. It seems as though if you are going to do something for God that God would be pleased and say yes, but that is not always the case.

The Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant was central in the life of the nation of Israel. The Ark was a box with dimensions approximately four feet long by two feet wide and two feet deep. It was used in worship, in the wilderness, and it was used in times of war. It was an important symbol of the faith of Israel and represented the presence of God. On top of the Ark were two Cherubim (Numbers 7:89) and the Mercy Seat. Within the Ark were the tablets that had the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded (Hebrews 9:4-5). David understood the importance of the Ark. After he became king, he retrieved the Ark and brought it back to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6). David wanted it to have a final resting place in the Temple which Solomon would build.

The Parting Gift (28:4-5)

I like watching games shows. I especially like Family Feud. Perhaps you have seen it. Different families battle it out to see who would get the chance to win \$20,000. I love to see the winning family get the top answers on the board to the five questions and win the \$20,000. I have to admit, however, that I feel bad for the losing family because they only get \$500, which has to be split between the five participants. They call it a "parting gift."

David was not the winner in the build a temple contest, but David realized he had a parting gift. God's parting gift to David was a covenantal promise. He promised a legacy and dynasty for David. This legacy and dynasty would outlast all three of the Temples that were built throughout the nation of Israel's history. This Davidic covenant will become significant in the life of Israel and the life of the New Testament church. God selected him to be the king but did not select him to build the Temple.

He understood that the parting gift he received was based on the mercy and grace of God. David knew it was by grace because of the status of his family. He was from the tribe of Judah. He was not from the tribe of Benjamin, nor did he have the stature of Saul. He did not come from a great family or great heritage; he was from the family of Jesse. He was a man of humble beginnings. David had seven brothers that were more esteemed than he was. He was not even considered to be a candidate for the king when Samuel

came to his house to anoint the new King of Israel (1 Samuel 16:11-12). Even though he may not have had the stature, status, or standing; God chose him to be the king. David also wanted the people of Israel to understand what was happening with him and Solomon was God’s sovereignty. He submitted to God because he knew it was all in the plan of God.

David in this speech to the assembly and later in his speech to his son Solomon alludes to two covenants in the life of the nation of Israel; the Mosaic Covenant and the Davidic Covenant. The Davidic Covenant is found in the book of 2 Samuel 7: 8-17. This passage defines several elements of the covenant God made with David; the throne of his kingdom shall be established forever, a descendent of David; a son who will succeed him, establish his kingdom, and build a house for God. Even though Solomon’s sins justify the chastening by God, the throne will not be taken away from him. This covenantal promise is confirmed in some of the Psalms. I would encourage you to refer to Psalm 89 and look for references to the covenant.

Jesus will be the ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant. It is confirmed in Mary’s conversation with the angel Gabriel. “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:31-33). This covenant is not just significant to the nation of Israel; it is significant for us as New Testament believers. Because Jesus can connect His lineage to David (Matthew 1:1-17), He is the rightful heir to the throne of David and therefore He is the long-awaited Messiah.

The Final Leg of the Race: The King Speaks With the King (28:6-8)

David addressed the nation of Israel first before he addressed his son letting them know what God told him. He reflected on the promise God made to Israel through Moses. He told them that his son Solomon was to inherit both the promises and obligations of the office of king. One of those obligations was to build the Temple. David then exhorted the people of Israel to be obedient to seek out all of the Lord’s commandments. If they failed to do this,

the land would be in jeopardy and their descendants would not live out their lives in the land.

One of my favorite events to watch during the Summer Olympics is the track and field competition; especially the relay races. The runners are obsessed, and rightfully so, with passing the baton. They practice the handoff over and over and over again until it becomes second nature. I pay particular attention to the final handoff of the baton; the anchor leg, because it is given to the fastest or most experienced competitor on a team. He or she is responsible for making up ground on the race-leader or preserving the lead already secured by their teammates. In our story, David is handing off the baton to his son Solomon. Even though David had other sons, he knows Solomon is the anchor leg. Solomon is required to finish strong.

The King Addresses the Prince (28:9-10)

After David addressed the people, he turned to address his son directly. He encouraged Solomon to know, seek, and serve God. He warned him not to forsake God, but to be strong and build the Temple. David not only told him what to do, he told Solomon how to do it. He told Solomon to seek and know God with his whole heart and to serve Him with a willing mind. The knowing, the seeking, and the serving of God should not be done half-heartedly but wholeheartedly. This concept is a common theme in both books of Chronicles. It is mentioned seven times throughout both books.

Seeking to Serve?

To apply this in your daily walk,

- In prayer ask God to give you a heart and willingness to serve.
- Critically examine the way you serve, is it wholeheartedly or half-heartedly.
- Do your own Bible study that examines how Jesus served.
- Seek out individuals to serve within the local church who are not be able to repay you or give back to you.
- As you serve, consistently remind yourself that you are ultimately serving the Lord.

This is sound advice for anyone. A man or woman in full-time ministry needs to make sure they know, seek, and serve the Lord because they need to be in the will of God. If perhaps you are a businessperson, this advice is crucial in developing a business that has a kingdom perspective and not simply a worldly one. Many people may soon be taking on a new career path. David's advice is good and can help you get started on the right foot. This exhortation is profitable for young people; whether you are a youth or a young adult. It is good to learn this early in life rather than late. David's words to Solomon are his words to us. David did not want Solomon to rule, reign, or build the Temple on his strength but rely on God's strength. The condition of Solomon's success was to be based upon his obedience to God's Word.

Implications and Actions

There are times in life when God tells us no. Our request may be well-intended. It may be a good thing that will bring God glory. God may still say no. God has His reasons. He may reveal the reason to you but He may not. At the times when God says no, we have to realize the reality of Romans 8:28, that God will work out the things in our life for our good. We must be like David and be satisfied with the position and place God has designed for us. God is sovereign and knows what is best.

This lesson has something to say to someone in a position as Solomon, who has a great responsibility God has placed in your hands. God has chosen people like you and me to do something great for Him. It is an honor and a privilege that God call us with all of our faults and shortcomings because He is a gracious God. God is concerned with what we do and how we do it therefore, whatever God has called you to do you must do it willingly and with your whole heart. In every undertaking of God, you must have an undying commitment to Him. You must be committed to knowing Him, serving Him, and not forsaking Him.

Questions

1. Reflect on a time when you were a new believer and you desired something and you prayed but God's answer was no. How did you respond? How did you feel? Is your response different now since you have grown in Christ? If so, how?
2. What admirable qualities do we see in David as he responded to God telling him no?
3. Why do you think God would say no to something good or godly?
4. In our study, we talked about David submitting to God's sovereignty. Why are many believers not satisfied with God's sovereignty?
5. How do you feel when someone does something for you but does it half-heartedly or unwillingly? Do you think God feels the same way? How can we avoid serving God half-heartedly?

NOTES

¹ Evans, Tony. *The Tony Evans Bible Commentary: Advancing God’s Kingdom Agenda*. (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference), 2019, p. 420.

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