

## **E29. Solomon's Wisdom**

*1 Kings 1:28-40; 3:3-28; 4:29-34*

### **Memory Verse**

*"...Because that is what you have asked for....I will give you a wise and understanding heart...."*

*--1 Kings 3:11-12 (NIRV)*

### **Bible Lesson**

**Message:** *God will give us wisdom when we ask for it.*

#### **1 Kings 1:28-53 ~ David Makes Solomon King**

King David said, "Tell Bathsheba to come in." So she came and stood in front of the king. Then the king took an oath and made a promise. He said, "The Lord has saved me from all of my troubles. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that I will do today what I promised in the name of the Lord. He is the God of Israel. I promised you that your son Solomon would be king after me. He will sit on my throne in my place."

Then Bathsheba bowed low with her face toward the ground. She got down on her knees in front of the king. She said, "King David, you are my master. May you live forever!"

King David said, "Tell the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan to come in. Also tell Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, to come." So they came to the king. He said to them, "Take my officials with you. Put my son Solomon on my own mule. Take him down to the Gihon spring. Have the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan anoint him as king over Israel there. Blow a trumpet. Shout, 'May King Solomon live a long time!' <sup>35</sup> Then come back up to the city with him. Have him sit on my throne. He will rule in my place. I've appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah."

Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, answered the king. "Amen!" he said. "May the Lord your God make it come true. You are my king and master. The Lord has been with you. May he also be with Solomon. King David, may the Lord make Solomon's kingdom even greater than yours!"

So the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan left the palace. Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, went with them. So did the Kerethites and Pelethites. They put Solomon on King David's mule. And they brought him down to the Gihon spring. The priest Zadok had gotten an animal horn that was filled with olive oil. He had taken it from the sacred tent. He anointed Solomon with the oil. The trumpet was blown. All of the people shouted, "May King Solomon live a long time!"

Then they went up toward the city. Solomon was leading the way. The people were playing flutes. They were filled with great joy. The ground shook because of all of the noise.

#### **1 Kings 3:3-28**

Solomon showed his love for the Lord. He did it by obeying the laws his father David had taught him. But Solomon offered sacrifices at the high places. He also burned incense there.

King Solomon went to the city of Gibeon to offer sacrifices. That's where the most important high place was. He offered 1,000 burnt offerings on the altar that was there. The Lord appeared to Solomon at Gibeon. He spoke to him in a dream during the night. God said, "Ask for anything you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "You have been very kind to my father David, your servant. That's because he was faithful to you. He did what was right. His heart was honest. And you have continued to be very kind to him. You have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. Lord my God, you have now made me king. You have put me in the place of my father David. But I'm only a little child. I don't know how to carry out my duties. I'm here among the people you have chosen. They are a great nation. They are more than anyone can count. So give me a heart that understands. Then I can rule over your people. I can tell the difference between what is right and what is wrong. Who can possibly rule over this great nation of yours?"

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for that. So God said to him, "You have not asked to live for a long time. You have not asked to be wealthy. You have not even asked to have your enemies killed. Instead, you have asked for understanding. You want to do what is right and fair when you judge people. Because that is what you have asked for, I will give it to you. I will give you a wise and understanding heart. So here is what will be true of you. There has never been anyone like you. And there never will be. And that is not all. I will give you what you have not asked for. I will give you riches and honor. As long as you live, no other king will be as great as you are. Live the way I want you to. Obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did. Then I will let you live for a long time."

Solomon woke up. He realized he had been dreaming. He returned to Jerusalem. He stood in front of the ark of the Lord's covenant. He sacrificed burnt offerings and friendship offerings. Then he gave a big dinner for all of his officials.

### ***Solomon Judges Wisely***

Two women came to the king. They stood in front of him. One of them said, "My master, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me.<sup>18</sup> Three days after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone. There wasn't anyone in the house but the two of us. During the night this woman's baby died. It happened because she was lying on top of him. So she got up in the middle of the night. She took my son from my side while I was asleep. She put him with her. Then she put her dead son with me. The next morning, I got up to feed my son, but he was dead! I looked at him closely in the morning light. And I saw that it wasn't my baby."

The other woman said, "No! The living baby is my son. The dead one belongs to you." But the first woman said, "No! The dead baby is yours. The living one belongs to me." So they argued in front of the king.

The king said, "One of you says, 'My son is alive. Your son is dead.' The other one says, 'No! Your son is dead. Mine is alive.' " He continued, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was brought to him. Then he gave an order. He said, "Cut the living child in two. Give half to one woman and half to the other."

The woman whose son was alive was filled with deep concern for her son. She said to the king, "My master, please give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other woman said, "Neither one of us will have him. Cut him in two!"

Then the king made his decision. He said, "Give the living baby to the first woman. Don't kill him. She's his mother."

All of the people of Israel heard about the decision the king had given. That gave them great respect for him. They saw that God had given him wisdom. They knew that Solomon would do what was right and fair when he judged people.

### ***God Makes Solomon Very Wise***

God made Solomon very wise. His understanding couldn't even be measured. It was like the sand on the seashore. People can't measure that either. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all of the people of the east. It was greater than all of the wisdom of Egypt. Solomon was wiser than any other man. He spoke 3,000 proverbs. He wrote 1,005 songs. He explained all about plants. He knew everything about them, from the cedar



trees in Lebanon to the hyssop plants that grow out of walls. He taught about animals and birds. He also taught about reptiles and fish.

The kings of all of the world's nations heard about how wise Solomon was. So they sent their people to listen to him.

## **Talk About It**

*In today's story, Solomon had a great amount of wisdom when he responded to the two women and their claims about that little baby. Talk with your child about the word "wisdom." Make sure that he/she fully understands what that word means. Read together in your Bible [James 3: 13 and 17](#) to find out more about wisdom. Remind your child that wisdom is one of those qualities that we all need to have more of in our lives. God will give us wisdom each day if we remember ask Him for it. Talk about it.*

