

Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 103.2)

LESSON 26 (STUDY NOTES)

King Solomon: Man of Wisdom, Man of Foolishness

Hook	Solomon is known for his great wisdom... then why and how did he make such a mess of his life?
Goal	Class members should learn from both the good and bad in Solomon's example and use their gifts wisely
Overview	
Conclusion	

Manual purpose: To encourage class members to use their blessings wisely and to enter the temple worthily.

I. Sunday School

- a. "Ask what I shall give thee" (1 Kings 3:5) (What would you answer?) (go through the initial narrative in 1 Kings 3)
- b. Our gifts (what we inherit, what we develop, how we share them) (D&C 46)
- c. Solomon: Man of Wisdom (would make a good class activity)
 - i. Humble and earnest
 - ii. Gifted with knowledge and wisdom
 - iii. Administered at times with wisdom and justice
 - iv. Built the temple
- d. Solomon: Man of Foolishness (1 Kings X-X, important to look at 1 Kings 2 as well)
 - i. Wealth: Manual wording "excessively wealthy" (Kugel, p. 503)
 - ii. Exploitation! (see references to forced labor in the reading, led to collapse of united kingdom)
 - iii. Even worse, look at the purges before he became king, described in 1 Kings 2
 1. Adonijah, his brother, for wanting to marry Abishag
 2. Exiles his father's priest Abiathar
 3. Shimmei is killed for leaving house arrest to find his slaves (David tells Solomon to avenge him against Shimmei in 1 Kings 2:8-9)

- 4. Worst of all, Solomon sends Benaiah to assassinate Joab even though he was clinging to the altar of the temple, a place of sanctuary!
 - iv. Wives and concubines “loved many foreign women”
 - v. Betraying his religion
- e. Temple (review chapters 5-8)