



# Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

**1 Kings 1-4**  
**2 Chron. 1**  
**Song of Solomon**  
**Ps. 37,71,72,94,119**

**Week 22**

## Daily Reading Plan:

\_\_\_ 1 Kings 1-2  
\_\_\_ Ps.37,71,94  
\_\_\_ Ps.119:1-88  
\_\_\_ 1 Kings 3-4  
\_\_\_ 2 Chron. 1  
\_\_\_ Ps.72  
\_\_\_ Ps. 119:89-176  
\_\_\_ Song of Solomon  
\_\_\_ REST\*

\*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

**Next week:**  
**Prov. 1-24**

MEMORY VERSE:

**DELIGHT**  
yourself in the Lord  
and he will give you the  
desires of your  
**HEART.**  
Psalm 37:4

## “EXCEPT...”

Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the statutes of his father David, **except** that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places. 1 Kings 3:3

That one little word tells so much. The presence of an “except” is bad news. It means something less than wholehearted. It means that we are divided within ourselves. It means that there is some part that we are holding back. If there is an “except”, then we do not love the Lord our God with ALL our heart, soul, mind and strength.

It doesn't really sound so bad. It wasn't how David did things, but does that really matter? Abraham built altars and offered sacrifices all over the place. God didn't seem to object to that. So why do Solomon's sacrifices on the high places warrant an “except”?

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Do you think that Solomon thought that there was a problem with it?

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God didn't really make a big deal about it, and in fact was pleased enough with Solomon to offer him anything that he wanted. But small things can turn into big things. One area where we don't quite follow exactly what God wants us to seems to open the door for other things as well. A single exception to loving God can become a couple and a few until we find ourselves with several. Solomon seemed to understand that at least in his love life because in Song of Songs 2:15 he says Song 2:15 “Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.” We have to guard against the little foxes, and the little “exceptions”.

When we have one, and most of us do, it needs to hurt. Somewhere I read that sin is like a rotating triangle in our heart. The points hurt as they turn, but if we leave it long enough the heart becomes calloused and the points wear down and it just doesn't bother us any more. We need to be sure we stay sensitive enough to notice that there is something not right. We need to ask God to search our hearts and show us the “exceptions”.

As we continue to read about Solomon, pay attention to other exceptions in his life. Spend some time thinking and praying this week about an “except” that you might have.

**“I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes.” Ps. 119:59**

## ABISHAG

Young and beautiful Abishag was brought to David as a wife, probably to revive him a bit. What she actually ended up being for him was a nurse.

Why did David's oldest remaining son, Adonijah, ask to marry Abishag? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been in Bathsheba's position of trusting when you shouldn't have? \_\_\_\_\_

## WHO WILL BECOME KING?

Adonijah was the oldest, so why shouldn't he have become king(1 Chron. 22:9-13) ?

What does 1 Kings 1:6 tell us about him? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it tell us about David's parenting? \_\_\_\_\_

How important did that make the mothers? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did Nathan have Bathsheba remind David of his promise? \_\_\_\_\_

What if Nathan and Bathsheba had not taken action? \_\_\_\_\_

## THE KING

What restrictions were placed on a king in Deut. 17:16-20?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Put a check besides the ones that Solomon broke.



## WISDOM

When my daughter became a counselor at a crisis pregnancy center she made a comment to me about not being sure that they should put someone her age in that kind of position. She was 20 years old, probably about Solomon's age when he became king. What did Solomon say about his age in 1 Kings 3:7? \_\_\_\_\_

What advice did Solomon give in Proverbs 1:8? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God offer to Solomon in 1 Kings 3:5? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Solomon ask for? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God give him? \_\_\_\_\_

I have never ruled a kingdom, but sometimes I think that even if I did I couldn't possibly feel any more overwhelmed and inadequate than I do trying to raise children and run a household. Some of the best advice that I ever got was when I found myself trying to blend two families of children (eight total) who ranged in age from 1 to 11. I was praying for wisdom by the minute, but I just wasn't seeming to get zapped with it. I was instructed to go back and read James 1:5-6 more carefully:

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

I was asking, but I wasn't really believing that God was giving it to me. At that point, whether I felt wise or not, I began to be more confident in my decisions. I know that I still made plenty of mistakes, but I'm also sure that God was faithful in His promise to me. Solomon not only asked but believed that God would deliver. He had the confidence to act on God's wisdom.

## TWO WOMEN AND A BABY

In India I saw two women fighting over a very sick looking baby. The tourists were much more generous to a woman with a baby in her arms and so both of these women desperately wanted that baby. I was very concerned because for a time it really appeared that these women might rip the child in two. At the time I wondered whether either of these women was really the mother, and what would happen to the baby when the tour bus drove off. How did Solomon know that the real mother would come through? What if she hadn't?

## SONG OF SONGS

This book of the Bible is probably better known by the Jews than it is by Christians. We give it very little attention as a topic of teaching and preaching. We grudgingly admit its somewhat embarrassing presence among the inspired words of God. The Jews on the other hand, read it in its entirety every Passover feast, the most important feast of the year commemorating the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. This event is when the Israelites first became aware of the tremendous love that God has for them as their YHVH and so it is celebrated with the reading of this great love poem. (Aaron 9-17)

So, is this book purely an allegory of God's love for His chosen people and Christ's love for His bride the church? I think yes and no. In Hosea 2 God uses phrases like "I am now going to allure her... and speak tenderly to her" and "I will betroth you to me forever". He makes it clear that He considers his covenant with Israel to be like a marriage covenant where Israel is the adulterous spouse. Isaiah 54:5 says "For your Maker is your husband- the Lord Almighty is his name." The New Testament likewise talks about the church as the bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2, Eph. 5:23-32). This has been the most widely held view of Song of Songs through the ages, though others have seen it with a more literal view of a description of erotic love between two human lovers that become husband and wife. Personally, I see no problem with it being both. If God describes to us that He loves us as a groom loves his bride, then doesn't it stand to reason that a very real description of that would be in order lest we not quite understand the depth of intimacy that He desires to have with us? I don't find anywhere in Scripture that God condemns our sensuality or expression of it within a marriage. And while sometimes when God is silent we feel the need to speak more loudly than ever, here in the area of sexual expression we are thankfully quieted from disapproval by God's explicit endorsement in the Song of Songs.

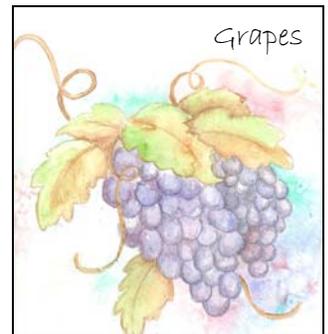
And if we are honest enough to get past our embarrassment and our fears, we really long for the kind of connected relationship, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, that is described. I love how Brent Curtis and John Eldredge describe our role in their book *The Sacred Romance* "If God is the Pursuer, the ageless Romancer, the Lover, then there has to be a Beloved, one who is the Pursued. This is our role in the story." I don't know very many women that don't want to be pursued, unless they have just been hurt so many times they can't dare hope again. We long for someone to **want** to make connection with us and that is what sex is really all about. We can trace our disconnection back to the fall. That's when we hid from God, and were banished from the Garden and for the first time disconnected from our Maker, the world we were meant to live in and even the relationship with each other that we were meant to have. In Genesis 3:16 the consequences of sin were outlined for the woman and included "Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." The word *desire* is translated from the Hebrew *teshuqah* (say it tesh-oo-kaw') which means stretching out after or a longing (Meyers). "Stretching out" is a perfect description of how women try to gain the relationship that they long for with men. *Teshuqah* is used only a few times in the Bible. One of those times is in Song of Songs 7:10 where the woman claims that her lover **desires** her. This biblical couple is refreshingly open and honest with each other. They are willing to go out on a limb and express their feelings for each other with abandon.

Our normal reticence or armor from past hurts keeps us disconnected as surely as the cherubim and flaming sword kept Adam and Eve out of God's Presence. God doesn't want us to stay banished. He wants us to connect with him and unabashedly express our love to Him. And along with loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength comes loving others too. Unreserved sexual expression with our spouse is both a reality and a picture of unreserved union with God. No "excepts".



Where have most of your attitudes about sexual intimacy come from? \_\_\_\_\_

Are any of them contrary to God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_



In what ways do you see Christ as your lover? \_\_\_\_\_

How comfortable is that idea to you? \_\_\_\_\_



## PUZZLE CLUES (from NIV)

### Across

3. young and beautiful 1 Kings 2-4
5. all kings will \_\_\_\_ before God Ps.72:11
7. Solomon spoke 3,000 of these 1 Kings 4:32
11. conspired with Adonijah 1 Kings 2:28
12. the priest 1 Kings 1:8
13. firmly established in Solomon's hands 1 Kings 2:46
16. years of David's reign 1 Kings 2:11
17. Adonijah's mother 1 Kings 1:5
19. as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees 1 Chron. 1:15
21. son of Hushai 1 Kings 4:16
22. the royal officials came to \_\_\_\_\_ David 1 Kings 1:47
23. Solomon rode David's to Gihon 1 Kings 1:38
24. Solomon called himself one 1 Kings 3:7
25. directed according to God's word Ps. 119:133
26. Adonijah made one of Bathsheba 1 Kings 2:16
30. where Solomon was seated 1 Kings 1:46
34. God told Solomon to ask whatever he wanted in a \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Kings 3:5
36. God's word hidden here Ps. 119:11
38. Judah and Israel had this during Solomon's rule 1 Kings 4:25
40. what Solomon asked God for 1 Kings 3:11
43. Adonijah would die if this was found 1 Kings 1:52
45. Adonijah went to for protection 1 Kings 1:50
47. David told Solomon to be 1 Kings 2:2
48. Solomon had 12,000 of these 1 Kings 4:26
51. not invited to Adonijah's banquet 1 Kings 1:10
52. Bathsheba went to David's 1 Kings 1:15
54. be \_\_\_\_ before the Lord Ps. 37:7
55. where Solomon sent Adonijah 1 Kings 1:53

### Down

1. anointing oil kept in 1 Kings 1:39
2. the prophet 1 Kings 1:8
4. took Joab's place 1 Kings 2:35
6. \_\_\_\_\_ in God's ways 1 Kings 2:3
8. Nathan advised her 1 Kings 1:11,12
9. what the prostitutes fought over 1 Kings 3:16-22
10. God gave Solomon this also 1 Kings 3:13
11. where Shimei was told to stay 1 Kings 2:36
14. "I \_\_\_\_\_ on your precepts" Ps. 119:15
15. Solomon made an alliance with him 1 Kings 3:1
18. son of Zadok 1 Kings 4:2
20. the Lord's is great Ps. 119:156
26. God gave Solomon this also 1 Kings 3:13
27. Shimei left Jerusalem to get them 1 Kings 2:39-41
28. Abishag's job was to keep David \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Kings 1:2
29. Adonijah's dispersed 1 Kings 1:49
31. the people of Judah and Israel 1 Kings 4:20
32. ours comes from God Ps.71:2
33. evil men will wither like this Ps. 37:1
35. comes from God Ps. 71:21
37. to be shown to Barzillai 1 Kings 2:7
39. refrain from this Ps. 37:8
41. where the king offered sacrifices 1 Kings 3:4
42. Adonijah thought he would be 1 Kings 1:5
44. what people did before the king 1 Kings 1:23
46. \_\_\_\_\_ and Amasa were killed by Joab 1 Kings 2:32
49. played with rejoicing when Solomon became king 1 Kings 1:40
50. what God's word is Ps. 119:105
53. David took one 1 Kings 1:29



# PUZZLE PAGE

WEEK 22

