

The Organization Chart of Solomon's Administration

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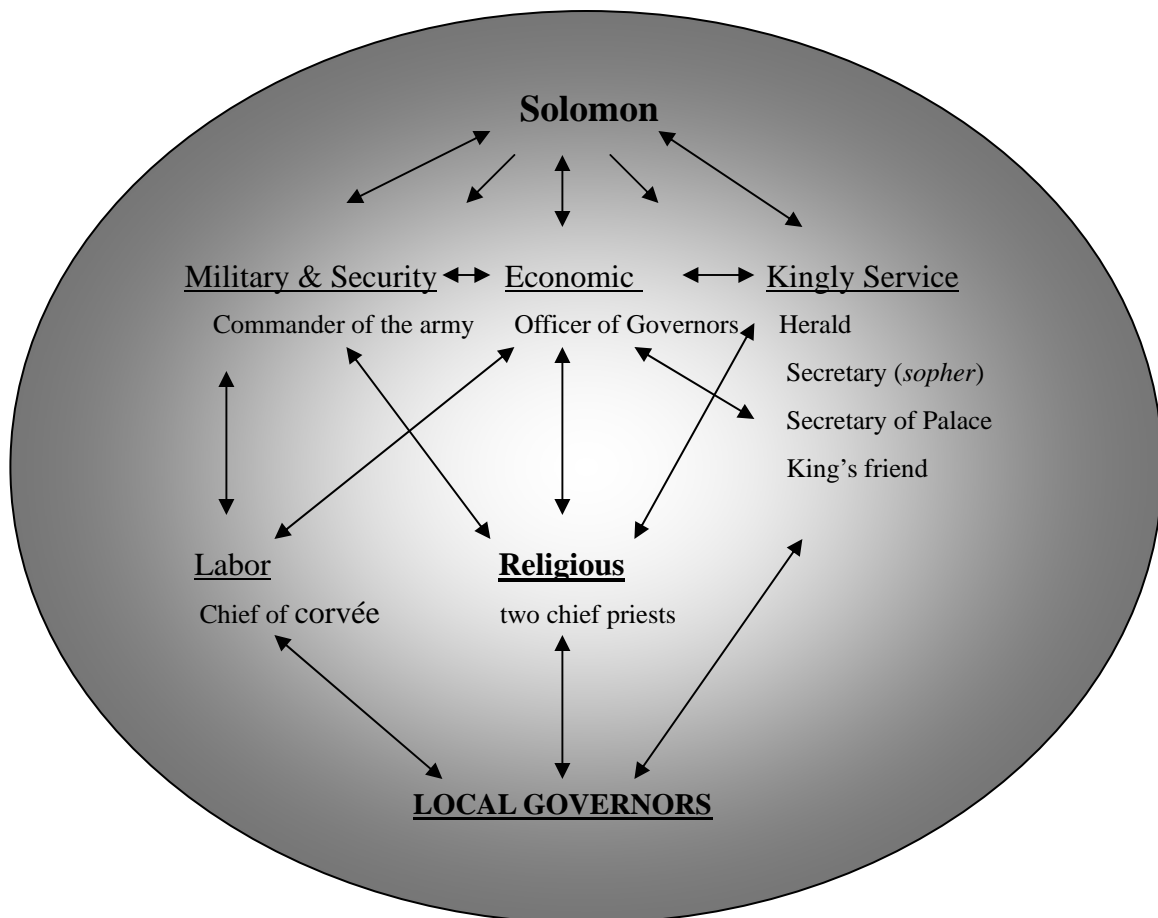
Discussion about Solomon's administration has to begin with Saul and David because the idea of kingship started with Saul and became full-blown with David in terms of expansion of the land and of planting of royal ideology. Saul barely existed through the cooperation of local tribes and performed his role as a military leader to protect them but Saul never ruled as a real king. Of course, he did not have time and capacity to set up administration because his role was not to rule as a king but to perform a military commander role; otherwise local tribes have still power in their own administration. David, though successful militarily and politically, made efforts in unifying the whole land (northern and southern tribes) and expanded the territory as a military leader. So he substantially established his own cabinet as found in 2 Samuel 8:16-18. Because of this legacy of David, Solomon's job has to do with maintaining his big land (Bright, 194). To do this, Solomon needed systematic administration. The functionary area of this administration includes all kinds of administrative work found in 2 Samuel 8:16-18, 2 Samuel 20:23-26, and 1 Kings 4:1-6. The former two places show David's cabinet officers and the last gives Solomon's list of the cabinet officers. Taking these lists together, we can draw up Solomon's organization chart of his administration as follows: the commander of the army, the herald (*mazkir*), the two chief priests, the secretary (*sopher*), the chief of corvée (*mas*), an officer over the governors (*al hannissabim*), the secretary of the palace (*al habbayit*), and a king's friend. With these posts Solomon's administration covers virtually all functions of work as shown in neighboring empires.

Now one by one I will examine this cabinet position in the socio-political context

of Solomon's time (Bright 202-204). First, the commander of the army has responsibility in recruiting, training, moving soldiers to wars, so his primary job has to do with security of the land. This security concerns not just about external threats like foreign invasions but also about internal conflicts that might challenge the royal power. Now about the royal herald, his job includes the work of royal communication to the king, duties of protocol work, and accompanying the king on journeys (De Vaux, 132). Third, the two chief priests oversee religious matters and their primary function in the cabinet has to do with providing religious legitimation of the royal power through the temple rituals. Also in times of war they should tell the people the necessity of the holy war supported by God. The presence of the chief priests tells of the fact that religion and the state worked together. Fourth, the duties of the chief of *corvée* include mobilizing of the labor forces required to do Solomon's aggressively various building projects (1 Kings 5:27; 9:15). This post should work with local governors because the labor force should come out of the whole provinces. Fifth, the officer over the governors does a job related with taxation of the local provinces. Sixth, the secretary (*sopher*) mainly concerns the "official correspondence, both external and internal" and his job includes record keeping of taxes, tolls, and tribute (Bright, 203). So under him many scribes work to assume a huge task of job as such. Smith's study hints the importance of scribal functions in ancient world as he relates the Assyrian king's support for scribal acts to the effective royal administration (Smith, 28). Seventh, the secretary of the palace works in managing the royal property and the logistics of the palace. Lastly, the king's friend concerns the matters of the king's private life, providing a personal counseling service to the king. (Bright, 203).

The organizational chart of Solomon's administration covers the work of internal and external matters. Solomon's time needed to maintain the wealth and the land due to

David's expansion, strengthening the state business. What about power relations among cabinet members and their relationship to the king? I think basically the power relationship depends on the case of urgency and contingency and that each function of the cabinet officers should work together likely in the form of cabinet meeting where members theoretically share power. Based on this concluding assumption, I will draw up the chart of Solomon's administration as follows.



Note: The big circle represents a kind of cabinet circle within which various administration businesses would be conducted. Rather complexity of the various relationships must be understood case by case as mentioned already. One noticeable thing from this chart has to do with heavily loaded function of kingly service, which demonstrates the king's power on the top.

Works Cited

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