

**The Bible and Its
Influence
Chapter 10: “The
Kingdom Falls”**

Kristen and Sophia

Solomon and David

- Bathsheba pleads on behalf of her son, Solomon, and forestalls the civil war
- David anoints Solomon as David's heir
- David reminds Solomon of the covenant that his powers derive from
“Be strong, be courageous, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies...” (1 Kings 2:2-3)

Solomon's Gift

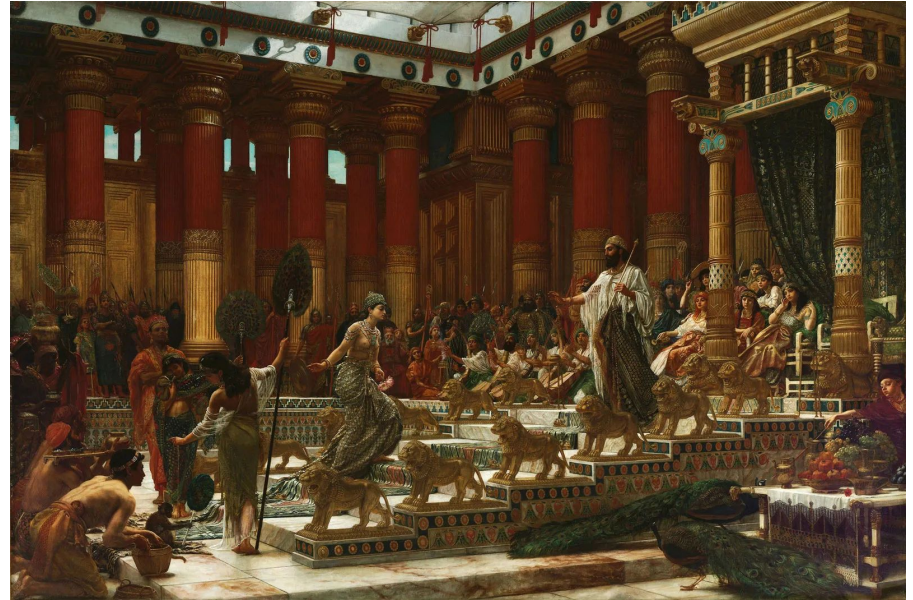
- God appears to Solomon in a dream, telling him that whatever he asks for, will be his. Solomon requests wisdom, and God grants it to him
- Wisdom becomes Solomon's most memorable characteristic
 - Today, a person who makes a wise decision is called "a Solomon" or "like Solomon"
- Under Solomon's rule, the kingdom was peaceful and prosperous at first
- Solomon builds the First Temple



National Geographic,
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/story-king-solomon-wise-temple>

Queen of Sheba

- “One of the Bible’s most compelling and mysterious characters” (B.I., 94)
- Notable for being a non-Israelite woman in power, who still respects God
- Associated with sub-Saharan Africa
- Features prominently in *The Kebra Nagast*, a 14th-century Ethiopian epic



Edward Poynter, *The Visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon*, 1890,
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Queen-of-Sheba>

“Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.” (1 Kings 19:11-12)

Elijah

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- He “understood that zeal and pyrotechnics were not enough to educate others”
- There is an oratorio by Ludwig Mendelssohn about his story

The Final Fall



The Not So Innocents Abroad,
<https://www.thenotsoinnocentsabroad.com/blog/the-fall-of-israel-in-the-old-testament-explained>

- Destruction of David's kingdom began with the corruption within, and slowly moved on to domination from the outside
- People ignored the prophets' warnings; they had forgotten about the painful consequences that come with opposing/ violating the covenant
- Israel was the first to succumb, king Hoshea attempted to revolt
- Northern kingdom of Israel was conquered, and many members were carried off into exile
- Southern kingdom Judah, was next to succumb
- Solomon's temple was looted then burned to the ground, and people were carried into captivity in Babylon

“The Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel; he punished them and gave them into the hand of the plunderers, until he had banished them from his presence. When he had torn Israel from the house of David... Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.” (2 Kings 17:20-23)