

/Let us begin with the fifth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / In 1 Kings 4:1-6, / it speaks about Solomon's chief officials. / How did he use these officials?

/The time of Solomon was the wealthiest and most abundant time in the entire history of Israel. / As written in 4:21, he ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt.

/People also lived very happily, as written in verses 24 and 25. / It was the time of peace with other nations. / The people from Dan to Beersheba lived in safety, everyone under their own fig tree and vineyard.

/God allowed the nation to grow. / God let there be peace with other nations. / Solomon received tributes and the nation grew.

/God also put good officials at Solomon's side. / The chief officials mentioned here were good officials. / All this happened because he followed the path of faith that his father walked.

/His chief officials are mentioned until verse 19. / The officials listed here most likely did not serve Solomon from the beginning of his rule.

/Verses 11 and 15 tell us that Solomon's sons-in-law became officials. / If Solomon became king around the age of twenty, / it would have taken a long time for him to get married, have children, and obtain sons-in-law.

/Considering this, it is possible that the verses recorded the most excellent chief officials in his 40 years of reign.

/Verses 1-6 introduce the chief officials of Solomon, and they were also officials in David's time. / Zadok and Abiathar. / Benaiah and Nathan. / Solomon thought highly of the elderly officials.

/He did not dismiss them, but rather thought highly of them who were at his father's side. / He also thought highly of their sons. / This was the key to Solomon's successful reign.

/Son of Shisha. / Son of Ahilud. / Son of Nathan. / Son of Abda. / We must learn how to lead people. / Why did Solomon's son, Rehoboam, come to ruins? / Rehoboam did not listen to the

elderly officials, but instead listened to the words of young men.

/Eight positions of the officials are mentioned from verses 1-6. / The priest was the first to be recorded. / This was the reason why Solomon was blessed. / Seeing this, we can see how Solomon's heart was centered on offering sacrifices to God.

/He lived with worship at his center. / As soon as Solomon became king, he sacrificed a thousand burnt offerings at the high place in Gibeon. / Whoever prioritizes offerings is blessed. / Whoever prioritizes worship is blessed.

/Also, considering that the priest was recorded first, we can see that Solomon respected the priest the most from among the officials. / It also shows that Solomon received much guidance from the priest.

/Second, it introduces the secretaries. / Secretaries were those who recorded things. / The two sons of Shisha became secretaries. / They were Ahijah and Elihoreph. / They considered their gifts and abilities worthy, and they made developments on them.

/Third, the recorder. / Recorders recorded history. / This job was not given to anybody. / This job was entrusted to those who were highly experienced and had actually experienced the events they recorded.

/We must be experts in whatever field we are in. / For example, if a father is an expert in a certain field, his son can learn from his father and be an expert in that field.

/Fourth, the commander in chief. / The name of the commander in chief was Benaiah. / He was a very good man. / He was loyal. / He is the one who went into a cave on a snowy day to kill a lion. / He was the chief bodyguard of David.

/He became the commander in chief during Solomon's time. / He was unchanging. / Fifth, the priests. / Zadok and Abiathar. / The two elders. / Although Abiathar was not someone who was useful, Solomon appointed him with a generous heart.

/Solomon showed mercy to Abiathar. / Like this, Solomon thought highly of the elders. / Sixth, the head of district governors. / They were the king's companions. / Nathan's sons became such people. / Nathan was a loyal man.

/He was the one who rebuked David when David committed sins. / His elder son was put in charge of the district officers.

/In verses 7-19, the twelve district governors were required to bring provisions. / The head of these governors was the son of Nathan. / Nathan's second son was the king's companion. / He was an adviser.

/Because the father led a righteous life, his sons were used for such high purposes. / The sons of Shisha were used as well. / When we keep our faith, God allows us to be used as heads, not tails.

/We must be used for good purposes. / Abraham kept his faith and was called a friend of God. / Moses was also called a friend of God. / God lifts us up when we keep our faith.

/Seventh, palace administrator. / He was in charge of the palace. / Eighth, the head of force labor. / He was in charge of taxes. / Eight different chief officials were mentioned.

/Verses 7-19 / are about Solomon's twelve district governors. / In reality, / twelve district governors were appointed to provide provisions for Solomon and for the royal household. / The twelve districts were not divided according to the twelve tribes.

/They were divided according to each area's special crops. / All of Israel was divided into twelve, according to the north and south, the seaside and the inland area, / regional products and regional fruit, and was separated into twelve districts.

/There were special crops in each region and in each season in the land of Judah. / Solomon appointed twelve governors to provide products once a month. / Solomon divided the whole land into twelve special regions.

/He appointed governors in each district and entrusted them with jobs to administer over them. / In verse 8, from among the 12 districts, / Ben-Hur was in charge of the hill country of Ephraim. / Ephraim was located north of Jerusalem, / and it was producing area / in the center region of Canaan.

/The land was not good land. / It was not good at first, but later the land was developed and later

produced the best regional products from among the districts. / The hill of Ephraim was the land that the sons of Joseph received.

/Joshua 17:15 says, / it was the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites. / It says that they were to go there and clear the land for themselves so the land would give special crops of the land. / At first the people of Joseph lacked many things and complained.

/They were disheartened because the enemies had chariots fitted with irons. / God then gave them strength and was with them, and God told them to go to the hill country. / The people were told that the forested hill country would become good land.

/They were told that even though their enemies had chariots fitted with iron, God would drive them out. / They obeyed Joshua's command and made the land fertile.

/Like this, when we speak of the twelve districts, the hill country of Ephraim became such a fertile land that it is spoken of before other districts. / Like this, we too must have faith to make our lands good.

/In verse 10, the rulers of the districts became governors. / Those who can manage and govern districts become the head. / We must have faith to be like the leaders.

/Verse 11 / speaks about Naphoth Dor. / The governor was Ben-Abinadab. / He became the son-in-law of Solomon. / God honors those who rule the lands well.

/Baana, who is mentioned in verse 12, was good in three ways. / He was in charge of the land. / The land was from Beth Shan to Abel Meholah. / It reached Jokmeam.

/He was in charge of many lands. / God uses the skilled who are worthy of governing whole lands. / God uses those who will eventually reach the end of the earth. / God uses those who would reach the ends of the earth.

/Such people gain the privilege to provide provisions to the royal household. / It is not good to stop something halfway through. / We must have faith to endure until the end and be loyal.

/Verse 13 says that Ramoth Gilead was ruled by Ben-Geber. / He also ruled over the settlements

of Jair, the son of Manasseh. / He also ruled over the region of Argob in Bashan and its sixty large walled cities with bronze gate bars. / His name is Ben-Geber.

/We must be skilled so that we can be put in charge of works. / We must be capable. / Jair was a hero of the tribe of Manasseh. / The land that Jair conquered was later ruled by Ben-Geber.

/Judges 14:14 / tells us that out of the eater comes something to eat. / This is the secret for believers of Jesus. / We must eat the devil and eat sin. / Sweet things will come out when we do so.

/Honey flowed out when Samson killed a lion. / This is the secret that sweet things come from strong things.

/In verse 14, Mahanaim also had its regional products. / Its governor was Ahinadab. / He was the son of Iddo. / 2 Chronicles 9:29 / tells us that Iddo was a seer. / Seers' sons became successful.

/Prophesiers' sons became successful. / Prophets' sons became successful. / When we keep our faith, we will have sons like Ahinadab.

/In verse 15, Naphtali was located at the farthest northern of Israel. / Its governor was Ahimaaz. / We can see in 2 Samuel 15:27 / that he was the son of the high priest Zadok. / From Zadok came an official who was put in charge of important duties.

/Ahimaaz was the son-in-law of King Solomon and the son of the high priest. / Because his father kept his faith well, not only did he become a governor, but he also became the king's son-in-law.

/Zadok was loyal. / He was an unchanging and very truthful person. / Descendants of such people receive blessing. / The sons of such people will be blessed.

/Verse 16 says that Baana was in charge of Asher and Aloth. / He was the son of Hushai. / Hushai was a friend of King David. / The descendants of righteous people receive blessings.

/Verses 17-18 say that / provisions came from Issachar and Benjamin. / We can know from here that any region is able to grow special crops. / In verse 19, / the land of Gilead was the land that / Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan ruled over.

/These kings were conquered by Moses after they opposed him. / Except for Ramoth Gilead, the place Ben-Geber ruled, (verse 13)/ and Mahanaim (verse 14), the entire area of Gilead was ruled by Geber. / Ben-Geber was Geber's son.

/Geber was able to rule over all of Gilead. / Also, Ben-Geber was capable of ruling over sixty large walled cities with bronze gate bars. / We must become people who God will use.

/The first district in the chapter is the hill country of Ephraim. / The land was filled with chariots fitted with iron, and the land was not fertile. / Still, the people recovered the land and made it fertile.

/We must always have faith to handle and manage whatever we are entrusted with. / The seer Iddo's son Ahinadab was blessed. / Ahimaaz, the son of the high priest Zadok, / became Solomon's son-in-law. / Zadok's son was blessed.

/Hushai's son was also blessed. / We must be like Iddo, Zadok, and Hushai today. / We must first seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness as they did. / God can give us the blessings / that he gave Solomon.

/Verses 20-28 / are about Israel's national power and life in Israel. / The verses talk about the state of the nation. / The nation reached the peak of national power in Solomon's time, and was stronger than ever in the entire history of Israel.

/Its territories at the time expanded greatly. / The people enjoyed peace and were safe. / Solomon conquered many kings near Israel. / The people lived peacefully and his nation was equipped with military power. / The people listened to God's word.

/As stated in verse 20, the people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore. / In Genesis 15:5 / and Genesis 22:17, / God promised that the Israelites would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. and the promise was fulfilled.

/We can see in verse 21 that the country's territory was vast. / God gave Solomon territories up to the Euphrates in the north, / the land of the Philistines to the west, / and as far as the Nile to the south. / God gives such blessings to those who faithfully serve him.

/God gives blessings that are spiritual and physical. / Thus, many kings paid tributes to King Solomon. / This was another fulfillment of God's promised word.

/Just as God promised Abraham in Genesis 15:18, / the promise was fulfilled in Solomon's time. / At the northern boundary was the Euphrates, / to the west was the Philistine land, and to the south was the Nile River. / This was the ideal nation.

/The people grew in number just as God promised. / The promise of national territory was also fulfilled. / Not a single word of God's words go to waste. / Our spiritual world must also expand.

/Our spiritual world must get larger. / This is what God wants. / How can we widen our spiritual world? / Joshua 1:3-4 / tell us that we must set our feet. / We must set our feet in faith.

/We must set our feet into the mountains. / We must walk to Lebanon. / We must walk to the desert. / Our spiritual world expands the amount that we obey. / What were the lifestyles of King Solomon and the people?

/Verses 20 and 25, / talk about the lifestyle of the people. / As written in verse 20, / they ate, drank, and were happy. / They lived without worry and lived in abundance. / They lived abundantly in all aspects of their lives because of King Solomon.

/Verse 25/ tells us that they lived in safety, under their own vineyard and fig tree. / Their own fig tree/ and their own vineyard, / indicate that they farmed and ate what they reaped.

/The world of faith is a world of peace and joy. / The world of rest is our world of faith. / At the same time, this symbolizes the Millennial Kingdom and the kingdom of heaven. / The place Christ, the King of peace, dwells is a place filled with peace.

/Our Lord gives us rest and lets us eat, drink, and enjoy. / Whether we live in a cottage or a palace, wherever we serve the Lord is heaven.

/The Israelites from Dan to Beersheba all lived peacefully. / The time of King Solomon was historically the time the prophecies were fulfilled. / Other prophecies which have yet to happen will be fulfilled for us as well.

/The prophecy in Micah 4:4 / will be fulfilled during the Millennial Kingdom. / Zechariah 3:10, / Revelation 21:23, / Matthew 25:34. / Such a wonderful kingdom is prepared for us. / We are blessed.

/We are destined to be blessed. / When we become upright in character, we will participate in the glory of the kingdom God has prepared for us.

/Verses 22-23/ speak of the lifestyle of King Solomon. / The king's life in his palace. / It is said that Solomon's daily provisions were 30 cors of fine flour / and sixty cors of meal. / His main provision was flour.

/One homer is about 230 liters. / One cor is about one homer. / There were two kinds of flour. / There were fine flour and meal. / Fine flour refers to the finest ground flour.

/The meal had wheat's skins that were not removed. / Many people enjoyed whole wheat bread in Solomon's time. / They ate for their health, not for its taste. / The total amount of flour was ninety core.

/Today, this is about 20 tons. / This is enough to feed at least 14,000 people. / It is possible that those who ate with Solomon numbered around 14,000. / God blessed him with that much.

/Verse 23/ speaks about the daily provision of meat. / There were ten head of stall-fed cattle. / There were twenty head of pasture-fed cattle. / Natural products were emphasized during that time.

/There were a hundred sheep and goats, / deer, / gazelles, / roebucks, / and choice fowl. / They did not only eat carbohydrates, but ate plenty of protein as well. / This was possible because the twelve district governors brought provisions each month.

/Verse 24 tells us the key to such prosperity. / Verse 24 says that Solomon ruled from Tiphseh to Gaza. / One must be good at ruling. / The command God gave to man in the Garden of Eden was to rule and conquer.

/This is God's command. / God gives us many blessings when we rule. / Good ruling brings about many provisions. / 2 Chronicles 9:26, 28/ say that the king made the cedar as plentiful as the sycamore-fig trees.



/When we serve God faithfully, God will allow us to eat and have leftovers, and will allow us to be satisfied.

/Verses 26-28 / talk about King Solomon's national and military power. / He had forty thousand chariots. / He had twelve thousand horses. / Verse 28 / says that they raised decent horses. / God allowed the nation's military to become very powerful and firm.

/Yet, in 2 Chronicles 9:25, / the chariots are numbered four thousand. / The number is a tenfold increase. / We can interpret it two ways. / First, / four thousand refers to the number of chariots that were in Jerusalem, / and forty thousand refers to the number of chariots that were all throughout the nation.

/Second, / each chariot had ten horses. / Thus, there were four thousand chariots, / and the horses numbered forty thousand. / Israel was so wealthy that its horses were fed barley.

/However, true blessings are not about materials. / Spiritual things are real blessings, and internal blessings are true blessings. /When we serve Jesus in our hearts, we will receive spiritual blessings.

/Verses 29-34 / speak of Solomon's wisdom. / Solomon's wisdom was not like any other before and there will never be anyone with wisdom like his in the future. / Verse 29 describes the wisdom God gave him in three ways. / Wisdom, / great insight, / and a breadth of understanding.

/Wisdom and great insight come from God, and a breadth of understanding also comes from God. / First, God gave him wisdom. / This refers to earthly wisdom. / This is wisdom that distinguishes good from evil. / This is wisdom that chooses things that are acceptable to do and things that are not acceptable.

/Second, God gave him great insight. / This was a great insight of things and events. / Third, God gave him a breadth of understanding. / This is understanding and a generous heart. / Solomon was understanding and had expert knowledge in many fields.

/Verses 30-31 / tell us that his wisdom was greater than all the people in the East and in Egypt. / Verse 31 gives names. / Ethan the Ezrahite, / Heman, / Calcol / and Darda, the sons of Mahol. / Solomon was wiser than all of them.

/1 Chronicles 2:4-6/ records the five sons of Zerah. / They were the descendants of Judah. / Zerah's sons were wise men. / Like this, God gives superiority to those who believe in Jesus.

/Verses 32-34 speak of the breadth of Solomon's wisdom. / He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. /Verse 33/ speaks about the range of his proverbs. / Plant life, / animals, / birds, / reptiles / and fish.

/This different from biology or botany of today. / It does not mean that Solomon knew all the characteristics of animals and plants. / It means that he gave moral and religious teachings by using these as illustrations.

/With this we will conclude the lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Thank you very much.