

## Abstract:

King Solomon, son of King David, was selected to build the first temple since, unlike his father, his hands were supposedly clean of blood. By the normal yardsticks of politics and statecraft he was arguably the most successful of kings: The kingdom was united, its boundaries were the largest, the riches of his treasure were the greatest, his foreign policy was the most successful. He was hailed as the wisest of all men and "Solomonic Justice" is to this day legendary. And yet, step by step, virtues turn into vices and the builder of the Temple ends his life as an idolator.

The lecture will trace and analyze this process. It seems as if history never changes.