

Ir-ot-26
King Solomon: Man of Wisdom, Man of Peace
(I Kings 3; 5-11)
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(Here is material that will help us see the value of wisdom, and how it can lead to peace. We will also see how Solomon, like David, bore witness in several ways of **Christ's Millennial Reign!**)

I. Solomon, in his time of humility, asked not for wealth, but for the greatest of all riches: “an understanding heart” (1 Kings 3:9).

- A. To have an understanding heart is tantamount to having charity --- the pure love of Christ.
- B. Possessing wisdom is also one the best ways to find and create peace.
 - 1. Thus Solomon’s first quality, wisdom, helped create his second, Man of Peace.
 - 2. Note how Solomon used wisdom in deciding the issue between two women disputing motherhood over a child, which led to peace (1 Kings 3:16-28).
 - 3. In our day, we were wisely taught by Steve Covey to settle disputes by finding solutions where **each party actually “wins”** in some way, as opposed to competing.
 - 4. If a second party will not cooperate in such endeavors, we have been wisely taught by James Ferrell, in *The Peacegiver*, to “take the sin upon ourselves.” (Which was what Christ not only taught but exemplified!) Ferrell used the story of Abigail, who took upon herself the sin of her churlish husband Nabal, and thus established peace with David.
 - a. Note she was eventually blessed to become David’s wife (1 Samuel 25).
 - b. The Lord Himself promised peacemakers shall be called the children of God.
- C. Unfortunately, because Solomon was just a man with great weaknesses, he later failed in setting further examples of Christ’s great integrity and goodness.

II. While David bore witness of Christ’s first coming as the Shepherd King, *Solomon, David’s Seed*, gave special witnesses of Christ as the Millennial King.

- A. This occurred through the promise that **the seed of David would endure upon the throne forever** (1 Chron. 28:7).
- B. “I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish forever... and his throne as the sun before me” (Psalm 89:3-4, 36).

III Solomon taught of Christ’s wisdom, whose wisdom would surpass that of all Kings (1 Kings 4:34).

- A. It was said of Solomon: “And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth...” (1 Kings 4:34).
- B. Of him Queen Sheba exclaimed, “thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard” (1 Kings 10:7).
- C. Jesus Himself taught these events were prophetic when He said, “The queen of the south shall rise *up in the judgment* with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, **behold, a greater than Solomon is here**” (Matthew 12:42). (Italics added).

D. As a deliberate witness He was the future King of Wisdom, at Jesus' birth, **wise men from other lands sought out and worshipped Him** (Matthew 2:1-2, 11). Yet the foolish rejected him.

IV. Solomon bore witness of Christ as the true "Man of Peace."

A. The very name "Solomon" means "Man of Peace," or "peaceable."

B. Solomon's reign was one of peace. He obtained peace by overcoming all Israel's foes, but in doing so, gave reflection of Christ.

C. "But now the Lord... hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence." (1 Kings 5:4).

D. But the **great time of peace will be the Millennium.**

1. It will come after the Lord first teaches peace to all His followers through His latter-day prophets and they obey Him.

2. Then Christ will overcome **all forces who oppose Him and His peace by purging the earth at His Second Coming, destroying all wickedness.**

E. Then Jesus the Christ, the true Man of Peace, will rule forever.

IV. Solomon's Temple bore witness of Christ's Millennial Reign.

A. The glory of Solomon's Temple taught of Christ's final glory.

B. Jesus said while on the earth: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up..." (John 2:19, 21).

C. While Jesus' statement was referring to His bodily tabernacle, **it was also meant to show He was a fulfillment of all that the temple signified.**

D. The temple's structure symbolized the Eternal Christ.

1. Its exterior was made of great and costly stones, representing imperishability and splendor. Christ's final reign will be Eternal and glorious.

2. Everywhere everything was overlaid with symbol-of-glory Gold.

3. Messianic symbols abounded:

* Carved olive trees signified the atonement Christ wrought in Gethsemane.

* Carved lilies signified a joyous resurrection.

* Carved palm trees signified rest in His presence.

* Carved pomegranates signified He had opened the way to the Abrahamic promise of "seed without number."

4. Entrance is only through Christ:

At the threshold of the Temple were two brazen pillars. One was called Jachin, or "He shall establish." One was called "Boaz," meaning "In him is might, or splendor" (BD, p. 626). These pillars witnessed of Christ. **At His first coming, He established things necessary for Salvation. At His Second Coming He will come in might and reign in splendor, and open all eyes to the glorious reality of His Salvation.**

E. The Temple's instruments of worship taught of Christ's Final Reign.

1. **All things which were in the Wilderness Tabernacle and taught of Christ, were now in the temple, but now greatly magnified.**

2. The table of shewbread was now ten tables, the golden candlestick was now ten candlesticks, the brazen laver was now ten lavers. Everything in **Solomon's**

Temple was multiplied or more glorious, to represent the greater presence and glory of Christ in the Millennium.

V. Solomon's Temple, through its pattern or layout, bore witness of Three Degrees of Glory.

A. Like all Israel's Temples, there were three areas of holiness: from an outer court to a Holy of Holies.

B. There were also three stories of chambers around the outside, from a lower to a higher.

C. All these things witnessed there are three degrees of holiness and glory in Christ's final Kingdom: (1 Corinthians 15:39-41; 2 Cor. 12:2; John 14:2; D&C 76).

VI. The Throne of Judgment bore witness of Jesus Christ as the ultimate Judge.

A. The temple held a great porch containing a Throne of Judgment.

B. "Then he made a porch for the throne where he might judge, even the porch of judgment" (1 Kings 7:7)

C. Jesus took pains to identify Himself with this Throne (at Herod's Temple).

1. There, Jesus testified *He* was the Son of God (John 10:23-38).

2. In doing so, He referenced Psalm 82. This Psalm calls upon God to arise and judge all the earth (Ps 82:1, 8).

3. He further manifest His power to judge by purging the temple and by cursing the fig tree.

VII. While David received the temple pattern beforehand (1 Chron. 28:11-19), Solomon would build it.

A. "the Lord made me [David] understand ...by his hand upon me, even all ... of this [temple] pattern" (v. 19).

B. David foreshadowed *us*, a latter-day Israel who has united as a repentant people under Christ. Our own temples are in the patterns of Jesus Christ, and they are the foundation for **the Final Temple, which is to actually dwell in the Presence of Christ.**

VIII. **The Temple Dedication bore witness of the beginning of Christ's presence in the Millennium.**

A. **Solomon's Temple was dedicated in the seventh month at the Feast of Tabernacles, a holy week which celebrated the completed harvest and typified the Millennium and its time of the completed spiritual harvest. It taught that the Holy Presence of Christ would be there in full glory in the Millennium.**

Summary: While Solomon as king fell into corruption and he could no longer witness of the purity, integrity and goodness of Christ, nevertheless his reign taught of Christ's Eternal reign as King of Wisdom and Man of Peace. Solomon's Temple taught Christ will usher in a "Presence of Holiness." For us, the most important message is that *Jesus the Christ, as ultimate Judge, will determine who will enter into Three Degrees of Glory within His Glorious Kingdom.*