

I Kings Lesson 04 *

I Kings Chapter 4

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

E-mail: mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com

Memory verses for this week: *Pro 18:8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*

Introduction: Last week we saw the wedding between Solomon and the daughter of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Solomon did go to the proper place in Gibeah and offered a large burnt offering to the Lord. At the end of the chapter, we closed with one of the great judgments Solomon made in regards to the one living baby living among the two harlots that both claimed that the living child was theirs.

I. THE EXHIBITION OF SOLOMON'S WISDOM

1Ki 4:1 So king Solomon was king over all Israel.

1Ki 4:2 And these were the princes which he had; Azariah the son of Zadok the priest,

Thus Solomon began a wise and prosperous reign. He began showing wisdom as we studied in last weeks lesson when he asked God to give him the great wisdom he needed to guide the nation of Israel. We continue studying about that this week as we begin with the practical exhibition of his wisdom.

1Ki 4:3 Elihoreph and Ahiah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder.

1Ki 4:4 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the host: and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests:

1Ki 4:5 And Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers: and Zabud the son of Nathan was principal officer, and the king's friend:

1Ki 4:6 And Ahishar was over the household: and Adoniram the son of Abda was over the tribute.

Verses two through six give us some of the names of princes that ruled with Solomon. Their names fit the character of his kingdom and foreshadow the coming kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Azariah is mentioned. His name means "Jehovah is help". Azariah was the grandson of Zadok. He is called his son, but that relationship is often called a son, which was permissible according to their usage.

1 Chronicles 6:8-9 "And Ahitub begat Zadok, and Zadok begat Ahimaaz, And Ahimaaz begat Azariah, and Azariah begat Johanan,"

In verse 3, the prince Elihoreph's name means "my God is reward" while Ahiah means "Brother of Jehovah". Jehoshaphat means "Jehovah judges" while Benaiah means "built up by Jehovah". Prince Zadok's name meant "gift bestowed" and Abiathar meant "brother of ability". Abiathar the priest when Solomon came to the throne but was deposed. The prince named Adoniram in verse 6 meant "Lord of heights".

These various princes held different jobs and had various responsibilities.

Certainly it is understood that Solomon was king over all Israel. Under him there was Azariah, the priest. In this case it refers to secular office rather than a religious office. He seems to have been the chief of state or prime minister.

In verse 3, Elihoreph and Ahiah, the sons of Shisha, were the scribes. These were in a high level office, perhaps secretaries of state. The recorder or historiographer or chronicler was Jehoshaphat. Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada was over the host. He was the commander of the armed forces.

The priests were Abiathar and Zadok, who was the High Priest. Azariah, the son of Nathan was over the officers. They were over the prefects or provincial governors. Zabud, the son of Nathan was Solomon's principal officer and the king's friend. He was his privy counselor and special aid and close friend and adviser. Ahishar was the one over the household. He was steward or chamberlain of the palace. And the tax collector was Adoniram, the son of Abda who was over the tribute. He was the one in charge of levy, whether it be money or labor.

1Ki 4:7 And Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, which provided victuals for the king and his household: each man his month in a year made provision.

1Ki 4:8 And these are their names: The son of Hur, in mount Ephraim:

1Ki 4:9 The son of Dekar, in Makaz, and in Shaalbim, and Bethshemesh, and Elonbethhanan:

1Ki 4:10 The son of Hesed, in Aruboth; to him pertained Sochoh, and all the land of Hopher:

1Ki 4:11 The son of Abinadab, in all the region of Dor; which had Taphath the daughter of Solomon to wife:

1Ki 4:12 Baana the son of Ahilud; to him pertained Taanach and Megiddo, and all Bethshean, which is by Zartanah beneath Jezreel, from Bethshean to Abelmeholah, even unto the place that is beyond Jokneam:

1Ki 4:13 The son of Geber, in Ramothgilead; to him pertained the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead; to him also pertained the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, threescore great cities with walls and brasen bars:

1Ki 4:14 Ahinadab the son of Iddo had Mahanaim:

1Ki 4:15 Ahimaaz was in Naphtali; he also took Basmath the daughter of Solomon to wife:

1Ki 4:16 Baanah the son of Hushai was in Asher and in Aloth:

1Ki 4:17 Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar:

1Ki 4:18 Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin:

1Ki 4:19 Geber the son of Uri was in the country of Gilead, in the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan; and he was the only officer which was in the land.

We have a large number of names listed in verses 7 through 19. These officers were in charge of the commissary. Each man was chosen from various areas of the kingdom, but not from each tribe. They were responsible for bringing provisions for the king and his household. Note verse 11 and verse 15 speak of Solomon's daughters, so this passage must have been written some years later, not at the beginning of Solomon's reign.

II. The Extent and Glory of Solomon's Kingdom

1Ki 4:20 Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry.

1Ki 4:21 And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

There was a vast population of Israel who were drinking and making merry. This was a fulfillment made to Abraham years ago there in the plains of Jordan.

Genesis 13:16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Genesis 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Genesis 22:17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.

No doubt God blessed the nation of Israel during Solomon's reign. The prosperity and happiness of the people is evident by Verse 20. The land ruled by Solomon was from Egypt to the Euphrates River. During Solomon's reign, the kingdom covered more territory than any other of the kings. While this is a great kingdom, it is but a dim picture of the coming reign of Christ.

Zechariah 14:8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Psalms 2:7-8 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

1Ki 4:22 And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour, and threescore measures of meal,

1Ki 4:23 Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts, and roebucks, and fallowdeer, and fatted fowl.

Verses 22 and 23 tell of the provisions per day. Solomon was greatly blessed.

1Ki 4:24 For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphshah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him.

1Ki 4:25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

Only God can give a nation peace. It is also true of us personally in our souls. Here, Israel's safety and prosperity were greatly restricted after Solomon's death. When he that is greater than Solomon comes to reign, there will be peace, safety and prosperity.

Jeremiah 23:6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jeremiah 33:16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.

Zechariah 3:10 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.

1Ki 4:26 And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

1Ki 4:27 And those officers provided victual for king Solomon, and for all that came unto king Solomon's table, every man in his month: they lacked nothing.

1Ki 4:28 Barley also and straw for the horses and dromedaries brought they unto the place where the officers were, every man according to his charge.

I doubt there were many with armies that could match the powerful armies of Solomon. Verse 26 says he had 40,000 stalls for his horses and 12,000 horsemen.

An interesting note is that Solomon was forbidden by God from having these horses.

Deuteronomy 17:16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

While we marvel at his wisdom, in this case Solomon should have been trusting in God. The arm of flesh will fail you, but God will never fail.

Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

III. THE EXTENT OF SOLOMON'S WISDOM

1Ki 4:29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

1Ki 4:30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

Solomon had great fame for his wisdom. But the source of his wisdom came from God as we studied last week. Because he asked for wisdom, God greatly blessed the king.

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.

We are instructed in God's word on how to obtain wisdom.

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 excellence of Solomon's wisdom was far reaching. None were greater. There were many men of wisdom in Babylon, Persia, Arabia and Egypt, but Solomon excelled them all. We know in our earlier studies that while in Egypt as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses learned much wisdom.

Acts 7:22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

1Ki 4:31 For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.

1Ki 4:32 And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

1Ki 4:33 And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

Solomon was wiser than some notable people of his day. He made great use of his wisdom. In spiritual matters, no one in the Bible wrote as many proverbs and songs as did King Solomon. They are preserved in the books of Proverbs,

Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. In matters of creation, Solomon was an expert in the matter of animals and vegetation.

1Ki 4:34 And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

Solomon become renown due to his wisdom and it had a drawing power to the other kings of the earth. His remarkable God given wisdom drew them to come and hear.

2 Chronicles 9:23 And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.

The Queen of Sheba came to learn about King Solomon.

1Ki 10:1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.

1Ki 10:2 And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

1Ki 10:3 And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not.

1Ki 10:4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,

1Ki 10:5 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.

1Ki 10:6 And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom.

1Ki 10:7 Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.

1Ki 10:8 Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

1Ki 10:9 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.

IV. SOLOMON AS A TYPE OF CHRIST

Solomon was a type of Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge-hidden for our use, for "He is made unto us wisdom."

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.

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

Solomon took a Gentile bride. So will Christ as the church will be his bride.

Princes and officers ruled with him and served him. So shall we rule with Christ and serve Him.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Solomon reigned in peace. We know Christ shall be the Prince of Peace.

Zec 9:10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Micah 4:3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Solomon's kingdom was from river to river whereas Christ's kingdom shall be from sea to sea. Solomon's reign was a time of prosperity. There will be even greater prosperity in Christ's reign.

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.

* 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.

