

1st Kings Chapter 3

- As Solomon ascended to the throne, the people of Israel soon learned that he was not another David. He was a scholar, not a soldier, a man more interested in erecting buildings than fighting.
 - David enjoyed the simple life of a shepherd; Solomon chose to live in luxury. David served the people, Solomon used the people. When David died, the people mourned. When Solomon died, the people begged his successor, King Rehoboam to lighten the heavy yoke his father had put on their necks.
 - David was recognized as an ideal leader, and his example is the standard by which every king of Judah was measured. However, nobody pointed to Solomon as a good example of a Godly ruler.
 - One commentator said: “King Solomon was among the wisest fools who ever wore a crown.”
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V: 1 Solomon made “affinity” with Pharaoh king of Egypt, he made a relationship through marriage, or as the NKJV made a “treaty” with Pharaoh.

- Solomon takes the first of many wives, taking Pharaoh’s daughter establishing a treaty between Israel and Egypt. The idea being that if they are related through marriage they won’t be prone to attacking one another.
- Solomon will take many wives in this manner to maintain peace with his neighbors which seems to discount God’s protection and violates the Law with regard to not multiplying wives.

Speaking of kings, Moses records:

Deuteronomy 17:17-20 ¹⁷Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. ¹⁸And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: ¹⁹And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: ²⁰That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.”

- Solomon started off not adhering to these things. There is an emphasis on copying and reading the Word of God – that will cause the reader to fear God and keep his heart being turned away from God – that he may prolong his days.
- Pharaoh’s Daughter’s tomb: Kidron Valley

V: 2 The people were worshipping and sacrificing in the “high places” – because there was no other place, Shiloh and the Tabernacle had been destroyed. The Tabernacle had been re-constructed and placed at Gibeon – the great high place, but the Ark of the Lord was in Jerusalem.

- These were probably the same “high places” or “groves” used by the Canaanites and converted for use in worshipping the Lord.

Deuteronomy 12:1-5 (Turn to / read)

- God specifies how and where they were to worship him, it’s not our free choice; there are those today who think they can just do their own thing, but not according to the Bible.

Hebrews 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some it; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

- At this time God seems to excuse this behavior because they were worshipping Him, but later they would rebel against God and worship on the high places to pagan gods.

V: 3 Solomon started off good, he loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David – that is how we express our love to God, we walk in his statutes.

Jesus said:

John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

- Only / except he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places
- Solomon loved God; he wasn’t perfect, I’m glad that God isn’t looking for perfection in us or those He uses.

V: 4-5 Gibeon is about 8 miles N/W of Jerusalem at the modern city of El Jib. (Map) Gibeon was where the Tabernacle was located at that time.

- Solomon was worshipping God offering sacrifices, and God appeared to him in a dream.
- Now God is saying what do you want?
- I’ve pondered this question many times; my flesh is always first to answer...

V: 6-9 Solomon gives testimony to God mercy and favor with his father David, and Solomon admits his shortcomings and his need for God’s wisdom – “this is all overwhelming and I don’t know how to handle it.”

- Essentially: Give me wisdom and discernment.
- We can do the same thing: the beginning of wisdom is to recognize our need for it.

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

V: 10-11 Solomon’s answer pleased God.

- He didn’t ask for long life and riches or for the lives of his enemies – he asked for wisdom and discernment.

God the Father gives us His Son:

Colossians 2:3 “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

2 Peter 1:3 God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: “... hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

V: 12 God gives Solomon a wise and understanding heart – like no other.

- The wisdom of Solomon is legendary; imagine trying to write a book of proverbs. If we did it we would only expose our foolishness – yet the proverbs of Solomon are the wisdom of the ages.

V: 13 God always gives us more than we ask for!

Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

- God delights to bless His children, to give them good gifts:

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

- Solomon’s prayer, his request was not for himself, but for the kingdom; so often my prayers are selfish – Lord I need this or that as opposed to asking for the kingdom: Lord expand your kingdom, allow your name to be exalted, be glorified!

Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

V: 14-15 God repeats his promise to David to Solomon – “*if*”...

1. If you will walk in my ways.

2. If you will keep My statutes and My commandments – like your father David.
3. Then... I will lengthen your days:

Deuteronomy 5:1 “And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.”

- Solomon set himself up for failure with his foreign wives who would turn him away from the ways of the Lord.
- Solomon began to reign when he was 16, reigning for 40 years until his death. Solomon died at around 56 years of age, doesn't appear that his days were lengthened.
- Solomon wakes up, realizing it's a dream and returns to Jerusalem and offers sacrifices to the Lord.
 4. Burnt offerings: offering of consecration.
 5. Peace offerings: fellowship, Koinonia with the Lord; they shared a meal together – and with all the servants, subjects of Solomon.

V: 16-22 First, Solomon is given wisdom, then an opportunity to exercise it.

- Two women in one house, both harlots, no husbands or fathers to get involved – both giving birth to children – no one else in the house, meaning no other suspects or witnesses.
- Solomon hears from both women – it's one word against the other, very difficult to discern.

V: 23 In repeating the facts of the case Solomon is considering their testimony and situation, and coming to a conclusion.

V: 24-25 Solomon commands to bring a sword:

- Like Solomon, if we're counseling, giving advice, or sharing – our first word should be “bring me a sword”, what does God's Word have to say?

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- Bring me a sword and divide the child in two.

V: 26-27 The real mother of the child cried out not to do so but to give the child to the other woman, the real mother valued the life of the child even if she couldn't have it.

- The other woman didn't care and would just as soon have the child killed because it wasn't hers – thus the truth was revealed.

James 3:17 “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

V: 28 All Israel heard about it, they feared the king because they saw the wisdom of God working in him.

- God had shown himself real on Solomon's and David's behalf.
- The wisdom of Solomon, God's wisdom working in him.

Story: During the British occupation of Israel – many of the soldiers marveled at the wisdom of the Jewish people, taking note of their intelligence and speculating among themselves what the secret of their intelligence might be.

- One day, one of the British soldiers at the railroad station saw say this old Jewish man eating fish heads. Having heard somewhere that fish heads were “brain food”, he thought he'd found the secret to their intelligence, that's what makes them so smart.
- The soldier approached the old man and asked if he could buy one of his fish heads for a schilling. The old man said “oh, no no no”. He said I'll give you 5 schillings for one of your fish heads.... The old man said “no”. The soldier said “I'll give you a pound for one of your fish heads....” So the old man gave the soldier one of his fish heads.
- The soldier began to eat it, and it was horrible, he began to spit it out. The soldier said “you cheated me! That fish head wasn't worth a pound!” The old man said “yada, yada, yada, already it is working!”

1 Kings Chapter 4

V: 1-6 God established the reign of Solomon and he appointed his cabinet and advisors.

V: 2 Azariah = “Yahweh has helped”

V: 3 Elihoreph = “My God Repays”
Ahiah = “Brother of Yahu” / “Brother of Jehovah”
Jehosaphat = “Yahweh Judged”

V: 4 Benaiah = “Yahweh has Built”
Zadok = “Righteous” Abbreviated form of Zedekiah = “The Lord is Righteous”
Abiathar = “My Father is Great”

V: 5 Azariah = “Yahweh / Jehovah has helped”
Zabud = “Endowed” / “Given”

V: 6 Ahishar = “My Brother Sang” /
Adoniram = “My Lord / The Lord is Exalted”

- Adoniram, also known as Adoram was later stoned to death by the people when Rehoboam became king. (1 Kings 12:18-20)

V: 7-19 Listing of “Princes” / “Governors” / districts (1-12 see map)

V: 20-21 Judah & Israel prospered the picture of peace.

- Solomon reigned, from the Euphrates to Egypt, and was paid tribute all the days of his life.

V: 22-25 Solomon’s provision, for his table – including those who ate at his table in other places, the garrisons etc.

- One days supply:
- Dominion: from Tipsah; a city on the River Euphrates to Azzah / Gaza.
- Solomon had peace on all sides; Israel dwelt in safety – every man under his vine or under his fig tree – from Dan / North to Beersheba / South all the days of Solomon.
- This is a prophetic peek at the Millennium, when there will be peace and safety.

Micah 4:4 “But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.”

V: 26-28 40K horses for his chariots, 12K cavalry soldiers.

- They all ate at king Solomon’s table.

V: 29-34 God gave Solomon wisdom exceedingly.

- Solomon’s wisdom exceeded that of the East, and Egypt, smarter than well known smart guys.
- Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs.
- He spoke about trees, and animals, and nature – using them as examples.
- People came from all around to hear his wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

- Often times knowledge puff up, we can become proud – but God gave Solomon “largeness of heart” to go along with his wisdom.
- God’s invitation still stands: Like Solomon, we can ask God and he will answer.

Jeremiah 33:3 “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.”