PREVIEW TO SESSION 6

King of the World:
Wisdom and Foolishness in Solomon's Story (Part 2)

A. DESCRIPTION

Success is measured in many ways, and according to the text of 1 Kings 9:26-10:29 Solomon reached more than a few of these. International expeditions went out, visitors from exotic locations came in, treasure and fame accumulated. This pinnacle is followed by an abrupt crash, a narrative moment that must be juxtaposed against Israel's wisdom tradition.

B. TARGETS

Learners who successfully complete this session will . . .

1. recognize elements of Solomonic success.

2. understand that the verdict against Solomon is cast as a lawsuit speech that contains elements of indictment and threat.

3. struggle with the many tension presented in the biblical picture of Solomon: a wise man, a fool, a tyrant, a temple-builder, and a seed of David.

C. ASSIGNMENTS

Before the beginning of this session, all learners must . . .

1. Begin memorizing Prov 6:20-23. Use the NIV version linked to our class website.

2. Read 1 Kings 11:1-12:33; Ecclesiastes 1:1-18.

3. Print the worksheet for this session and bring a paper copy of your work to class. It will be collected in the first few minutes of the meeting.

D. FOR FURTHER STUDY