

### Table 5: Comparison between the Torah of the King (Deut. 17:14–20) and Solomon’s Reign (1 Kings 3–11)

When you have come into the land that YHWH your God is giving you, and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,” **you may indeed set over you a king whom YHWH your God will choose.** One of your own community you may set as king over you; you are not permitted to put a foreigner over you, who is not of your own community.

Even so, **he must not acquire many horses for himself, or return the people to Egypt in order to acquire more horses,** since YHWH has said to you, “You must never return that way again.”

And **he must not acquire many wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away . . .**

. . . **also silver and gold he must not acquire in great quantity for himself.**

When he has taken the throne of his kingdom, **he shall have a copy of *this torah* written for him** in the presence of the levitical priests. It shall remain with him and he shall read in it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear YHWH his God, diligently observing all the words of this law and these statutes

. . . neither exalting himself above other members of the community nor **turning aside** from the commandment, either to the right or to the left, so that he and his descendants may reign long over his kingdom in Israel.

1:11–14: Then Nathan said to Bathsheba, Solomon’s mother, “Have you not heard that Adonijah son of Haggith has become king and our lord David does not know it? Now therefore come, let me give you advice, so that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. **Go in at once to King David, and say to him, ‘Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying: Your son Solomon shall succeed me as king, and he shall sit on my throne? Why then is Adonijah king?’** Then while you are still there speaking with the king, I will come in after you and confirm your words.”

4:26: Solomon also had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

10:28: **Solomon’s import of horses was from Egypt and Kue,** and the king’s traders received them from Kue at a price.

11:3: **Among his wives were seven hundred princesses and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.**

10:21–22: **All King Solomon’s drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold;** none were of silver — it was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon. For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish used to come **bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.**

2:1–3: “When David’s time to die drew near, he charged his son Solomon, saying: ‘I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous, and keep the charge of YHWH your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is **written in the *torah* of Moses,** so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.’” (*torah* never again mentioned in relation to Solomon or in 1 Kings)

9:6–7: [YHWH said to Solomon] “If you **turn aside** from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go **and serve other gods and worship them,** then I will cut Israel off from the land that I have given them; and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight; and Israel will become a proverb and a taunt among all peoples.”

11:4: . . . when Solomon was old, **his wives turned away his heart after other gods . . .**