

The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3, 11

- David is the 3rd King of Israel
- Solomon is the 2nd son born to David & Bathsheba
- David is old and cannot get warm – he knows his life is nearing the end
- Solomon has big shoes to fill as he leads God’s people
- Thought Solomon might have begun reign as early as 15 years old

1. Wisdom – 1 Kings 3:1-15

- 1 – Pharaoh’s daughter – which Pharaoh unknown, probably last of 21st Dynasty or beginning of 22nd.
- Unlawful to marry unless she changed her religion.
- 3 – Lev. 17:9 – worshipping Jehovah at the high places of Canaan sinful
- Used the excuse of not having a place to worship as a crutch
- 5 – God appeared to Solomon in a dream (Joseph, Pharaoh, Pilate’s wife, Peter, ...)
- Appearance in a dream does not equal approval from God
- God asked something simple yet complex
- 6 – Solomon recounts God’s faithfulness
- 7 – claims as if a child; no knowledge
- 8 – referencing the promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:3, 15:5, etc.)
- 9 – Solomon asks for understanding
- 10 – God was pleased in Solomon’s actions
- 11 – God commends Solomon
- 12 – Solomon given a wise heart, different
- 13 – also given what he didn’t ask for
- 14 – caveat: follow after the Lord
- 15 – Solomon offered thankful sacrifices

2. Application – 1 Kings 3:16-28

- 16 – scene: acting as a Judge. 2 harlots

- 17-18 – both live together; both give birth
- 19 – other woman's child died
- 20 – other woman swapped the children
- 21 – woman confused, starts to think about it
- 22 – case of "she said, she said"
- 23 – Solomon recounts story told
- 24 – Solomon asks for his sword
- 25 – solution: cut the child in half: ½ to each
- 26 – woman (her son) cannot stand that thought – offers to give child to other woman
- 27 – give the child to its mother
- 28 – all Israel heard and feared Solomon because God is with him!
- Early indications show that Solomon will be a great, faithful king. Sadly, history reveals otherwise.

3. Misapplication – 1 Kings 11:1-13

- 1 – Solomon's problem: he loved too many
- 2 – political marriages with forbidden people
- Ex. 34:16 and Deut. 7:34 forbid these intermarriages; Solomon had no respect for God's Law
- 3 – 700 wives, 300 concubines > turned heart
- Little boy in Sunday School: "learned of the 700 wives and 300 porcupines!"
- "There is no need to doubt the accuracy of these numbers." "The N.Y. Times, Sept. 11, 1939, carried the story of Ibn Saud, king of Arabia, who had 250 wives and 51 children." "Chosroes II had between 3,000, 12,000 concubines; and the Sultan Mulay Ismail is reported to have had 2,000 wives, and 800 concubines"! Coffman
- 4 – old: wives turned him away from God
- 5 – Solomon went after idols instead of God!
- Ashtoreth – same as Astarte (Ishtar in Mesopotamia); female consort of Baal; model for Greek Aphrodite; goddess of fertility and erotic love > no wonder Solomon went after her!
- Milcom: similar to Molech, the terrible fire-god they sacrificed infants on. Pr. 6:16-19. No record of Solomon offering these sacrifices, but he worshipped that god, possibly built temple(s).
- Chemosh – sun-god, worshipped by the Moabites as their king & god of war; also god of Ammonites in Judges 11:24; twin brother of Molech, equally as cruel

- “Mount before Jerusalem” – east of the city, Mount of Olives, called then Mount of Offense, Mount of Corruption, Mount of Scandal
- 6 – Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord
- 7 – Solomon built worship places
- 8 – Solomon did this for all ‘strange’ wives
- 9 – God is not pleased at all
- 10 – blatantly went against God’s command
- 11 – the kingdom will be taken from him
- 12 – not from you but your son (for David)
- 13 – not take the whole kingdom > Rehoboam > Divided Kingdom

Lessons:

1. Ask God for what you need not want.
2. Don’t try to take things that are not yours.
3. Don’t let **ANYONE or ANYTHING** take your heart from God.

Solomon’s own advice: Ecclesiastes

1:1 – everything is vanity

12:13 – man’s job: Fear God, Keep Commands

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