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## ***Golden Era of Solomon: Historical Framework and Doctrinal Summary***

This summary is meant to be a helpful memory jogger for review as well as key points for training of families in the historical framework methodology of God's word. Refer to Lessons #75-80 in the Biblical Framework series for detailed analysis.

### **Scriptural Texts**

1 Kings 1-11, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

### **Historical Event of the Golden Era of Solomon**

Solomon is appointed by David to be the next king to sit on the everlasting Davidic throne (2 Sam 7). As a young ruler Solomon admitted his lack of wisdom and asked God to supply that which was lacking (1 Kgs 3). God gave Solomon such great wisdom that Jesus said with His arrival, at last "a greater than Solomon is here." According to Jesus the great thinkers like Plato and Aristotle, Marcus Aurelius and Leonardo DaVinci could not hold a candle to the wisdom of Solomon. While Jesus Christ surpasses them all so great was Solomon's wisdom that you can easily argue that it was Solomon's wisdom transmitted through curious kingly visitors, Phoenician sailors and Hebrew exiles that provided the foundation for Greek philosophy, namely, the biblical idea that the universe is an intelligible whole.

Building on the spiritual basis of his father David, Solomon learned loyalty to God as a young man. As a by-product it was his generation that enjoyed the greatest biblical culture the world has ever seen. Solomon himself was a poet, a song-writer, a botanist, a zoologist, an ornithologist, an entomologist, an ichthyologist, an architect, a politician, an economist, a judge, a naval engineer and a military tactician. Men from all over the earth came to hear the wisdom of Solomon and to see his kingdom. They were astonished to find that the reports they heard were not even half of the story. His wisdom and prosperity far exceeded all they had heard.

Unfortunately Solomon's great wisdom and wealth led to his spiritual decay. He married foreign wives and multiplied horses for himself, forgetting the commandment of the Lord he began to worship idols. His importation of paganism into Israel set a spiritual rot in the kingdom that gradually eroded the Lord's cultural blessing and brought about subsequent disciplinary cursing.

### **Doctrine of the Aim of Sanctification**

The Doctrine of Sanctification has five aspects. These five aspects are introduced in the Conquest & Settlement period. We categorize them as the Phases, Aim, Means, Dimensions and Enemies. As God progressively reveals truth through historic events He amplifies the Phases in the outworking of the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants, He amplifies the Dimensions in the Rise and Reign of King David and He amplifies the Aim in the Golden Era of Solomon.

*Learning loyalty to God in every area of life.* Solomon teaches us that the Aim of Sanctification is to learn loyalty to God in every area of life. The Old and New Testaments state it this way, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength." The point is to grow spiritually to see the outworking of biblical truth in all spheres of thought and life and not as a religious compartment; God has spoken to music, art, science, government, marriage, family, et al. just as equally as He has spoken to morals and ethics. The goal of sanctification is to learn loyalty to God in every area of life, not a religious compartment.

*Biblical Culture is a By-Product of Advanced Sanctification.* The by-product of learning loyalty to God is biblical culture. Development of a biblical culture occurs after taking in years and years of Bible doctrine, learning to live the Christian life and articulating the Christian faith. Then you start to broaden your sanctification by reaching out into other areas; asking questions like, "How can a biologist love the Lord with all his heart?" "How does this look different from a pagan biologist?" "How can a teacher love the Lord with all his heart?" "How does this look different from a pagan teacher?" A businessman? A lawyer? A construction worker? Et al....

*Biblical Culture has a Unified View of Life.* When you're advancing spiritually you're starting to see that all of life is a seamless, integral whole. That you don't have to take off your religious hat when you go to vote, that you don't have to take off your biology hat and put on your religious hat when you go to church. Once you realize that God has something very definite to say about every area of life then you understand that true education is not being a specialist in one area but the ability to move from one area to another area seamlessly, seeing them all as under God's interpretive control.

*Biblical Culture Points to Total Victory.* If I view all of life as under God and I begin to grow in loyalty to Him and produce something of biblical culture then what is complete loyalty to God going to produce? If partial obedience to God produces a partial biblical culture, what is full obedience to God going to produce? A total culture, a worldwide global culture under Christ's millennial reign. We don't live in the millennium, we live in the church so we're not going to have total victory now, but the development in our own personal lives and families that produces a partial victory are foreshadowing's of the total victory in the millennial reign of Christ.

*Biblical Culture Expresses Mature Adoration of God.* When you have a lot of biblical culture, like you had in Solomon's day it will promote the worship of God. Worship will be easy in a Bible-friendly culture. There will be stimuli sown all over the place for worship of God. For example, scientists will worship God because they recognize they are working with His handiwork. Accountants will worship God because they acknowledge they are using His numerical structure. Worship of God becomes natural, easy and mature in a highly-developed biblical culture.

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