

The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Teacher's Guide

Lesson 15: Solomon's Splendor and Death

2 Chronicles 8:1–9:31

Teaching Aim (Teacher Orientation)

Doctrinally, this lesson must keep two truths in balance. First, prosperity and wisdom are genuine gifts of God, and the splendor of Solomon's reign displays God's faithfulness to His promises. Second, those very blessings carry spiritual peril, for comfort can erode faithfulness, a danger Scripture repeatedly names. The teacher should also lift the class beyond Solomon to Christ, showing that all true wisdom comes from God and finds its fullness in Jesus, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Solomon at his best is a signpost to the greater Son who never fails.

The lesson also aims at the spiritual formation of the student. Solomon's ordered worship calls us to disciplined faithfulness. The queen of Sheba's response calls us to use our gifts to point others to God. The warning embedded in his splendor calls us to guard our hearts in seasons of success. The teacher should help students examine their own season, whether of plenty or of want, and take concrete steps to keep their devotion whole.

Above all, the death and burial of even the wisest, richest king should train the class to set their hearts on the wisdom of Christ rather than the splendor of this world, which passes away. The aim is hearts reoriented from fading glory to the enduring Lord.

Question 1

Student Question:

What does Solomon's organizing of worship so that the service was carried out as the duty of each day required teach us about God's concern for ordered, regular, and obedient worship?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

Chapter 8 records that Solomon organized the priests in their divisions for their service, and the Levites for their duties, to praise and minister before the priests as the duty of each day required, according to the commandment of David the man of God. Beneath the gold and grandeur, the Chronicler highlights ordered, daily, obedient worship.

This is characteristic of Chronicles, which cares deeply about the right ordering of worship according to God's command. Solomon did not improvise. He followed the pattern given through David, ensuring that the worship of God was carried out faithfully, day by day, according to what God had appointed.

The phrase as the duty of each day required underscores regularity. Worship was not reserved for high festivals alone; it was the steady rhythm of every day, done as God commanded. This guards against both neglect and innovation.

For Christians, the principle abides that God cares how He is worshiped and desires ordered, regular, obedient devotion, carried out according to His revealed will rather than human preference. The teacher can apply this to faithful, regular worship and the importance of doing what God has authorized rather than what merely seems good to us.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- God desires ordered, regular, obedient worship.
- Solomon followed the pattern given through David, not his own invention.
- Daily duty underscores the rhythm of steady faithfulness.
- God cares how He is worshiped, according to His revealed will.

Discussion Prompts

- What does ordered, daily worship teach about God's concern for how we worship?
- Why does it matter that Solomon followed the pattern rather than improvising?
- How does regular faithfulness differ from sporadic religious effort?

Question 2

Student Question:

How disciplined and regular is your own worship and devotion to God, and where do you need to recover daily faithfulness rather than sporadic bursts?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

This self-question presses the value of disciplined, regular devotion. We admire Solomon's ordered worship, but many of us live by spiritual fits and starts, fervent for a season, then drifting, then guilt-driven back again. God calls us to steady faithfulness.

The duty of each day suggests that devotion is built in daily rhythms, not occasional surges. Prayer, time in the word, and gathered worship are meant to be the steady architecture of a life, not emergency measures.

Sporadic devotion often reflects a heart that treats God as optional until trouble comes. Recovering daily faithfulness reorders our lives around Him as the center, not the spare tire.

Application: ask students to identify one daily or weekly rhythm of devotion that has grown sporadic and to recommit to it with a concrete, realistic plan.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Devotion is built in daily rhythms, not occasional surges.
- Sporadic faithfulness reflects treating God as optional.
- Steady rhythms reorder life around God as center.
- Recovering regularity requires a concrete, realistic plan.

Discussion Prompts

- Where has your devotion become sporadic rather than steady?
- What daily or weekly rhythm do you need to recover?
- What realistic plan will help you build steady faithfulness?

Question 3

Student Question:

When the queen of Sheba responded to Solomon's wisdom by blessing the Lord his God, what does that reveal about the true purpose of the gifts and abilities God gives His people?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

The queen of Sheba came to test Solomon with hard questions, and when she had seen his wisdom, his house, his servants, and the burnt offerings he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. Her conclusion is striking: she blesses the Lord his God, who delighted in Solomon and set him on the throne. The wisdom drew her not merely to admire a man but to bless God.

This is the proper end of every God-given gift. Solomon's wisdom was real, but it was a gift, and at its best it pointed the watching world back to the Giver. The queen saw through the gift to the God behind it.

The Chronicler is careful to note that she observed Solomon's worship at the house of the Lord. Even his devotion testified. Gifts used in the context of genuine worship point others to God most powerfully.

The application is clear: God gives gifts and abilities not for self-display but to point others to Him. When our gifts make people bless God rather than merely praise us, they are serving their true purpose. The teacher should challenge students to deflect glory to God as Solomon, at his best, did here.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- God-given gifts are meant to point others to the Giver.
- The queen blessed God, not merely the man.
- Solomon's worship testified alongside his wisdom.
- Gifts used for self-display miss their true purpose.

Discussion Prompts

- What does the queen's response reveal about the purpose of God's gifts?
- How can our abilities lead others to bless God rather than just praise us?
- Why does worship amplify the testimony of our gifts?

Question 4

Student Question:

How are you using the abilities, resources, and opportunities God has given you to point others to Him rather than to yourself?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

This self-question turns the spotlight on how we use what God has given. Every believer has been given abilities, resources, and opportunities. The question is whether we deploy them to magnify ourselves or to point others to God.

It is subtle, because even good work can become self-promotion. We can serve, teach, give, and lead in ways that quietly gather glory to ourselves. The corrective is intentionality: doing our work so that God, not we, gets the credit.

Pointing others to God may mean naming Him as the source of our gifts, doing excellent work without boasting, or using our resources for kingdom purposes rather than personal display.

Application: ask students to identify one specific gift or resource and one concrete way they will use it this week to point someone toward God rather than themselves.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Every believer is entrusted with gifts and resources.
- Even good work can become self-promotion.
- Intentionality directs glory to God rather than self.
- Gifts can be used to point others toward God.

Discussion Prompts

- What gifts and resources has God entrusted to you?
- How can you use them this week to point someone to God?
- Where are you tempted to use good work to promote yourself?

Question 5

Student Question:

What does the Chronicler intend us to learn from the description of Solomon's unmatched wisdom, wealth, and fame, and how does he present these as gifts from God rather than human achievements?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

The Chronicler piles up the evidence of Solomon's greatness: his wealth and wisdom exceeded all the kings of the earth, all sought his presence, silver was as common as stones in Jerusalem. Yet he frames it carefully. God had promised Solomon wisdom and riches (in the earlier account of his request), and these blessings are presented as the fulfillment of God's gift.

This matters because it guards against a self-made-man reading. Solomon did not manufacture his wisdom; he received it from God in answer to humble prayer. The splendor of his reign is a testimony to God's generosity and faithfulness, not to human genius.

Chronicles, written to encourage a humbled post-exilic community, presents Solomon's golden age as evidence that God blesses and keeps His promises. The grandeur points upward to the God who gave it.

The application is that all we have is a gift. The temptation in every success is to take credit, but Scripture insists that every good gift comes from above (James 1:17). The teacher should help students see God's hand behind their blessings and respond with humility and gratitude rather than pride.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Solomon's wisdom and wealth were God's gifts, not self-made achievements.
- The splendor testifies to God's generosity and faithfulness.
- Chronicles presents the golden age as evidence God keeps His promises.
- Every good gift comes from God and calls for humility.

Discussion Prompts

- How does the Chronicler frame Solomon's greatness as God's gift?
- Why is it important to see God's hand behind our blessings?
- How does recognizing our gifts as God-given guard against pride?

Question 6

Student Question:

Where are you tempted to take credit for what is actually a gift of God's grace, and how would genuine gratitude reshape your attitude?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

This self-question addresses the temptation to take credit. When things go well, when we succeed, prosper, or are praised, the heart easily forgets that what we have is gift. We begin to speak of my achievements, my success, my abilities, as though we were the source.

Deuteronomy 8 warns of exactly this: when you have eaten and are full, beware lest your heart be lifted up and you forget the Lord, saying my power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. Prosperity tempts us to forget the Giver.

Genuine gratitude reshapes the attitude. It traces every good thing back to God, holds it loosely, and uses it for His purposes. Gratitude is the great antidote to the pride that prosperity breeds.

Application: invite students to name one area where they have quietly taken credit and to practice deliberate gratitude, acknowledging God as the source.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Success tempts us to forget that what we have is gift.
- Deuteronomy 8 warns against the pride of prosperity.
- Gratitude traces every good thing back to God.
- Gratitude is the antidote to pride.

Discussion Prompts

- Where have you quietly taken credit for what is actually a gift?
- How does Deuteronomy 8 expose the danger of forgetting God in plenty?
- How would deliberate gratitude reshape your attitude?

Question 7

Student Question:

What hidden spiritual dangers accompany prosperity and success, and how does the larger witness of Scripture warn that comfort can quietly erode faithfulness?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

Question seven names the hidden dangers within Solomon's splendor. Though these chapters do not record his later compromise, the careful reader, knowing the fuller account and the witness of Scripture, perceives the peril. Wealth, ease, fame, and security can quietly erode a heart's dependence on God.

Scripture is full of this warning. Deuteronomy 8 warns that fullness can lead to forgetting God. Jesus warned how hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom and how the cares and riches of life choke the word (Luke 8:14). Prosperity is not evil, but it is dangerous.

The danger is its subtlety. Comfort does not announce itself as a threat. It feels like blessing, and it is, but it can slowly dull our hunger for God, soften our urgency, and shift our trust from the Giver to the gifts.

The application is vigilance. Seasons of success require more spiritual attentiveness, not less. The teacher should help students see that the very blessings they enjoy can become snares if guarded carelessly, and that faithfulness in prosperity is a real and demanding discipline.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Prosperity carries hidden spiritual dangers.
- Comfort can erode dependence on God.
- Scripture repeatedly warns that fullness tempts us to forget God.
- The subtlety of prosperity demands greater vigilance.

Discussion Prompts

- What hidden dangers accompany prosperity and success?
- Why is comfort more spiritually dangerous than it appears?
- How does Scripture warn against the perils of plenty?

Question 8

Student Question:

What practical safeguards can you put in place so that increasing comfort, security, or success does not weaken your devotion to God?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

This self-question moves from recognizing the danger to building safeguards. If prosperity quietly erodes faithfulness, then God's people in comfortable seasons must be intentional about guarding their hearts.

Practical safeguards include generous giving that loosens money's grip, regular remembering of God as the source, accountability with other believers, continued discipline in worship and the word, and serving others so that comfort does not turn inward.

The point is that faithfulness in prosperity does not happen by accident. The drift is the default; faithfulness must be chosen and protected. Solomon had every resource and still, by the larger account, drifted.

Application: ask students to name one concrete safeguard they will put in place so that increasing comfort or success does not weaken their devotion to God.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Faithfulness in prosperity requires intentional safeguards.
- Generosity, remembrance, accountability, and service guard the heart.
- Drift is the default; faithfulness must be chosen.
- Even abundant resources do not prevent spiritual drift.

Discussion Prompts

- What practical safeguards can guard your heart in seasons of comfort?
- How does generosity loosen the grip of prosperity?
- What one safeguard will you put in place this week?

Question 9

Student Question:

How does true wisdom come from God and point beyond Solomon to Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, so that we see the peril of prosperity without continued faithfulness and the need to seek the wisdom of God rather than the splendor of this world?

Commentary and Teaching Notes

Here the lesson reaches its doctrinal height. The wisdom that astonished the nations was not Solomon's invention but a gift from God, and at its best it pointed beyond Solomon to the source of all wisdom. The text itself shows the queen of Sheba moving from the gift to the Giver. The fuller witness of Scripture shows that all true wisdom comes from God and finds its fullness in Christ.

Jesus made the connection explicit. The queen of the South came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here (Matthew 12:42). Solomon was a faint sketch; Christ is the reality. In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3), and He became to us wisdom from God (1 Corinthians 1:30).

This reframes the whole golden age. The point of Solomon's splendor is not to make us long for earthly glory but to point us to the greater Son of David, whose kingdom does not fade and whose wisdom never fails. We are not to read these chapters as an invitation to chase prosperity but as a signpost to Christ.

It also exposes the peril of prosperity without continued faithfulness. Solomon possessed unmatched wisdom and yet, by the larger account, drifted, showing that even great gifts do not guarantee a faithful heart. The wisdom that matters most is not cleverness or success but the wisdom from above that begins with the fear of the Lord and leads to Christ. Worldly splendor passes away; the wisdom of God in Christ endures.

The teacher should lead the class to set their hearts on the wisdom of Christ rather than the splendor of this world. The death and burial of even the wisest king at the end of chapter 9 drive the lesson home: all earthly glory ends in a grave, but Christ, the wisdom of God, lives forever. Seek Him, and seek the wisdom He gives generously to those who ask in faith (James 1:5).

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- True wisdom comes from God, not human achievement.
- Solomon's wisdom points beyond himself to Christ.
- Jesus is greater than Solomon, the wisdom of God in whom all treasures are hidden.
- These chapters are a signpost to Christ, not an invitation to chase prosperity.
- Prosperity without continued faithfulness is a real peril.
- Earthly splendor fades; the wisdom of God in Christ endures.

Discussion Prompts

- How does Solomon's wisdom point beyond himself to Christ?
- What does it mean that something greater than Solomon is here?
- Why is the wisdom of God in Christ greater than all worldly splendor?

Question 10

Student Question:

Looking back across Solomon's splendor and death, name one specific way the Lord is using this passage to reorder your heart around the wisdom of Christ rather than the fading glory of this world.

Commentary and Teaching Notes

The capstone draws the whole lesson into personal reorientation. We have seen ordered worship, gifts that point to God, splendor as gift, the perils of prosperity, and the fulfillment of all true wisdom in Christ.

The death and burial of Solomon at the end of chapter 9 frame the question soberly. The wisest, richest king died and was buried like all others. Earthly glory ends. The question is whether our hearts are set on what fades or on the wisdom of Christ that endures.

The teacher should help each student move from admiring Solomon to reordering their own heart, choosing the enduring wisdom of Christ over the fading splendor of this world.

Application: ask each student to name one specific way the Lord is using this passage to reorient their heart around the wisdom of Christ rather than worldly glory, and to hold it as a commitment.

Doctrinal / Christian Living Issues

- Even the greatest earthly glory ends in a grave.
- The lesson aims at reordering the heart around Christ's wisdom.
- We must choose enduring wisdom over fading splendor.
- Christ, the wisdom of God, endures forever.

Discussion Prompts

- What does Solomon's death teach about the limits of earthly glory?
- How is the Lord reordering your heart around the wisdom of Christ?
- What commitment will you make to seek God's wisdom over worldly splendor?