

## Bible Character series of readings – week 28

### 8<sup>th</sup> May – Solomon

**Monday: 1 Kings 2:13-46. A ruthless leader:** Solomon had the potential to be a great statesman as he later proves, but he is ruthless in dealing with those who threaten or oppose him. Consider: Do the ends ever justify the means? If good will result is it ok to do evil? (See Romans 3:8)

**Tuesday: 1 Kings 3:4-28. A wise judgement:** God gives Solomon wisdom despite his obvious character flaws. It is possible to receive blessings *from God* without living *for God*. Pray that this will never be true of you!

**Wednesday: 1 Kings 5:1-18. Preparation for building the Temple:** Solomon built good trade relations with Hiram, but was not as careful to treat his own subjects well as verses 13-16 make clear. Pray for your leaders, both in Church and in our nation, that they will not use people to accomplish their own pet projects.

**Thursday: 1 Kings 9:1-9. Another encounter with God:** God's promises sometimes come with conditions, and this is true here in verses 4 & 5. Are you walking with God in integrity of heart, and uprightness?

**Friday: 1 Kings 11:1-13. Running the race:** It is not how you start that matters but how you run the race and how you finish. Solomon ran and finished badly and was never really transformed by God's grace. Make sure you "run in such a way as to get the prize" (1 Cor 9:24).