The First Four Years (Establishing years)

Consider I Kings 5:4 and I Kings 6:37-38

King David and King Solomon were different personalities. Unlike his father, Solomon was not an outdoorsman, a fighter, a musician, or a tactician. Solomon was calculated, smart, witty, engaging, observant, wealthy, respected, Spiritual, generous, prudent, and intellectual.

Solomon’s first few years were years of establishing and planning. The Bible details how Solomon settled issues with some of David’s enemies. David wasted some of his final breaths getting even! Unfortunately, he obligated Solomon to exact retribution. Take some time and read I Kings 2:26-46, to see how Solomon handled David’s vindictive requests, and how he handled people he distrusted. Solomon dealt with Adonijah, Abiathar, Joab, and Shimei. Solomon did not play!

Solomon also seems to be the kind of firm person who thought everything out before he acted and laid out his plans before starting a project. Although he had the blueprints to build the Temple, it was not started until his fourth year. It is safe to assume that he spent that time organizing people and the resources left to him by his father. His arrangements with King Hiram, (aka Huram) of Tyre are epic.

**Life Lesson #37** - When possible, take time to plan projects before beginning the actual project.

Solomon’s VIP’s

He had people in his orbit like Benaiah. Benaiah was important to the early years of Solomon’s reign.

There are two people that are worthy of mention here, both named Hiram, (or Huram), both from Tyre. As you read I Kings and I Chronicles you will see these names Hiram and Huram. Please note these are two different people. The name Huram is a variant used for the name Hiram.  The first Hiram was the king of Tyre who reigned during the time of [King David](https://www.gotquestions.org/life-David.html) and his son [King Solomon](https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Solomon.html). In the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles, he is called Huram ([1 Chronicles 14:1](https://www.bibleref.com/1-Chronicles/14/1-Chronicles-14-1.html); [2 Chronicles 2:3](https://www.bibleref.com/2-Chronicles/2/2-Chronicles-2-3.html)).

During Hiram’s reign, Tyre grew into a dominant and thriving commercial center and the most important port city in the Mediterranean. Hiram engaged in extensive building projects and colonized several Mediterranean islands such as Cyprus and Sicily. He also pursued commercial maritime endeavors.

Consider I Kings 5:1-10, I Kings 9:10-11, and I Kings 9:27-28.

Another man named Hiram worked on Solomon’s Temple as a metalsmith. He was from Tyre, as was his father, and his mother was from Israel.[[1]](#endnote-1)  THIS MAN WAS GIFTED. I would imagine he was one of Solomon’s closest workers. Consider I Kings 7:13-51, II Chronicles 4:11-18

**Life Lesson #36** - Learn how to deal with people of all walks of life and varying abilities. God sends people or gives us access to people who need to do what we need done. We must learn to let them, hire them, utilize them.

Solomon the Builder

Consider I Kings 5:4 and I Kings 6:37-38. Solomon’s most productive years involved major building projects. He spent 7 years building the Temple, 13 years on his home, and many years improving and building up the cities throughout the nations. These projects required tremendous coordination and manpower. Which means he spent 4 years planning to build.

The unemployment rate during Solomon’s reign was probably extremely low. There were hundreds of thousands of people involved in the day-to-day operations of that time. Israel was a world power, and Jerusalem was the capital city; King Solomon was an industry. His 40-year reign, in many ways, was the nation of Israel’s golden years. His 40 years were marked by peace and productivity. It would seem as long as he was busy and obedient, he was blessed.

**Life Lesson #38** – We must manage people, resources, dreams, talents, and time. (Ours and those of others.)

The wisdom and genius of Solomon

Solomon’s greatest gift was his wisdom. Consider I Kings 4:29-32, Proverbs 6:6-8, II Chronicles 9:1-7. His wisdom is seen in both what Solomon built and how he built it! Consider I Kings 6:1-10, I Kings 7:47, I Kings 10:26-27, I Chronicles 22:5, II Chronicles 2:3-5, II Chronicles 2:13-15, II Chronicles 4:18, and II Chronicles 8:16.

Solomon’s spirit of excellence

There is a term used to describe operating in excellence that I have grown to love. It is “The Spirit of Excellence”. Consider II Chronicles 2 to Chapter 4.

**The thought of The Spirit of excellence is more than a catchphrase but is a mode of operation. No one exhibits The Spirit of Excellence better than Solomon.**

**Life Lesson #39** – Strive to always be busy doing God’s Work! Keep reaching! An idle mind is the devil’s workshop. (Not to mention it is bad for one’s health.)

I read an interesting article that talked about the dangers of an idle mind, and how inaction breeds trouble[[2]](#endnote-2). The writer noted 3 things that happen to inactive minds: **Negative Thoughts Take over, Bad Habits Form, Productivity Suffers.**

Next 2 - 3 Lessons: The Wisdom of Solomon, The downfall of Solomon, and the terrible transition to Rehoboam! Read I Kings chapters 1-11, and II Chronicles chapters 1-9.

1. [Who was Huram / Hiram in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/Huram-Hiram.html) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [The Dangers of an Idle Mind: How Inaction Breeds Trouble (believeinmind.com)](https://www.believeinmind.com/mindset/idle-mind/) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)