

*Week 24: June 16 (June 9–June 15)*

- Hiram, king of Tyre, trades with Solomon: gives him cedar logs in return for wheat and olive oil. The beginning of international trade! Result: “peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon”
- Solomon begins to build the Temple; 7 years to build; continues to add to the interior and exterior, including the great Bronze Sea
- Solomon also builds a palace for himself
- The Ark of the Covenant, with the two tablets of the Commandments, placed in the Holy of Holies
- Solomon prays at the dedication, including a prayer for the foreigner
- He ends, “May [God] turn our hearts to him, to walk in obedience to him and keep the commands, decrees, and laws he gave our ancestors”
- God appears again to Solomon and urges him to live in obedience, and also warns him of the consequences of turning away
- Solomon builds up a great fleet of ships and trades with other countries
- Word of his wisdom spreads, drawing, among others, the Queen of Sheba
- Solomon accumulated chariots, horses, as well as wealth. Go back to March 3, page 296 and read Moses’ words of warnings in Deuteronomy 17:16, which Solomon seems to have forgotten
- Solomon adds to his wives: 700! They “led him astray” and as a result, “Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord”
- God responds by saying that Solomon’s throne will end with his son; God then “raises adversaries” against Solomon
- Solomon dies; his son Rehoboam succeeds him. He is callow and rotten
- The kingdom splits; David’s united kingdom is no more
- Begin a long slow spiral downward, each king, with few exceptions, worse than his predecessor, beginning with Jereboam who constructs not one, but two gold calves
- Stephen is arrested, charged; he teaches before he is sentenced
- He is then stoned to death, with Saul standing nearby; he “approved of their killing him”
- Saul then began to persecute, “going from house to house”, dragging people to prison for their belief in Jesus Christ
- The story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch: How can I understand what I am reading “unless someone explains it to me?”
- “Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples”

- Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul hears, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”
- Ananias sent by God to restore Saul’s sight and fill him with the Holy Spirit. “The Lord said to Ananias, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”
- Saul is baptized. He spends a few more days learning, and then begins to teach, much to the dismay of all
- “When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple” Barnabas convinces them that Saul is sincere
- Church knows peace for a time; continues to grow
- Peter raises Tabitha/Dorcas from the dead
- Peter has his vision of the sheet with animals: “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean”
- Psalm 127:1 - “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain”
- Psalm 130:1 - “Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy”
- Psalm 133:1 - “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity”
- Proverbs 16:28 - “A perverse person stirs up conflict...”
- Proverbs 16:31 - “Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness.” Personal note: I like this Proverb!
- Proverbs 16:32 - “Better a patient person...one with self-control...”
- Proverbs 17:4 - “A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue”
- Proverbs 17:5 - “Whoever mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker”