

## April 5 Sunday School Lesson 7<sup>th</sup> grade

David wanted to build a temple for the Lord, but God would not allow him to since his reign was filled with battles and war. David's reign from 1000-962BC, included a major rebellion by his son, Absalom. Just as Nathan had told David, "This is what the Lord says: Out of your own household I'm going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes, I will take your wives and give them to the one that is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel." 2 Samuel 12:11

In 1 Kings 2, David and Bathsheba's son, Solomon is established on the throne as the King of Israel. Now Solomon went to the Lord in prayer, but unlike many rulers he asked God to give him a discerning heart (wisdom).

"The Lord was pleased that Solomon has asked for this. So God said to him, 'Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for **discernment** in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for- both riches and honor- so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.'" 1 Kings 3:10-14.

As you read through your lesson in the yellow booklet **pages 58-60**, take special note of the story about Solomon and the two women who both claimed the same baby. This story is recorded in 1 Kings 3:16-28.

When I was a young teacher in an elementary school, one day little blue-eyed Deanna came to me in tears and complaining. "Kimmy took my new pencil and won't give it back."

I nodded. These events were daily occurrences, and I had gotten numb to the fights between the two six year old girls. I cleared my throat hoping that my authority might solve the problem.

"Kimmy, do you have Deanna's new pencil?"

Kim shook her head. "No, it's mine. I brought this pencil from home this morning."

I was totally stumped and had no idea what to do next. Both girls were emphatic that the pencil was theirs, and I could tell we had a stand-off that was leading up to World War III. I offered them some of my finest pencils to stop the war, but nothing worked. Finally, I thought about King Solomon and the two women fighting over the newborn baby.

I picked up the pencil and told the girls that there was only one solution. "I'll need to break this pencil into two pieces, and then you each will have half."

Kimmy nodded and thought it was a fine solution, but Deanna wailed. "No please, don't break it. It's brand-new, and I just got it from my mother this morning."

I handed the pencil to Deanna, knowing she was the owner, and then I turned to Kimmy. "You'll lose recess for not telling the truth, Kim."

Good Old King Solomon. His wisdom still worked, even with first graders and pencils.

King Solomon built the Lord's Temple, a permanent structure in Jerusalem that was patterned after the **tabernacle** in the wilderness. It was in the **Holy of Holies** that God's presence promised salvation and forgiveness to the people of Israel.

In Solomon's day the people built a house for the Lord, and yet we understand that today that Jesus comes to us in his Word, and sacraments. He is present in the Lord's supper, baptism, and his Holy Word.

On this Palm Sunday, we celebrate the Lord's **triumphal ride** into Jerusalem as our King of Kings, looking forward to Holy Week, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is that resurrection that gives us the hope and promise of our own resurrection into eternal life. Read John Chapter 11 where Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Just as he comforts Mary and Martha, he comforts us with his words, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

Take time and click on the **Temple of Solomon** explained. It is excellent, and shows the beauty, and majesty of the Lord's house. Today Jesus Christ gives us his grace and forgiveness in the **preaching of his Word**, and in **Holy Baptism** and the **Sacrament of the Altar**. As you watch the videos, see if you can find the connections between the Old Testament worship and our New Testament worship.

Hope that you and your family celebrate Palm Sunday praising God for his love and mercy throughout these difficult days. I hope you have time to watch the videos below comparing our worship with the worship in the days of King Solomon.



Temple of Solomon explained:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xt6lQAe8ues>

Palm Sunday Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdyJO-aAv8>