

Ladies Bible Class-Handout 1 Kings 3

Facts about Solomon

Parents: David and Bathsheba

Born: 1035 (1 Chronicles 22:5, 29:1); another source 1010 BCE

10th son of David

Nathan was his teacher. Nathan called him Jedidah (beloved of the Lord) 2 Sam. 12:24-25

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him;²⁵ and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

Became king around 15 or 16-18 years

1 Chronicles 22:5- David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore, I will make preparations for it." So, David made extensive preparations before his death.

1 Chron. 29:1-When King David said to the whole assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God.

Purging of opponents: Adonijah (older brother), Joab (commander of David's army)

Limited historical facts that Solomon and his reign existed; based on Jewish tradition and books of the Bible attributed to him-Ecclesiastes, Proverbs and Song of Songs; poor historical evidence due to both political and religious conflicts in the area

Solomon is known for his reign:

- Wisdom
- Wealth- little archaeological evidence of his wealth (d/t difficulty digging in area where there have been centuries of religious and political unrest
- Wives (700) and concubine (300) (1 Kings 11); only one wife has a name-Naamah (Ammonite princess), mother of Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:21-31) who was a bad king which led to a rebellion and splitting of Israel; Jeroboam (he fled to Egypt when Solomon tried to kill him and returned after Solomon died) who will rule the 10 northern tribes (later in 1 Kings 11-15)
- Peaceful reign
- Golden Age of Israel

Later in life-Solomon fell away from God and worshiped the idols of his wives. This led to the splitting of the kingdom but only after his death.

Died 931 BCE at 80 years (60 years according to the Concordia Self-Study Bible)

1. Read 1 Kings 3: 1-5

a. Who did Solomon marry?

b. Was this union in accordance with God's commands?

Read Deuteronomy 7: 3-4 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, ⁴for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.

c. Why do you suppose Solomon married a foreigner?

Other alliances with Hiram, King of Tyre, large web of alliances allowing him to control the trade routes coming out of Edom Arabia, India, Africa, and Judea-cemented with "marriages"

d. Summarized in **1 Kings 2: 46** is the establishment of Solomon on the throne.

⁴⁶ Then the king gave the order to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck Shimei down and he died. The kingdom was now established in Solomon's hands.

e. In what way do **verses 1 & 2** foreshadow both burdens and blessing during Solomon's reign?

f. In **verses 3-5** Solomon offer thanks to God. Was this a problem? Why or why not?

Think about the last dream you can remember. Can you share with us what it was? Was it happy, scary, sad? Has anyone ever come to you in your dreams? Did you believe your dream when you woke up?

2. Read 1 Kings 3: 5-15

a. Where did Solomon go? What happened here?

Who else did God come to in a dream or in other forms?

Read Matt. 1: 20^{But} *after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

Read Mat 2: 12¹² *And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

Matt 2:22 *But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee*

Read Acts 8:26 *Now*^m *an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south*⁴ *to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place.*

b. What did Solomon ask for? Why do you suppose he asked for that?

c. What were the bonus gifts God gave him?

d. Reread **verse 13**

Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.

What promise does God make to us here as well?

Read Luke 12:31³¹ *But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*

e. What did he do immediately after his dream?

f. From this section Solomon demonstrates wisdom in asking for wisdom. Why do you think he asked for wisdom instead of other things like riches, etc

g. How would you describe your “wisdom”? What areas of life does your wisdom excel in?

3. Read 1 Kings 3: 16-28

- a. What were the qualities that Solomon was testing the women?
- b. How would you judge Solomon's actions-cruel, uncaring, unhuman?
- c. Do you think he would have killed the child if the mother hadn't spoken up?
- d. How would you expect a case like this be settled today?
- e. What different ideas does your group hold about the power of government.
- f. How do you pursue wisdom?
- g. What was the toughest decision in your life, in the last year or in the last week? How did you come to a decision? What were the criteria for making the decision? Did you consult with others? Other thought about decision making and using wisdom in doing so.

4. Application

- a. How does God come to us today? Read
- b. Where do we find our wisdom?

God's Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit

1 Cor. 2: 6-16

Read verse 13 *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.*

Read James 1: 5 *If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him*

b. What promise do we have that was given to Solomon?

Read John 16:23 *In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

Read Matthew 6:33 *Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, all these things will be given to you as well.*

Solomon prayed for practical gifts to help him lead the children of Israel. We should pray for wisdom and guidance in, and other blessings came

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/solomon/>

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/king-solomon-his-kingdom/>

<https://kidadl.com/facts/facts-about-king-solomon-of-israel-the-wisest-man-of-the-ancient-world>

<https://www.worldhistory.org/solomon/>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/who-was-naamah-wife-of-solomon-mother-of-rehoboam.html>

Serendipity Bible

Concordia Self-Study Bible

Wolfgramm, A.J. (1994). Kings. MO: Concordia Publishing House.