

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 KINGS 4

(1 KINGS 4:1-19 - SOME OF SOLOMON'S OFFICIALS)

1 KINGS 4:1-6 - INNER CIRCLE, CABINET

KEY FIGURES: HIGH PRIEST - AZARIAH, SON OF ZADOK

LEADING GENERAL - BENAIAH, SON OF JEHOIADA

V. 5 - "THE KING'S FRIEND" - NET NOTE: HEB "CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF"; A TITLE FOR AN ADVISER, NOT JUST AN ACQUAINTANCE

1 KINGS 4:7-19 - 12 DEPUTIES

1 KINGS 4:7 - 12 "DEPUTIES" ESV: "OFFICERS", NET, NLT, NIV: "DISTRICT GOVERNORS" CP. PRESIDENT V. GOVERNORS

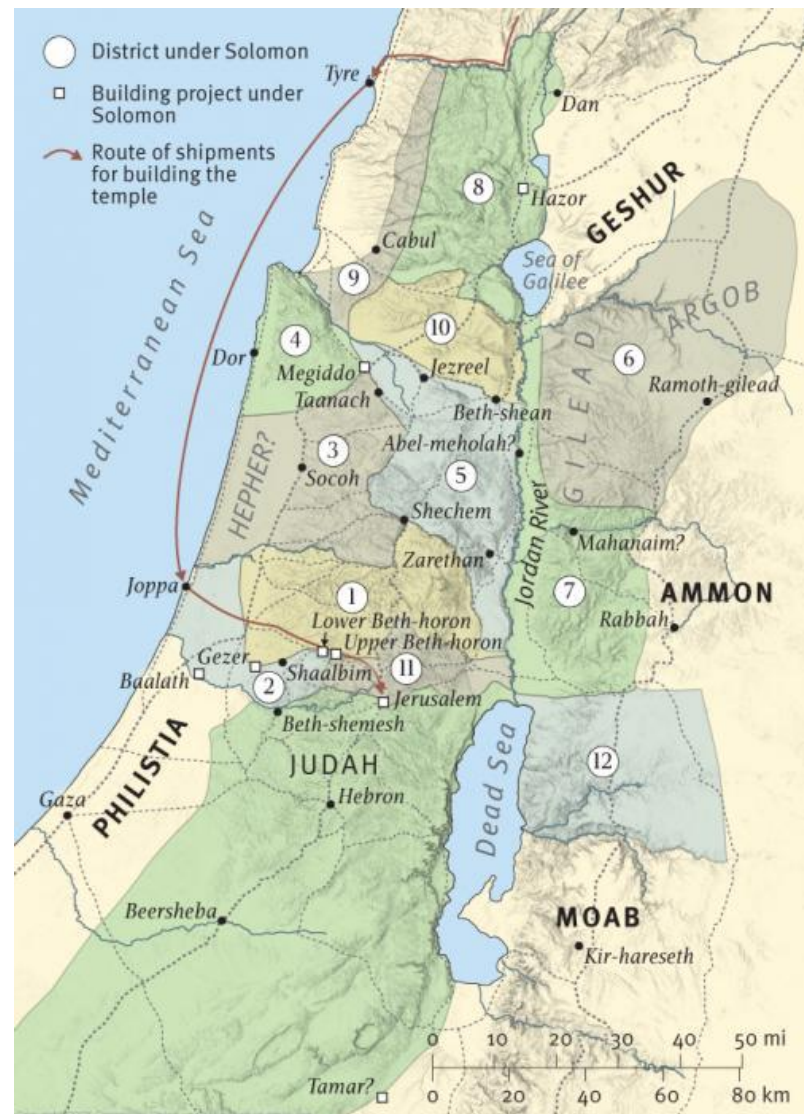
CP. 12 DISCIPLES RULING OVER THE 12 TRIBES

MATTHEW 19:27-28 - THEN PETER SAID TO HIM, "BEHOLD, WE HAVE LEFT EVERYTHING AND FOLLOWED YOU; WHAT THEN WILL THERE BE FOR US?" 28 AND JESUS SAID TO THEM, "TRULY I SAY TO YOU, THAT YOU WHO HAVE FOLLOWED ME, IN THE REGENERATION WHEN THE SON OF MAN WILL SIT ON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE, YOU ALSO SHALL SIT UPON TWELVE THRONES, JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

LUKE 22:28-30 - "YOU ARE THOSE WHO HAVE STOOD BY ME IN MY TRIALS; 29 AND JUST AS MY FATHER HAS GRANTED ME A KINGDOM, I GRANT YOU 30 THAT YOU MAY EAT AND DRINK AT MY TABLE IN MY KINGDOM, AND YOU WILL SIT ON THRONES JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

V. 5 - "ONE GOVERNOR OVER ALL THE LAND" - CP DAVID RULING UNDER JESUS

EZEKIEL 34:23-24 - "THEN I WILL SET OVER THEM ONE SHEPHERD, MY SERVANT DAVID, AND HE WILL FEED THEM; HE WILL FEED THEM HIMSELF AND BE THEIR SHEPHERD. 24 "AND I, THE LORD, WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND MY SERVANT DAVID WILL BE PRINCE AMONG THEM; I THE LORD HAVE SPOKEN.

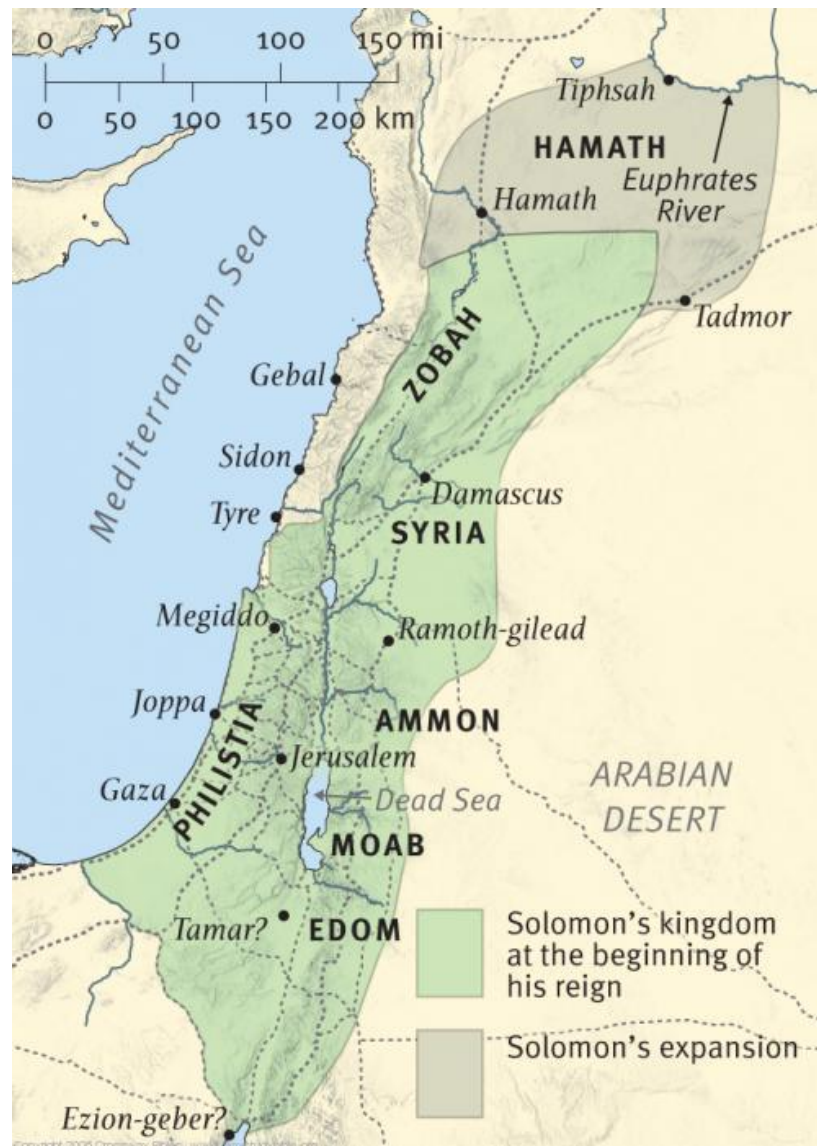


EZEKIEL 37:25 - "THEY WILL LIVE ON THE LAND THAT I GAVE TO JACOB MY SERVANT, IN WHICH YOUR FATHERS LIVED; AND THEY WILL LIVE ON IT, THEY, AND THEIR SONS AND THEIR SONS' SONS, FOREVER; AND DAVID MY SERVANT WILL BE THEIR PRINCE FOREVER.

HOSEA 3:5 - AFTERWARD THE SONS OF ISRAEL WILL RETURN AND SEEK THE LORD THEIR GOD AND DAVID THEIR KING; AND THEY WILL COME TREMBLING TO THE LORD AND TO HIS GOODNESS IN THE LAST DAYS.

1 KINGS 4:20-25 - PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF ABRAHAMIC PROMISE (NUMEROUS, LAND)

V. 20 & 21 - THE REFERENCE TO "AS NUMEROUS AS THE SAND OF THE SEASHORE" (V. 20), THE DESCRIBED LAND AREA (V. 21) AND THE EVIDENCE OF SOLOMON RULING OVER THEIR ENEMIES (V. 21, 24) → CLEAR REFERENCES TO THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT



GENESIS 12:1-3 - NOW THE LORD SAID TO ABRAM, "GO FORTH FROM YOUR COUNTRY, AND FROM YOUR RELATIVES AND FROM YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE, TO THE LAND WHICH I WILL SHOW YOU; 2 AND I WILL MAKE YOU A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS YOU, AND MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT; AND SO YOU SHALL BE A BLESSING; 3 AND I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND THE ONE WHO CURSES YOU I WILL CURSE. AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED."

GENESIS 12:7 - THE LORD APPEARED TO ABRAM (IN CANAAN) AND SAID, "TO YOUR DESCENDANTS I WILL GIVE THIS LAND." SO HE BUILT AN ALTAR THERE TO THE LORD WHO HAD APPEARED TO HIM.

GENESIS 13:14-15 - THE LORD SAID TO ABRAM, AFTER LOT HAD SEPARATED FROM HIM, "NOW LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK FROM THE PLACE WHERE YOU ARE, NORTHWARD AND SOUTHWARD AND EASTWARD AND WESTWARD; 15 FOR ALL THE LAND WHICH YOU SEE, I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU AND TO YOUR DESCENDANTS FOREVER.

GENESIS 13:17 - "ARISE, WALK ABOUT THE LAND THROUGH ITS LENGTH AND BREADTH; FOR I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU."

GENESIS 15:7 - AND HE SAID TO HIM, "I AM THE LORD WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT OF UR OF THE CHALDEANS, TO GIVE YOU THIS LAND TO POSSESS IT."

GENESIS 15:18 - ON THAT DAY THE LORD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAM, SAYING, "TO YOUR DESCENDANTS I HAVE GIVEN THIS LAND, FROM THE RIVER OF EGYPT AS FAR AS THE GREAT RIVER, THE RIVER EUPHRATES:

GENESIS 17:4-8 - "AS FOR ME, BEHOLD, MY COVENANT IS WITH YOU, AND YOU WILL BE THE FATHER OF A MULTITUDE OF NATIONS. 5 "NO LONGER SHALL YOUR NAME BE CALLED ABRAM, BUT YOUR NAME SHALL BE ABRAHAM; FOR I WILL MAKE YOU THE FATHER OF A MULTITUDE OF NATIONS. 6 "I WILL MAKE YOU EXCEEDINGLY FRUITFUL, AND I WILL MAKE NATIONS OF YOU, AND KINGS WILL COME FORTH FROM YOU. 7 "I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU THROUGHOUT THEIR

GENERATIONS FOR AN EVERLASTING COVENANT, TO BE GOD TO YOU AND TO YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU. 8 "I WILL GIVE TO YOU AND TO YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU, THE LAND OF YOUR SOJOURNINGS, ALL THE LAND OF CANAAN, FOR AN EVERLASTING POSSESSION; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD."

GENESIS 22:17 - INDEED I WILL GREATLY BLESS YOU, AND I WILL GREATLY MULTIPLY YOUR SEED AS THE STARS OF THE HEAVENS AND AS THE SAND WHICH IS ON THE SEASHORE; (CP. 1 KINGS 4:20) AND YOUR SEED SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF THEIR ENEMIES. (CP. 1 KINGS 4:21, 24)

THIS IS QUITE THE TIME IN ISRAEL. UNDER SOLOMON, THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT IS BEING FULFILLED IN IT'S GREATEST REALIZATION. THEY ARE IN THE LAND, BLESSED, LIVING PEACE, UNDER A GOOD KING WHOSE RULE IS EXTENDING BEYOND THE REGIONS OF CANAAN.

THEY ARE LIVING IN A TIME WHERE THEY POSSESS THE LAND, HAVE BLESSING, MANY DESCENDANTS AND PEACE ON EVERY SIDE. THIS WAS GOD'S VISION FOR HIS PEOPLE AND IT IS BEING REALIZED DURING SOLOMON'S REIGN!

V. 25 - "EVERY MAN UNDER HIS VINE AND FIG TREE"

THIS PHRASE IMPLIES A FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE "COMMON MAN." IF A FARMER HAS A VINE AND A FIG TREE, THEY HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES AND IF THEY ARE "LIVING IN SAFETY" WITH "EVERY MAN UNDER HIS VINE AND FIG TREE" HE ISN'T UNDER FOREIGN OCCUPATION, NOR IS HE BEING UNJUSTLY OR OVERLY TAXED BY HIS OWN KINGDOM. HE IS ENJOYING THE FRUIT OF HIS OWN LABOR RATHER THAN GIVING IT TO SOMEONE ELSE. THERE IS ALSO THE IMAGE OF PEACE AND SAFETY IF HE IS ABLE TO DO THIS.

THIS IMAGERY USED BY THE LATER PROPHETS TO SPEAK OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM.

MICAH 4:1-4 AND IT WILL COME ABOUT IN THE LAST DAYS THAT THE MOUNTAIN OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WILL BE ESTABLISHED AS THE CHIEF OF THE MOUNTAINS. IT WILL BE RAISED ABOVE THE HILLS, AND THE PEOPLES WILL STREAM TO IT. 2 MANY NATIONS WILL COME AND SAY, "COME AND LET US GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD AND TO THE HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB, THAT HE MAY TEACH US ABOUT HIS WAYS AND THAT WE MAY WALK IN HIS PATHS." FOR FROM ZION WILL GO FORTH THE LAW, EVEN THE WORD OF THE LORD FROM JERUSALEM. 3 AND HE WILL JUDGE BETWEEN MANY PEOPLES AND RENDER DECISIONS FOR MIGHTY, DISTANT NATIONS. THEN THEY WILL HAMMER THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS; NATION WILL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, AND NEVER AGAIN WILL THEY TRAIN FOR WAR. 4 EACH OF THEM WILL SIT UNDER HIS VINE AND UNDER HIS FIG TREE, WITH NO ONE TO MAKE THEM AFRAID, FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD OF HOSTS HAS SPOKEN.

ZECHARIAH 3:10 'IN THAT DAY,' DECLARES THE LORD OF HOSTS, 'EVERY ONE OF YOU WILL INVITE HIS NEIGHBOR TO SIT UNDER HIS VINE AND UNDER HIS FIG TREE.'

THIS LANGUAGE DESCRIBE THE BEAUTY AND JOY ASSOCIATED WITH SOLOMON'S REIGN. AND WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE IN THE FUTURE KINGDOM CAN BE SEEN IN WHAT IT WAS LIKE THEN.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BE LIKE, LOOKING AT SOLOMON'S REIGN GIVES YOU SOME GOOD INSIGHT!

1 KINGS 4:26-34 - SOLOMON'S PERSONAL GREATNESS

CLOSING THOUGHTS/OBSERVATIONS: WHAT STARTED AS A LIFE-LESS LISTING OF OFFICIALS AND POSITIONS TURNS OUT TO BE A WINDOW INTO THE GREATEST DAYS OF THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL. WHEN WE STOP AND LOOK AND ASK GOD TO SHOW US SOMETHING, WE CAN SEE THE REASON WHY HE HAS RECORDED WHAT HE HAS RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE. THIS ISN'T JUST A LIST OF NAMES IN HAPLESSLY PRESERVED IN VAIN, THESE ARE THE 12 OFFICIALS WHO RULED OVER SOLOMON'S KINGDOM AND HELP US SEE WHY JESUS PROMISED HIS 12 DISCIPLES THEY WOULD DO THE SAME. THIS ISN'T JUST A RANDOM MENTION OF RIVERS AND TOWNS, THIS IS A PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF AN ANCIENT PROMISE OF GOD TO ABRAHAM. AND THE ENTIRE CHAPTER ITSELF GIVES US A CLEAR VIEW INTO WHAT GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM WILL BE LIKE.

THE BIBLE IS AMAZING! IF WE APPROACH IT WITH THE HEART TO KNOW GOD, HEAR FROM GOD AND UNDERSTAND THE "WHY'S AND "WHAT" IT ALL MEANS, WE OFTEN ARE INVITED BY THE DIVINE AUTHOR HIMSELF TO SEE SUPERNATURAL THINGS.