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SOLOMON, BELOVED OF GOD

Solomon was born for a special purpose. He was to be the builder of the temple of God so that God's presence could dwell among His chosen people in the most Holy Place. The temple would be a place of worship unto God. It was for this reason that he would be called the "beloved of God."

Nehemiah 13:26 says, *"...Solomon King of Israel...who was beloved of his God..."* It further says, *"...among many nations there was no king like him...beloved of his God..."*

God had a special destiny reserved for Solomon. David was a "man after God's own heart." He wanted to build God a temple, but God would not allow it because of his blood guiltiness. God would allow his son to build it.

When that son of David was born to Bathsheba, David named him Solomon. However, that was not the name that God gave to that son. God sent word via the prophet Nathan that the son's name was Jedidiah. This name was fore ordained by God. The meaning of Jedidiah is *"Beloved of the Lord."* Solomon was beloved above others because he was to prepare the place of habitation for God among His people.

Solomon was a foreshadow of Jesus Christ. They were both called "beloved." They both prepared a habitation in which God would dwell; Solomon's was the "Holy of Holies" within a physical temple, while Jesus' was within the heart of His people's physical (body) temple.

"Solomon's temple" was temporary. Man's "temple" is now God's permanent habitation.