

CHALLENGE 2014: BIBLE IN A YEAR

WEEK 13: 2 SAMUEL 14 — 1 KINGS 13 (MARCH 23-29)

Summary:

Absalom's return to Jerusalem begins a time of trial for David — even to the point where David will have to flee from his son's usurping influence. After a bit of subterfuge with an old woman presenting a parable about two sons, Absalom is given permission to return to Jerusalem after the murder of his brother, Amnon.

Shortly after Absalom's return, he decides that he would do a better job ruling the land than his father did before him, so he begins the process of seeking to usurp his father's authority, eventually causing David to flee Jerusalem for the wilderness as far as the Jordan River. Absalom, on the other hand, enters into Jerusalem and takes his father's concubines as his own, assuming his father's authority.

Eventually, David rallies soldiers to himself and defeats those who had become loyal to Absalom. Though David had given strict commands that Absalom not be injured in retaliation, Absalom fled, got his hair caught in a thicket and was run through by Joab, one of David's generals. Eventually, though, David is re-established (at least for a season).

What follows are a series of turmoils for David. There is an attempted rebellion by a man named Sheba, a three year famine, and a war with the Philistines. David's song of deliverance that follows and will be the foundation of what we also know as Psalm 18. We have David's final oracle and then a description of the mighty deeds of David's mighty men before the final chapter of 2 Samuel is wrapped up.

Toward the end of David's life, Israel kindled God's wrath against them and God raised up David to command a census, not something that David was supposed to do as king. In punishment, God brought wrath on the land. David took this to heart and ultimately was given a choice of several punishments. David wisely threw himself on the mercy of God and thus the Angel bringing destruction stopped at the threshing floor of Araunah, a place which David would purchase and turn into a place of worship.

1 Kings:

The book of Kings really begins the transition from the reign of a single, powerful king in Israel to separate kings of a divided nation. It begins with the plans of David to anoint Solomon as king after him in the midst of a number of people seeking the throne of the elderly king. There again are some plans by Nathan and Bathsheba to ensure that David's will regarding Solomon takes place. The final wisdom that David offers to Solomon is wisdom fit for all of us: "Be strong, show yourself to be the man you have been called to be, follow God's ways and keep the rules given in the law of Moses so that the Lord establishes your ways — and teach these things as well to your own sons." Can anything more be said?

What follows is a well known passage of scripture where God asks Solomon what gift that should be given to him and Solomon asks for the ability to have an understanding mind so that he may discern between good and evil. Because of this wise

choice, God offers him wealth and victory over his enemies as well and establishes Solomon not only amongst his people, but as a world leader, attracting visitors to his court from as far as Sheba, which was in northeast Africa.

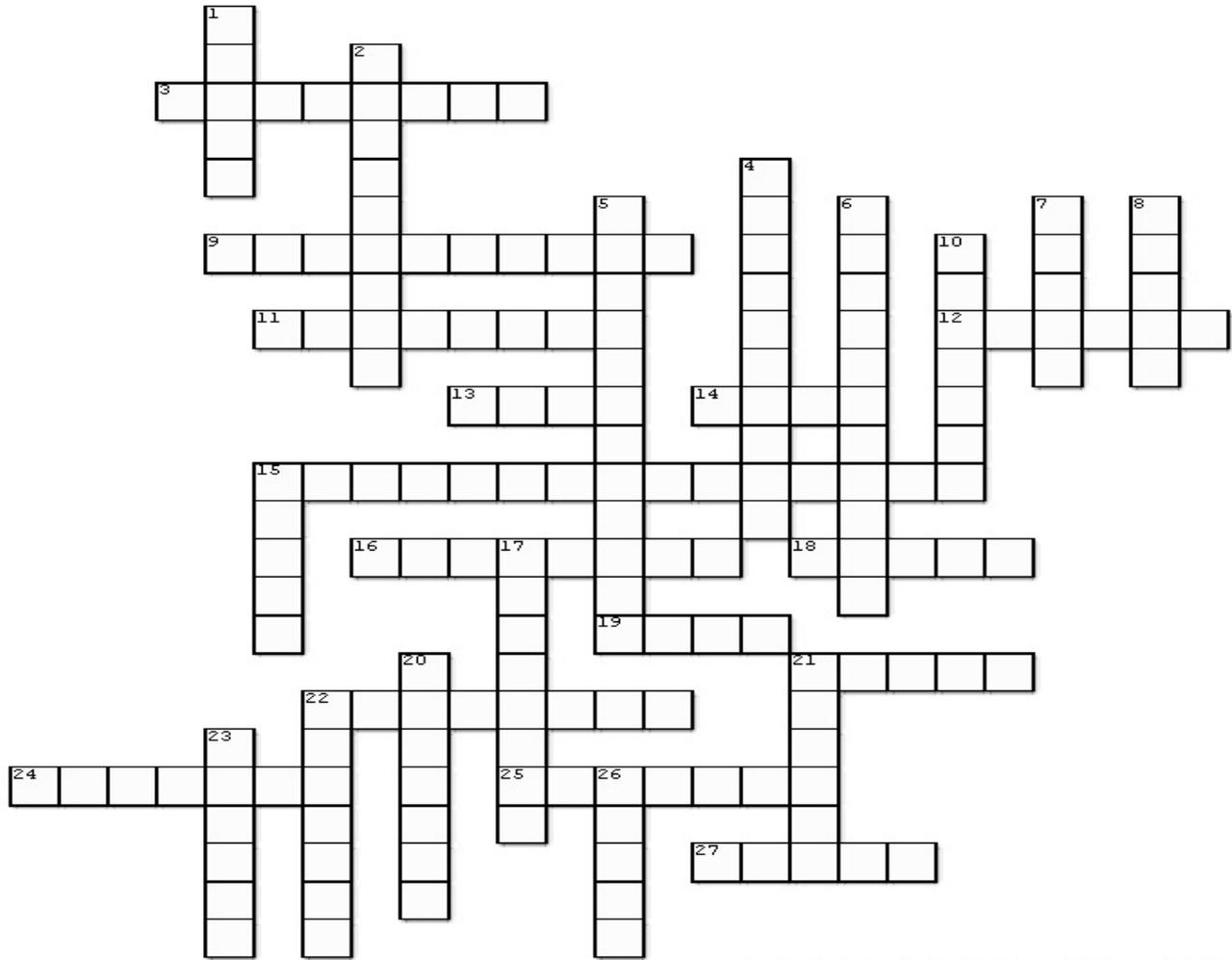
Wealth and opulence also becomes synonymous with Solomon's reign and Solomon made an agreement with the King of Tyre to help supply skilled craftsmen and materials for the building of the Temple. Upon the completion of the Temple, the Ark of the Covenant is brought into it and the Temple and a service of sacrifice is offered in praise to God for its completion. Yet, as a world power, Solomon followed the ways of the world and began marrying women from different nations and places, largely as a way of maintaining peace between nations. And these women brought their idols, enticing Solomon to enter into idol worship alongside of them. This both raised enemies for Solomon, but also prepared the way for Solomon's fall and the eventual division between the northern and southern kingdoms under Solomon's son, Rehoboam. The nations are divided, Jeroboam becoming king in the north and establishing pagan idol worship as the norm, raising golden calves for worship in Bethel and Dan, not unlike what Aaron had allowed the Israelites to do in the wilderness.

Chromatic Notes:

- You will notice (2 Samuel 16) that as David is exiting Jerusalem there is an account where he stops at the Mount of Olives weeping; something that anticipates the very difficult evening our Lord spent in the Garden of Gethsemane, which is located on the Mount of Olives.
- Sometimes people get hung up (pardon the pun) with Joab's killing of Absalom when Joab knew full well that David did not want Absalom killed. From Joab's perspective, so long as Absalom was left alive, there was a chance for another usurping of power.
- We are told that the three year famine in Israel was brought on by Saul's attack on the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites had been granted covenantal protection in Israel by Joshua (though again through intrigue); a reminder that while we often forget the promises and covenants made, God does not.
- 2 Samuel 23:2 — "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue." is a reminder again of the divine inspiration of Scripture. These are God's words spoken through and recorded by men, not simply human words.
- The deeds of David's "Mighty Men" are a fascinating little study, but it should be noted that the last of the mighty men to be listed is Uriah the Hittite, the man from whom David stole Bathsheba.
- When Solomon is anointed as king, he is presented riding his father, David's, mule. Note that Jesus, during his triumphal entry, rode a donkey that had never been ridden but instead had been consecrated for the Lord's use. Thus we have Jesus also riding in on a mount belonging to his Father.
- Note that while Solomon is known for building the Temple of God, taking 7 years to do so, he also spent 13 years building his own palace.

Week 13: 2 Samuel 14-1 Kings 13

Complete the crossword below



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

3. Solomon did what was evil in the sight of God — he participated in _____.
9. 'May the counsel of this conspirator turn into foolishness.'
11. This son of Haggith seeks to make himself king in David's old age.
12. This prophet helps David and Bathsheba secure Solomon's role of King after David.
13. This man is responsible for Absalom's death.
14. This animal met and killed a disobedient prophet from Bethel.
15. This was the leader of 'The Three', the most renowned of the Mighty Men.
16. This is how many years Solomon spent building his palace.
18. Solomon had seven-hundred of these.
19. Absalom would weigh this out every year and it would get as long and heavy as two hundred shekels.
21. The queen of this African nation came and won Solomon's favor.
22. This man established idolatry in the northern kingdom.
24. One of the types of Timber that Hiram provided to Solomon.
25. The name of David's treacherous son.
27. This Hittite was the last of the Mighty Men to be mentioned.

Down

1. When David fled Jerusalem, this priest tried to bring the Ark of the Covenant with him, but was sent back by David.
2. 'The Lord is... the horn of my _____'
4. Saul's attack on these people brought a famine upon the land.
5. The lame son of Jonathan served by the lying Ziba.
6. This is the product of wisdom — to discern between (3 words)
7. How many men did Absalom have running before his chariot, announcing his coming?
8. The King of Tyre who helped Solomon.
10. This Mighty Man killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day.
15. This tribe alone followed the house of David after the north-south split.
17. The name of Solomon's foolish son.
20. The Angel of death stopped at this man's threshing floor.
21. This wicked man curses David.
22. The wisdom of God was in Solomon to do this _____. (Hint, it is something that God commands of you, 'O Man.')
23. The anger of God was kindled, causing David to take this of the people.
26. This is how many years it took to build the Temple.