

I Kings - Lesson 03

I Kings Chapter 3

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

E-mail: mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com

Memory verses for this week: *Jas 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. Jas 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.*

Introduction: Last week we discussed King David's final requests just prior to his death. He asks Solomon to perform justice in three instances. Solomon did as his father requested, and put to death Joab and Shimei. He also blessed the sons of faithful servant Barzillai. We closed with the final attempt to take the throne by Adonijah which in the end cost him his life.

This week we learn about some of the great wisdom that Solomon had. We know he was a young man when he became King. It is doubtful that he was over 20 years of age. He was faced with a tremendous responsibility. He succeeded in many ways, but he also had some tragic and notable failures.

I. SOLOMON'S WEDDING

1Ki 3:1 And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about.

Solomon sought out the Pharaoh (king of Egypt) and sought to take his daughter for marriage. The word "affinity" means, "to become a son-in-law." There could be many reasons for this, both from a political and military standpoint. Having other nations aligned with you as allies sometimes gives you greater strength. This shows the power and extent of his reign that Pharaoh would consent to the marriage. Egypt and Israel had not been on the same page for a long time. There came results due to this marriage. First Solomon broke the spirit if not the letter of the command of God. The danger of such a marriage is pointed out by Moses in Exodus.

Exodus 34:16 And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take

unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

Sometimes we as Christians think we can do what we think is better without regard to God's laws. But we are no match for the knowledge and wisdom of God. His commandments and laws are all for our own good. We are told that there are no 'grievous commandments' meaning God has given them all for our good.

We find that this disobedience by Solomon caused him to worship other gods.

Nehemiah 13:26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.

He did not bring her into Zion at that time. If she had accepted Israel's God like Ruth, then things might have turned out differently.

Ruth 1:16 ...thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.

Rarely can we marry a non-Christian and have that work out where the lost member gets saved and serve the Lord. Sometimes it happens, but I think more do not get saved than those that do. No doubt this may have contributed to Solomon's disobedience, particularly in his latter years.

II. SOLOMON'S WORSHIP

1Ki 3:2 Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days.

1Ki 3:3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

1Ki 3:4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.

Solomon's motives were based on love, but his judgment was not always in the light of God's truth. It says in verse 2 that the people offered sacrifices in the highest places. The high places were an ancient custom.

Jdg 6:25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it:

Jdg 6:26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

Jdg 13:16 And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD.

Jdg 13:17 And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour?

Jdg 13:18 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?

Jdg 13:19 So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on.

Jdg 13:20 For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.

Jdg 13:21 But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD.

Jdg 13:22 And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.

Jdg 13:23 But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these.

This seems to have been more of an excuse than a reason. The place to make the sacrifices at the time was at Gibeon. Even though he was following a custom, high places were not what God commanded.

Deuteronomy 12:11-14 Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD: Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest: But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

Solomon did go to Gibeon and made an offering of the highest numbers as recorded in Verse 4. The Brazen altar and the Tabernacle were at Gibeon.

2Ch 1:3 So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.

2Ch 1:4 But the ark of God had David brought up from Kirjathjearim to the place which David had prepared for it: for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem.

2Ch 1:5 Moreover the brasen altar, that Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD: and Solomon and the congregation sought unto it.

2Ch 1:6 And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it.

John Gill said this about the offering there at Gibeon.

1 Kings 3:4

And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there,.... About four or five miles from Jerusalem; See Gill on [1Ki 2:28](#);

for that *was* the great high place; not that the place itself might be higher than others that were used; but here were the tabernacle of Moses, and the altar; so that it was a more dignified place, and more sacred because of them:

a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar; the brazen altar of burnt offerings there; not at one time, but on several days successively; though Jarchi says on one day; and which was a prodigious number, never was known the like, unless at the dedication of the temple, [1Ki 8:63](#).

III. SOLOMON'S WISDOM

1Ki 3:5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

1Ki 3:6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

Truly wisdom is a divine gift from God. The bible is clear about the beginning of wisdom.

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

God and the Word of God are the true sources of wisdom.

Daniel 2:20-22 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

You can learn much from worldly books and colleges, but none compares with

the perfect quality of wisdom that comes from God.

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

The way to true wisdom is clear. We must seek it from above.

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

The personification of wisdom comes in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

The way to obtain wisdom is to seek it from God. We should pray and we should study the Word of God every day.

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.

The wisdom God provides is for every believer.

Matthew 7:24-25 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Verse 6 points out that wisdom is asked of God in prayer. Solomon acknowledges God's past blessings. We should daily stop and reflect on all the things God has done for us. Just the one previous day will bless you, but when you look back over a lifetime it will really make you appreciate how God orders our steps and provides for us.

1Ki 3:7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

1Ki 3:8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

1Ki 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

This is a remarkable request and showed maturity for a young man. God give

us the humility and knowledge to know we are nothing without his guiding hand. Solomon acknowledges his youth and weakness, and acknowledges the great task before him. In Verse 8 he speaks of how great a number of people he has to rule, and he asks for understanding and wisdom to perform his mission.

2 Chronicles 1:10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?

1Ki 3:10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

1Ki 3:11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

1Ki 3:12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

1Ki 3:13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

1Ki 3:14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

1Ki 3:15 And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

God appreciates Solomon's prayer and gives an answer to his prayer. It is very noteworthy to realize that Solomon could have asked for anything, but he shows humility and seeks after the right things. When we put God first, he always provides our needs. This request of wisdom is granted. And because of what he asked, he received more than he asked. In prayers as in giving, if our heart is right and we seek right, the Lord will bless us so much more than we ask.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

In verse 14, we find a conditional promise. God tells Solomon that if he will keep the statutes and commandments as his father David did, then he would lengthen his life. Solomon died at 60 years, after reigning for 40 years as king. We have no evidence that he repented of his sins before he died. Those strange gods that his wives got him involved with hurt his relationship with the Lord. Solomon acknowledges the gift, when he came to Jerusalem and stood before the Ark of the Covenant.

IV. SOLOMON'S WISE JUDGMENT

1Ki 3:16 Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

1Ki 3:17 And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

1Ki 3:18 And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman

was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.

1Ki 3:19 And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.

1Ki 3:20 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

1Ki 3:21 And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.

1Ki 3:22 And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king.

It doesn't take long for Solomon's wisdom to be tried. A most difficult case is brought before him to Judge. Ordinary tribunal had likely failed. Verse 16 says that they were both harlots and both witnesses were of questionable character. No Godly person would even consider stealing a baby that belonged to another woman. To deceive in such a manner would be unthinkable. Each tells her side and it appears their testimony was evenly balanced. One baby has died, and both claim that the baby still alive is their own. Solomon makes his judgment based on maternal affection.

Matthew Henry pointed out that both babies may have come from fornication as no husband is mentioned by either woman in this account.

What anxiety is caused by little children, how uncertain their lives are, and to how many dangers they are continually exposed. The age of infancy is the valley of the shadow of death; and the lamp of life, when first lighted, is easily blown out. It is a wonder of mercy that so few perish in the perils of nursing. 2. How much better it was in those times with children born in fornication than commonly it is now. harlots then loved their children, nursed them, and were loth to part with them; whereas now they are often sent to a distance, abandoned, or killed. But thus is was foretold that *in the last days perilous times should come*, when people should be without natural affection, [2Ti 3:1](#), [2Ti 3:3](#).

1Ki 3:23 Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.

1Ki 3:24 And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

1Ki 3:25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

This took some real wisdom to come to the truth. I believe that what he decided to do was given to him by the Lord. The king's plan seemed sudden and severe as he tells them to bring him a sword and to divide the child in half. Each woman would be given a half of the baby. The king's plan reveals a deep insight into human nature. Only the true mother would give up the child in order to save it's life.

1Ki 3:26 Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her

bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.
1Ki 3:27 Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.
1Ki 3:28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

Than nation of Israel hears of Solomon's judgment and this won the confidence of the people. God used this to rally the people to follow after King Solomon. Our own judgment on certain matters will either help our testimony before others or cause harm to our testimony. Solomon's judgment foreshadows the coming judgment of God. There is coming a day of judgment for the life and works of the believer.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

And like the believer, there is also coming a day of judgment for the lost.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Sept. 2013.

KJV Bible Studies are prepared and distributed free of charge. The lessons may not be sold without consent. If you have questions or wish to discuss the lessons, or possibly need help in finding Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior, contact us at the email below.

Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net
E-mail: mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com

Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.