THE QUESTION

Was Solomon the promised Messiah, or did the prophecies point to Christ?

Asked by a THF member on October 20, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 7 numbered quotations · the 29 early Christian passages and 143 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/was-solomon-the-promised-messiah-or-did-the-prophecies-point-to-christ

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

No. Early writers say the promises about the son of David pointed past Solomon to Christ. Solomon's reign ended after forty years, and he was never called the Son of God. These passages never show Solomon asking God if he was the Messiah; Hippolytus recalls God giving him a wise heart.

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POINT 1 OF 6

Some applied the promises to Solomon

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius explains that because Solomon, David's son, built the temple, some readers took the prophecies about David's son to mean him. But he points out that Solomon got the kingdom while David was still alive, while the prophets spoke of a son raised up after David had died.

1 “Therefore they referred the predictions of the prophets to him. Now Solomon received the government of the kingdom from his father himself. But the prophets spoke of Him who was then born after David had slept with his fathers.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 13 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 26, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 6

Solomon's reign and temple did not last

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The promise spoke of a kingdom and a house that would last forever, and of a son of God. Lactantius says Solomon fits none of this: he reigned forty years, was called the son of David, not the Son of God, and his temple did not stand firm like the Church.

2 “Besides, the reign of Solomon was not everlasting, for he reigned forty years. In the next place, Solomon was never called the Son of God, but the son of David.”

later in the same passage

“And the house which he built was not firmly established, as the Church is, which is the true temple of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 13 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 26, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 3 OF 6

A royal psalm speaks of the everlasting King

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin Martyr says some read this royal psalm as being about Solomon because he was king. Justin answers that its words point to a King who rules forever, and that is Christ.

3 “When it says, ‘O God, give Your judgment to the king,’ you insist this psalm refers to Solomon because he was king, but the words clearly indicate the everlasting King, meaning Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 2, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 6

Solomon is not the King of glory

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin also takes another psalm of David, which some tied to Solomon bringing the ark into the temple. He says Solomon is not the Lord of hosts. The psalm fits Christ, who rose and went up into heaven as the King of glory.

4 “Therefore, it is shown that Solomon is not the Lord of hosts; but when our Christ rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, the rulers in heaven, under God’s appointment, are commanded to open the gates of heaven so that He, who is the King of glory, may enter and, having ascended, may sit at the right hand of the Father until He makes His enemies His footstool, as shown by another Psalm.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 3, page 5** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 5 OF 6

Solomon was wise and a picture of Christ

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Hippolytus reads the name Solomon as meaning peacemaker and sees in it a picture of Christ the Savior. He also recalls that God gave Solomon a wise and understanding heart. Nothing here shows Solomon claiming to be the Messiah.

5 “These, moreover, are the proverbs of Solomon, that is, the peacemaker, who in truth is Christ the Savior.”

later in the same passage

“For these are the words of that Solomon to whom the Lord said, "I will give you a wise and an understanding heart, so that there has been none like you upon the earth, and after you there shall not arise any like you," 1 Kings 3:12, and as follows in what is written of him.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 18, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 6

David's throne was promised to Jesus

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

In the Gospel account, the angel tells Mary that her son will receive the throne of David and reign without end. Jesus Himself asks how the Messiah can be David's son when David calls him Lord, a question that points to the Messiah being more than a son of David.

6 “The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”"

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 1 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 7, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

7 “Then how does David, in the Holy Spirit, call him Lord?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 35 (c. 150–180 AD) **Source 6, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages never show Solomon asking God, or himself, whether he was the Messiah.
- They do not say what Solomon personally believed about the coming Christ.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 29 early Christian passages and 143 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–29, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 30–83, in Bible order), then 89 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *29 passages from 9 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English; on point 6) “therefore, they were to say that Christ was the son of David, fearing and understanding the error of the wicked, he saith, “The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit at… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 2–4*

2 *Dialogue with Trypho* **Quote 3, page 3** “the Scriptures, I'll remind you of another psalm, inspired by the Holy Spirit and spoken to David, which you claim refers to Solomon, who was also your king. However… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “when the rulers of heaven saw Him of uncomely and dishonoured appearance, and inglorious, not recognising Him, they inquired, ‘Who is this King of glory?’ And the Holy Spirit, either… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 3) in His fate, and you would not have questioned me on this subject. I will repeat the words of David that I previously mentioned and ask you to understand them… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 5–7*

5 *Diatessaron* 35 (on point 6) “Messiah comes from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Messiah comes from the seed of David, and from Bethlehem, the village of David?" So there was a division… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Diatessaron* 35 **Quote 7, page 4** “son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Diatessaron* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** “the Lord God will give him the throne of 34 David his father: and he shall rule over the house of Jacob for ever… [continues online] **read ›**

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Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 8–11*

8 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 2) “Solomon was a servant, but Christ is indeed the Son of God… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 6) “the Gospel of God, which He promised through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born from the lineage of David according to the flesh, who… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 6) proclaiming joy to them: “For a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, is born today in the house of David.” Then a multitude of the heavenly host appeared, praising God… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English; on point 6) “as He was the son of David, so was He also the Lord of David… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 12–17*

12 *Against Marcion* 8 (on point 3) “are those who are born again in Him. But it will be said here that this Psalm has reference to Solomon. However, will not those parts of the Psalm which… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Marcion* 20 (on point 1) “his seed, which, he says, "shall proceed out of your bowels." Now, if you explain this simply as Solomon, you will send me into laughter. For then David will plainly… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *An Answer to the Jews* 14 (1885 English; on point 1) “will you be able to vindicate, as the subject of that prediction, rather the son of David, Solomon, than Christ, God's Son… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Marcion* 15 (1885 English; on point 5) “Kings 3:5-13 But with respect to this man, since, when a choice was left to him, he preferred asking for what he knew to be well-pleasing to… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Marcion* 36 (on point 6) known. Why then did the blind man, on hearing that He was passing by, cry out, "Jesus, You Son of David, have mercy on me"? Luke 18:38 unless He… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Against Praxeas* 28 Christ from the mystery of His anointing. Would you in the same way say that Jesus was the Son of God, and at the same time think that Vestitus was… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 18–19*

18 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 **Quote 5, page 4** “that there has been none like you upon the earth, and after you there shall not arise any like you," 1 Kings 3:12, and as follows in what is… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Against the Jews* 1 (on point 2) “again, listen to this, O Jew! None of the righteous or prophets called himself the Son of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 20–24*

20 *Against Celsus* 56 (1885 English) “observe that the prophet, speaking familiarly to God, whose throne is for ever and ever, and a sceptre of righteousness the sceptre of His kingdom, says that this God has… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 5) “Solomon, on the other hand, saw God in a dream, and in a dream received wisdom. For the reality of the vision was kept for Him who said, “Behold, a… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Against Celsus* 45 (on point 5) “too, because he asked for wisdom, received it… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Commentary on John* 1 (1885 English; on point 3) “Psalm, though addressed to Solomon, is evidently a prophecy of Christ, and it is worth while to ask to what king the prophecy desires judgment to be given by God… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (on point 5) and which was also that wisdom of God before the advent of the Saviour, by means of which Solomon obtained his wisdom, and in reference to which the language of… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 25*

25 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 11 (1885 English; on point 6) “in the same manner as He is as man the Son of David, so as God He is proclaimed David's Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

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Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 26–29*

26 *Divine Institutes* 13 **Quotes 1, 2, page 2** "he reigned forty years. In the next place, Solomon was never called the Son of God, but the son of David… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Divine Institutes* 8 (1885 English) "Solomon and his father David were most powerful kings, and also prophets, may perhaps be known even to those who have not applied themselves to the sacred writings… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Divine Institutes* 13 "have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Divine Institutes* 6 (1885 English; on point 5) "He is the very Son of God, who by that most wise King Solomon, full of divine inspiration, spoke these things which we have added: , God founded me in the… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *54 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

30 **Ruth 4:22** and Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David. **read ›**

31 **1 Samuel 10:1** Then Samuel took the flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head, and kissed him and said to him, "Has not the Lord anointed you to be ruler over his people, over Israel? And you shall rule among the people of the Lord, and you shall save them from the hand of their enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the Lord has anointed you to be ruler over his inheritance: **read ›**

32 **2 Samuel 12:24** Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her; and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the Lord loved him, **read ›**

33 **2 Samuel 22:51** He makes great the salvation of his king, and shows mercy to his Anointed, to David, and to his seed forever. And these are the last words of David: **read ›**

34 **2 Samuel 23:1** Faithful is David the son of Jesse, and faithful the man whom the Lord raised up to be the anointed of the God of Jacob, and beautiful are the psalms of Israel. **read ›**

35 **1 Kings 1:34** There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' **read ›**

36 **1 Kings 1:37** As the Lord has been with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon, and may he make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David." **read ›**

37 **1 Kings 1:39** Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And he blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" **read ›**

38 **1 Kings 1:52** And Solomon said, "If he proves a man of valor, not one of his hairs shall fall to the ground; but if evil is found in him, he shall die." **read ›**

39 **1 Kings 1:53** So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar; and he came and bowed down to King Solomon. And Solomon said to him, "Go to your house." **read ›**

40 **1 Kings 2:12** Then Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established. **read ›**

41 **1 Kings 2:17** He said to her, "Please speak to King Solomon, for he will not turn his face from you; and he will give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife." **read ›**

42 **1 Kings 2:22** King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "And why do you ask Abishag for Adonijah? Ask the kingdom for him also, for he is my elder brother, and he has Abiathar the priest, and he has Joab the son of Zeruiah, the commander-in-chief, as his companion." **read ›**

43 **1 Kings 2:23** And King Solomon swore by the Lord, saying, "May God do so to me and more also, for Adonijah has spoken this word against his own life. **read ›**

44 **1 Kings 2:45** But King Solomon is blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever." **read ›**

45 **1 Kings 3:5** The Lord appeared to Solomon in his sleep by night, and the Lord said to Solomon, "Make a request for yourself." **read ›**

46 **1 Kings 3:6** And Solomon said, "You have shown great mercy to your slave David my father, as he walked before you in truth and in righteousness and in uprightness of heart with you; and you have kept for him this great mercy, to set his son on his throne, as it is this day. **read ›**

47 **1 Kings 3:10** And it was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. **read ›**

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48 **1 Kings 3:11** And the Lord said to him, “Because you have asked this thing of me, and have not asked for yourself many days, and have not asked for wealth, nor asked for the lives of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to hear judgment, **read ›**

49 **1 Kings 9:2** the Lord appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared at Gibeon. **read ›**

50 **1 Kings 10:1** Now the queen of Sheba heard of the name of Solomon and of the name of the Lord, and she came to test him with riddles. **read ›**

51 **1 Kings 10:3** And Solomon answered her all her words; there was not a word passed over by the king that he did not answer her. **read ›**

52 **1 Kings 12:6** And the king told the matter to the elders who had stood before Solomon his father while he was still alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?” **read ›**

53 **1 Chronicles 3:5** And these were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon, four by Bathsheba the daughter of Ammiel; **read ›**

54 **1 Chronicles 22:5** And David said, “Solomon my son is a tender boy, and the house to be built for the Lord is to be exceedingly great, for a name and for glory in all the earth; I will make preparation for it.” So David made abundant preparation before his death. **read ›**

55 **1 Chronicles 22:6** And he called Solomon his son and commanded him to build the house for the Lord God of Israel. **read ›**

56 **1 Chronicles 22:7** And David said to Solomon, “My child, it was in my soul to build a house to the name of the Lord God. **read ›**

57 **1 Chronicles 22:9** Behold, a son shall be born to you; he shall be a man of rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name is Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. **read ›**

58 **1 Chronicles 23:1** And David was old and full of days, and he made Solomon his son king over Israel in his place. **read ›**

59 **1 Chronicles 28:5** And of all my sons — for the Lord has given me many sons — he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. **read ›**

60 **1 Chronicles 28:6** And God said to me, ‘Solomon your son shall build my house and my court, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be a father to him. **read ›**

61 **1 Chronicles 29:1** Then King David said to all the assembly, “Solomon my son, whom the Lord has chosen, is young and tender, and the work is great; for it is not for a man, but for the Lord God. **read ›**

62 **1 Chronicles 29:19** And give Solomon my son a good heart to do your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, and to bring to completion the building of your house.” **read ›**

63 **1 Chronicles 29:23** So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and he was approved, and all Israel obeyed him. **read ›**

64 **1 Chronicles 29:25** And the Lord made Solomon very great over all Israel, and gave him royal glory such as had not been on any king before him. **read ›**

65 **1 Chronicles 29:26** And David the son of Jesse reigned over Israel **read ›**

66 **2 Chronicles 1:1** Solomon the son of David grew strong in his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great. **read ›**

67 **2 Chronicles 1:7** That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask what I shall give you.” **read ›**

68 **2 Chronicles 1:8** And Solomon said to God, “You have shown great mercy to David my father, and you have made me king in his place. **read ›**

69 **2 Chronicles 1:11** And God said to Solomon, “Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for wealth of riches, or glory, or the life of your adversaries, and you have not asked for many days, but have asked for yourself wisdom and understanding, so that you may judge my people over whom I have made you king, **read ›**

70 **2 Chronicles 7:12** Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said to him, “I have heard your prayer, and I have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. **read ›**

71 **2 Chronicles 9:23** And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom that God had put in his heart. **read ›**

72 **Nehemiah 12:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

73 **Psalms 72:1** For Solomon. O God, give your judgment to the king, and your righteousness to the king’s son, (Septuagint Psalm 71:1 (Psalm 72:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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74 **Jeremiah 9:1** Who will give water to my head, and a fountain of tears to my eyes? And I will weep for this my people day and night, for the wounded of the daughter of my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 8:23 (Jeremiah 9:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

75 **Daniel 1:1** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 46:13** Samuel, beloved by his Lord, a prophet of the Lord, established a kingdom and anointed rulers over his people. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Sirach 47:13** Solomon reigned in days of peace, to whom God gave rest all around, that he might set up a house in his name and prepare a sanctuary forever. **read ›**

78 **1 Maccabees 2:57** David, for his mercy, inherited the throne of a kingdom forever and ever. **read ›**

79 **Matthew 1:6** Jesse became the father of King David. David the king became the father of Solomon by the woman who had been Uriah's wife. **read ›**

80 **Matthew 22:42** saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "Of David." **read ›**

81 **Matthew 22:43** He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call him Lord, saying, **read ›**

82 **Luke 1:32** He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God shall give him the throne of his father David, **read ›**

83 **Luke 3:31** the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *89 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 3:19

Deuteronomy 22:8 · 32:32

2 Samuel 5:8 · 7:12

1 Kings 3:12 · 4:29

1 Chronicles 28:3

Psalms 24:7 · 39:7 · 45:6 · 110:1

Isaiah 10:33

Jeremiah 17:7

Matthew 5:17 · 5:45 · 12:42 · 13:17 · 19:17 · 22:44

Luke 6:24 · 6:25 · 6:26 · 10:22 · 14:12 · 14:28 · 16:25 · 18:1 · 18:7 · 18:10 · 18:18 · 18:19 · 18:21 · 18:38 · 18:39 · 18:40 · 18:42

John 1:1 · 1:3 · 2:19 · 2:22 · 3:14 · 4:2 · 4:34 · 5:14 · 5:43 · 6:62 · 10:34 · 13:12 · 14:27 · 14:28 · 18:37 · 20:17

Acts 2:36 · 4:27

Romans 1:8 · 8:11 · 12:17 · 12:21

1 Corinthians 1:5 · 2:6 · 2:7 · 3:16 · 11:33 · 15:12 · 15:21 · 15:25

2 Corinthians 4:14 · 5:1

Galatians 1:1 · 4:4 · 5:6

Ephesians 1:12 · 1:17 · 4:26 · 5:23

Colossians 1:16 · 2:9 · 2:11 · 3:1

1 Timothy 3:16

Titus 3:2

2 Peter 1:4

1 John 1:3 · 2:22 · 4:2 · 4:16

Revelation 15:2 · 22:10

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Was Solomon the promised Messiah, or did the prophecies point to Christ?” on October 20, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY