

Week 23: *June 9 (June 2–June 8)*

- David returns to his throne, with support from Judah; but Sheba revolts with men from Israel
- David leads Israel once more against the Philistines; his last battle - he is too old for warfare
- The Song of David - as he nears death
- God instructs David to take a census - why? Why was this bad?
- God gives David 3 terrible choices
- Begin 1 Kings: struggle between Adonijah and Solomon to succeed David; Bathsheba intercedes for Solomon, her son, with help from Nathan the prophet
- David selects Solomon, charges him to rule faithfully; then David dies
- Begin the reign of King Solomon, who almost immediately makes an alliance with Pharaoh and strengthens it by marrying his daughter
- Solomon then prays for wisdom, which pleases God, who promises to give Solomon wealth and honor as well: “And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”
- Famous example of Solomon’s wisdom when he settles the dispute between the two women over the child: “Divide the living boy in two; then give half to the one, and half to the other.”
- Peace reigns during Solomon’s rule
- God “gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.... He was wiser than anyone else”
- John 21: Jesus appears to his disciples on the beach; feeds them, and then asks Peter “do you love me?” “Feed my lambs”, “Take care of my sheep”, “Feed my sheep”
- Begin the “Acts of the Apostles”: dedicated by Luke to “Theophilus”
- Jesus appears to his disciples over 40 days: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”
- After Jesus is taken up, the disciples “joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers”
- Death of Judas - not by hanging himself, but by tripping and falling

- Disciples select Matthias to replace Judas so they are 12 again; done by casting lots
- Pentecost - when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as “tongues of fire”
- Spoke in foreign languages; not “speaking in tongues”
- “Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”
- The believers “had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need”
- Followers of Jesus grow in number - 5,000 and growing
- Peter and his group ordered not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. They respond, “we cannot help speaking...”
- Ananias and Sapphira try to lie to the disciples; bad decision
- Wisdom from Gamaliel: “If their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”
- The first Deacons are selected, 7 men, beginning with Stephen, “known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom”. They’re charged with caring for people, while the 12 focus on “prayer and the ministry of the word”
- The Deacons are charged with “laying on of hands”, something we do this day
- Psalm 121: “I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ...The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.”
- Proverbs 16:16 - “How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver”
- Proverbs 16:18 - “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall”
- Proverbs 16:21 - “Gracious words promote instruction”