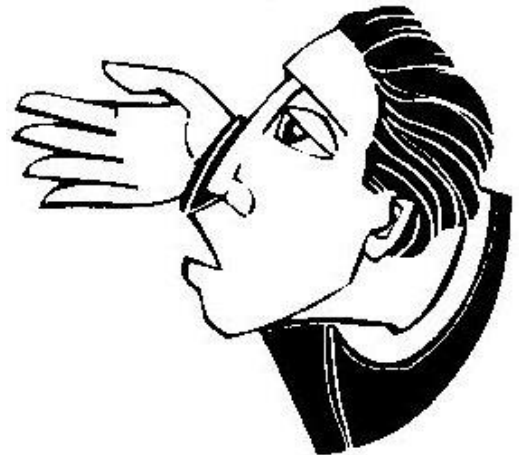


- I. The Solomonic reign—to examine Solomon’s tenure is to reflect on Israel’s public life, and that of our own, in rather unsettling terms
 - A. David’s instruction to Solomon, his son by Bathsheba, is to “[walk] in [God’s] ways and [keep God’s] statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies”—*1 Kings 2:1-4*
 - Solomon broke with his own father’s embrace of the Yahwistic assumptions of worship, righteousness, and compassion
 - B. Solomon sought to consolidate power
 1. Removing the priesthood (Abiathar)—*1 Kings 2:26-27*
 2. Conspicuous absence of any prophetic voice in the traditions dealing with Solomon
 3. Banishing or killing any potential threats to his reign—the “limited monarchy” has come to an end

- II. The Solomonic Temple constructed completely in the style of Canaanite models
 - A. An authentic imperial shrine had come to replace David’s house of cedar dedicated to the worship of Yahweh—elevation of kingship? Who is the king?
 1. Initially, Yahweh is pleased—
1 Kings 6:11-13
 2. Solomon’s prayer of dedication—
1 Kings 8:22-26



- B. God appears to Solomon with a blessing and a warning—*1 Kings 9:1-9*
1. Yahweh angry with Solomon for doing what is evil in his sight—*1 Kings 11:1-14*
 2. Solomon entered into military alliances, which were then symbolized by a foreign presence in the Temple (Baal) worship—this is a direct affront and assault upon the cherished Yahwistic belief that “you shall have no other gods before you”
- C. Royal Psalms act as a retrospective glance to kingly rule run astray
1. Who is the king of glory? Not Solomon, not David, not Saul, not Solomon’s son Rehoboam—*Psalms 2, 21, 24, 68, 95*
 2. Yahweh is the king of glory—ascribe the power to God

III. The result of Solomon’s activity is a kingdom divided

- A. The prophetic voice of Ahijah to Jeroboam, the Northern tribes secede—
1 Kings 11:26-40
- Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam, God’s agent via the prophetic voice
- B. Nathan told David “no” on the elaborate temple; Solomon given permission moved the king closer to Yahweh and the people farther away
1. Order and security in Solomon’s reign were not held in harmony with the liberation of the oppressed
 2. The Israelites become indentured slaves working on the Temple, conscripted soldiers in the army
- C. Who did Solomon seek to immortalize via his kingship and the Temple—Solomon or Yahweh?
1. For the record, Jeroboam is portrayed as the ultimate idolater—building golden calves, adopting foreign deities and foreign places of worship—*1 Kings 12*
 2. And an unnamed prophet declared the Word of the Lord to Jeroboam that “the altar shall be torn down”—Jeroboam tries, but is unable, to seize him