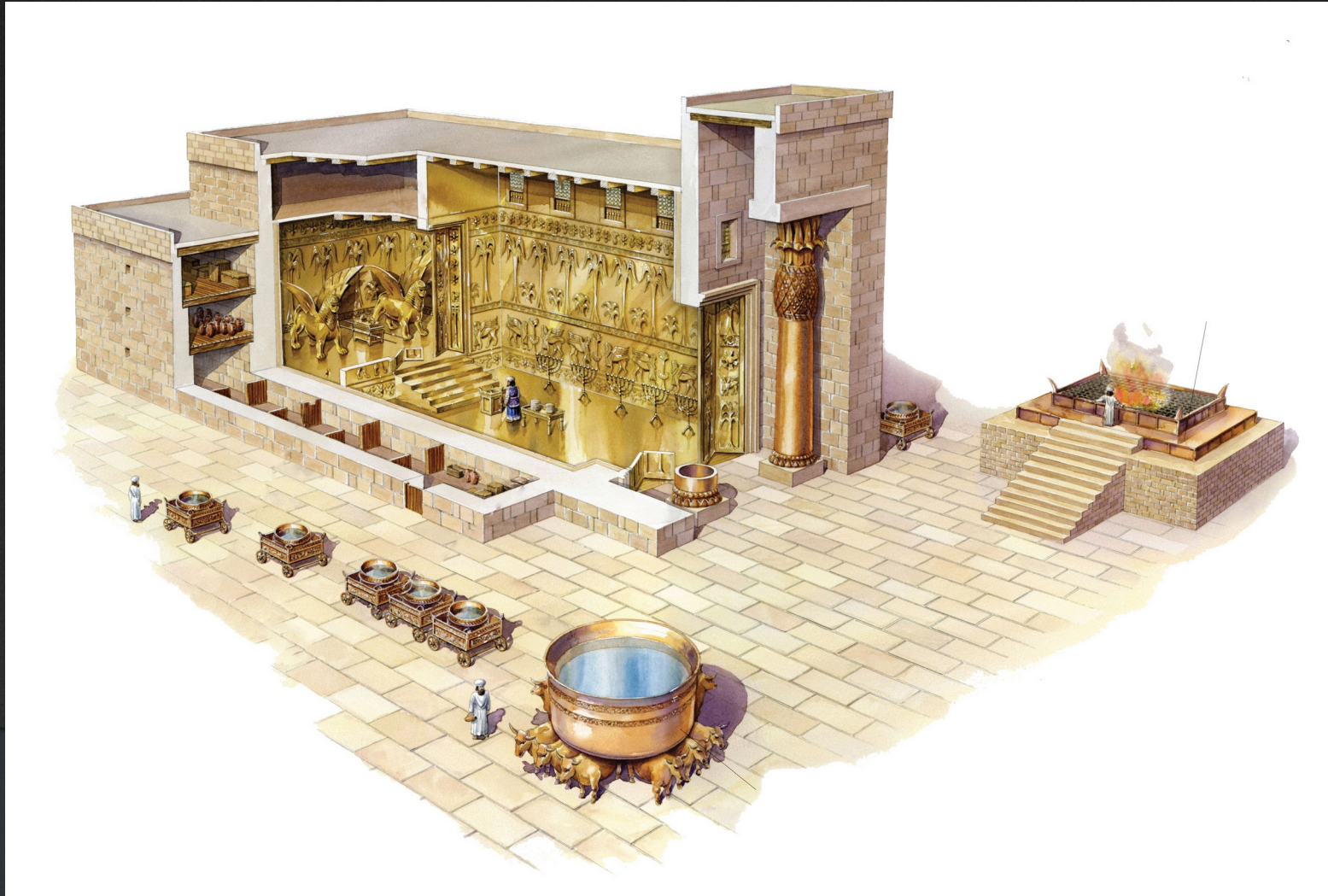


June 22–28
2 Samuel 11–12; 1 Kings 3; 6–9; 11
“Hear Thou in Heaven Their Prayer”



David's Fall

2Sam 11:2-4

What does this passage teach us about the progression of sin and how one sin can lead to another?

Joseph B. Wirthlin

“We must be cautious of seemingly small thoughts and actions that can lead to large consequences... a few unclean thoughts, or a little pornography; one experiment with drugs; a few lies, a little fraud; or a feeling of hate can lead us into the camp of the adversary. Giving just an inch here and there can put us close enough to the line that one slip will take us right over it....

“The Church has only one acceptable standard of sexual morality, and that is complete chastity for both sexes. I urge you to avoid situations that permit physical feelings to take control of behavior.” (“The Lord’s Side”, Ensign, March 1993)

D&C 42:23

23) And he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her shall deny the faith, and shall not have the Spirit; and if he repents not he shall be cast out. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife - He found out who she was, that she was married, and he sent for her anyway.

D&C 42:24-25

24) Thou shalt not commit adultery; and he that committeth adultery, and repenteth not, shall be cast out.

25) But he that has committed adultery and repents with all his heart, and forsaketh it, and doeth it no more, thou shalt forgive;

David's Fall

2Sam 11:5-11

How did David's efforts to conceal his sin lead him further into wrongdoing?

What does Uriah's response reveal about his loyalty, integrity, and faithfulness to Israel and the Lord?

David's Fall

2Sam 11:14-17

How does David's attempt to conceal his sin lead to an escalation that results in murder?

Orson Pratt

“[David] not only committed adultery by thus taking the wife of another, but by his order her lawful husband was placed in front of the battle that he might be destroyed, and he was destroyed, hence, though he himself did not thrust a dagger to his heart, he became a murderer in the sight of heaven by having this man placed where his blood would be shed. After all his goodness, and after all the light and knowledge which God had given to this man, he committed these two great crimes.” (JD, 15:312)

David's Fall

2Sam 12:1-13

How does Nathan's parable help David recognize his sin?

What does this passage teach us about how the Lord was prepared to bless David if he remained faithful?

What are the consequences of committing the sin of murder?

JD 15:312, Orson Pratt

Nathan the Prophet was sent to reprove him for them, and he did so by means of a parable. He told David, the king, that a certain poor man had but one ewe lamb, and his rich neighbor... went to this poor man's fold and took the only sheep he had and dressed it in order to make a sumptuous feast for the stranger. This kindled David's wrath, for though he had transgressed, the principle of justice was not extinct in his bosom, and he said, 'He who hath done this thing shall surely die.' Nathan said, 'Thou art the man.'"

D&C 42:18

Thou shalt not kill; and he that kills shall not have forgiveness in this world, nor in the world to come

Orson Pratt

“Did [David] cry unto the Lord? He did. Was he sorely troubled? He was, and he was perhaps as repentant as any one could be; but the decree had gone forth, and hence that man had to endure the penalty of his crime.... It seems that after all, though David's repentance could not wipe away his sin, yet he had a hope, and he looked forward to the time when he would be liberated from hell; when that time arrived he would come forth and receive some kind of a glory, how much I do not know, for it is not revealed” (JD 5:317)

Psalm 51:7-12

7) Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8) Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

9) Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

11) Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12) Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Charles A. Callis

“Pray with David, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.' When a man repents of his sins and brings forth fruits meet for repentance, is he not another man? Does not God give him another heart, a new heart?... my brethren and sisters, if the people will put all manner of evil beneath their feet; if they will turn wholly to God: if they will set their faces as flint against those evils which are vexing mankind, God will give them new hearts, and by obeying the gospel, they will become better and stronger.” (CR, April 1917)

King Solomon

1King 3:5-8

JST 1King 3:7-8

7 And now, O LORD, my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David, my father, over thy people.

8 And I know not how to lead them, to go out or come in before them; and I, thy servant, am as a little child in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

Why did Solomon feel inadequate to lead Israel?

King Solomon

1King 3:9-14

JST 1King 9:14

And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, then I will lengthen thy days, and thou shalt not walk in unrighteousness as did thy father David.

What blessings did the Lord give Solomon because of his righteous desires?

Howard W. Hunter

"If the Lord was pleased because of that which Solomon had asked of him, surely he would be pleased with each of us if we had the desire to acquire an understanding heart....

"We need more understanding in our relationships with one another, in business and in industry, between management and labor, between government and the governed. We need understanding in that most important of all social units the family, understanding between children and parents and between husband and wife. Marriage would bring happiness, and divorce would be unknown if there were understanding hearts. Hatred tears down but understanding builds up.

"Our prayer could well be as was Solomon's, 'Lord, give me an understanding heart.'" (CR, April 1962)

King Solomon

1King 4:29-34

King Solomon

1King 3:16-28

In what way did this event increase Israel's confidence in King Solomon?

Solomon's Temple

1 Chron 28:2-3

Why did the Lord not allow David to fulfill his righteous desire to build the temple?

Solomon's Temple

1 Chron 28:10-14,19

How did David receive the instructions for building the temple?

Solomon's Temple

1 Chron 28:19-20

What promises did David share with Solomon as he prepared to build the temple?

James E. Talmage

"With the great wealth accumulated by his kingly father and specifically reserved for the building of the temple, Solomon was able to put the known world under tribute, and to enlist the cooperation of nations in his undertaking.

"The temple workmen numbered scores of thousands, and every department was in charge of master craftsmen. To serve on the great structure in any capacity was an honor; and labor acquired a dignity never before recognized. Masonry became a profession, and the graded orders therein established have endured until this day. The erection of the Temple of Solomon was an epoch-making event, not alone in the history of Israel, but in that of the world." (The House of the Lord, pg. 5-6)

Solomon's Temple

1King 6:11-13

What does this passage, along with David's example, teach about what the Lord requires of His leaders in order for them to build His temples?

Solomon's Temple

1King 7:23-25

What similarities do you see between the molten sea in Solomon's temple and temple ordinances performed today?

Bruce R. McConkie

“This brazen sea was used for performing baptisms for the living....

“In describing the molten sea the Old Testament record says, ‘The sea was for the priests to wash in’ (2Chron 4:2–6). This is tantamount to saying that the priests performed baptisms in it.

“In this temple building dispensation the Brethren have been led by the spirit of inspiration to pattern the baptismal fonts placed in temples after the one in Solomon’s Temple.” (Mormon Doctrine, pg. 103–4)

Solomon's Temple

James E. Talmage

“When the House of the Lord was completed, elaborate preparations were made for its dedication. First came the installation of the Ark of the Covenant and its appurtenances, the Tabernacle of the Congregation, and the holy vessels. With great solemnity and to the accompaniment of ceremonial sacrifice, the Ark was brought by the priests and placed within the Holy of Holies beneath the wings of the cherubim.” (The House of the Lord, pg. 40)

Solomon's Temple

1King 8:10-11

Solomon's Temple

Before Solomon gave the dedicatory prayer, a cloud of glory filled the house of God, indicating the very presence of God. That this glory should accompany the dedication exercises is interesting for Latter-day Saints, since a similar glory attended the dedication of the Kirtland Temple.... The special events attending the dedication of both temples are signs of the Lord's divine acceptance of the houses built in His name to His honor. (Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual, Old Testament, 2018)

Solomon's Temple

James E. Talmage

Then Solomon addressed the assembled multitude, reciting the circumstances under which the building of the Temple had been conceived by his father David and executed by himself, and proclaiming the mercy and goodness of Israel's God. Standing before the altar of the Lord, in the court of the Temple, the king spread forth his hands toward heaven, and offered the dedicatory prayer. The king then blessed the people, saying 'Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us' (1king 8:56-57)." (The House of the Lord, pg. 41)

Solomon Turns From the Lord

1King 10:14-15,18-23

What sacrifices do you think the people were required to make to support Solomon's wealth and lavish projects?

Though Solomon's remarkable building projects became world famous, they created serious problems in his own kingdom. He taxed the people heavily and used forced labor to complete his massive projects. The people began to complain, and a deep resentment, especially in the northern tribes, began to fester....

The more land a man owned, the more crops he... would have to turn over to the king's officers when collection time came around every 12 months. Likewise, flocks were surrendered to tax collectors and sons were forced to serve one month of every three in the king's labor force....

For the first time in Israel's history, there began to be a distinct difference between 'rich' and 'poor.' The king and his household were rich; the common people were poor. In between were the salaried civil servants. (Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual, Old Testament, 2018)

1Sam 8:11-18

11) And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

12) And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

13) And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

14) And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

15) And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16) And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

17) He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

18) And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day

Solomon Turns From the Lord

1King 11:1-4

How did Solomon's choices turn his heart away from the Lord?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“In your reading of the Old Testament you will also find that Solomon was blessed and the Lord appeared to him and gave him visions and great blessings when he had plural wives, but later in his life, he took wives that the Lord did not give him.” (Answers to Gospel Questions, 4:214)

D&C 132:38

38 David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants, as also many others of my servants, from the beginning of creation until this time; and in nothing did they sin save in those things which they received not of me.

Next Week:

June 29–July 5

1 Kings 12–13; 17–22

“If the Lord Be God, Follow Him”

