

1 Kings 3:1-28 **Solomon requested Wisdom / Two Women – Dead Child**

Solomon Married Pharaoh's Daughter as seal of a treaty

¹ Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his own house, and the house of the Lord, and the wall all around Jerusalem.

Sacrificing at the High Places

² Meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the Lord until those days.

³ And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.

⁴ Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

Solomon Requests Wisdom (2 Chron 1:2-13)

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

⁶ And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

⁷ Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. ⁹ Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

¹⁰ The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹ Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, ¹² behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.

¹³ And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.

¹⁴ So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Solomon's Wise Judgment

16 Now two women who were harlots came to the king, and stood before him. 17 And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house. 18 Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we were together; no one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house. 19 And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. 20 So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. 21 And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne."

22 Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king.

23 And the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'"

24 Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. 25 And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."

26 Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

27 So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."

28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

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Facts Revealed:

Solomon Married Pharaoh's Daughter as seal of a treaty [1 Kings 3:1]

✧ Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his own house, and the house of the Lord, and the wall all around Jerusalem.

✧ Solomon sealed many treaties with foreign kingdoms by marriage to the king's daughter.

[1 Kings 11:1-8]

✧ Apparently the treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt was the first.

Sacrificing at High Places [1 Kings 3:2-4]

✧ Meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the Lord until those days. [1 Kings 3:2]

✧ God had commanded the people to sacrifice on altars of earth or unhewn stone at the places where He has recorded His Name. [Exodus 20:22-25]

✧ Before the Temple was built, the people sacrificed on the high places.

✧ Even to the point of Samuel when he anointed Saul to be king of Israel, Samuel made the sacrifice and ate on the high place. [1 Samuel 9:12-19]

✧ Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, **except** that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places. [1 Kings 3:3]

- ✧ The exception that Solomon "sacrificed and burned incense at the high places," indicates that the practice was not in accordance with the will of God or in keeping with the example of worship by David who is held up as the example of a righteous king who always pleased God, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. [1 Kings 15:5]
- ✧ The pagan nations God appointed for destruction worshipped on the high places which Yahweh had designated to be demolished. [Numbers 33:52, Deuteronomy 12:2, 33:29]
- ✧ Balaam practiced sorcery on the high places of Baal. [Numbers 22:41, 24:1]
- ✧ Yahweh Eloheykm (The Lord Your God) said as punishment for the rebellion of the Children of Israel, that He would destroy Israel's high places and incense altars. [Leviticus 26:30]
- ✧ God had commanded Israel to worship and sacrifice to Him in the places where the Lord Himself set His name, (locations of the Tabernacle).
- ✧ The Tabernacle was set up at Shiloh by Joshua [Joshua 18:1], and was still there at the time of Samuel and Eli. [1 Samuel 1:1-3]
- ✧ After it was captured by the Philistines and returned, the Ark of God was in the house of Abinadab at Kirjath Jearim until David brought it to the Tabernacle he set up for it in Jerusalem. [1 Samuel 6:20-21, 2 Samuel 6:1-17]
- ✧ The Tabernacle in Jerusalem would have been the proper place for Solomon to offer his sacrifices.
- ✧ Now king Solomon went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was **the great high place**: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. [1 Kings 3:4]

Solomon Requests Wisdom [1 Kings 3:5-15] (2 Chron 1:2-13)

- ✧ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" [1 Kings 3:5]
 - ✧ When the Lord gives people a choice, it is for the purpose of testing that person.
- ✧ **6** And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. [1 Kings 3:6]
 - ✧ Solomon acknowledged that the mercy of God was closely connected to the life of David as he had set an example of walking in truth, righteousness, and integrity of heart before God.
 - ✧ Because David loved God and remained upright in heart living in faith trusting God in all things, the Lord had honored David by setting his son on the throne and had promised to establish David's throne forever. [2 Samuel 7:12-16]
- ✧ Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore **give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil**. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" [1 Kings 3:7-9]
 - ✧ Solomon's request pertained to judging the people of Israel with discernment.
 - ✧ The Proverbs Solomon wrote demonstrate this earthly discernment.
- ✧ The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him: **"Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone**

like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.

And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.

So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." [1 Kings 3:10-14]

- ✧ The Lord granted Solomon his request and gave him a heart to discern justice on this earth.
- ✧ Beyond all that, the Lord gave Solomon riches and exalted honor among the nations.
- ✧ The great abundance became a test to see if Solomon would remain true to Yehowah with all his wisdom and advantages.
- ✧ Up front, the Lord placed the condition of the test before Solomon and indicated that continued blessing for the promise of an enduring throne was dependant upon Solomon's continued obedience to all the Statutes, and Commandments given through Moses.
- ✧ With all his wisdom, Solomon was not wise enough to continue in obedience to the end as David his father had done.
- ✧ Solomon allowed his foreign wives to lead him into idolatry in his old age. "For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David." [1 Kings 11:4] NKJV
- ✧ We may know what is right, but we need the commitment to persevere to the end. [Matthew 10:22, Mark 13:13]
- ✧ Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants. [1 Kings 3:15]
 - ✧ This time the location was right, but more was needed.
 - ✧ Solomon needed to remember the words of Samuel to king Saul. "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." [1 Samuel 15:22-23]

Solomon's Wise Judgment [1 Kings 3:16-28]

- ✧ The case of the two women, the dead child and the living child, called for discernment to identify the true mother of the living child. This became a signature case in which Solomon demonstrated his approach to discerning truth. [1 Kings 3:16-27]
 - ✧ And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him **to administer justice**. [1 Kings 3:28]