

## 1 Kings 4-5 - Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

- Last week God established Solomon's throne and given him supernatural wealth and wisdom because he asked for the latter.
- As such, we now see that Solomon appoints his cabinet and his administration, which at first read may seem inconsequential.
- However, as we're about to see this is actually another demonstration of Solomon's supernatural wisdom, in the way he does it.

4:1 So King Solomon was king over all Israel. 2 And these were his officials: Azariah the son of Zadok, the priest; 3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder; 4 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, over the army; Zadok and Abiathar, the priests; 5 Azariah the son of Nathan, over the officers; Zabud the son of Nathan, a priest and the king's friend; 6 Ahishar, over the household; and Adoniram the son of Abda, over the labor force. 7 And Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household; each one made provision for one month of the year.

- I find this interesting because to do what Solomon does here is extremely complicated and next to impossible absent wisdom.
- By that I mean, this is brilliant in the sense that he is able to organize everything in such a way that it would run very smoothly.
- Verse seven is a good example of this where we're told that he assigned twelve governors to provide his food for each month.

- One has noted that what Solomon does here is outside the proverbial box, as it were, in that, these twelve weren't the tribes.
- In other words, whenever you see the number 12 it's usually in the context of the 12 tribes of Israel, which is not the case here.
- The point being is that often time's wisdom would have us to do something other than the way it has always been done before.

- There's something else here that I would like to point out before we move on and it has to do with the wisdom of his leadership.
- Each of these twelve governors were responsible for only one month, instead of have one governor overseeing all 12 months.
- To me, this speaks of Solomon's leadership style being one that wasn't oppressive, such that, one wouldn't be overwhelmed.

8 These are their names: Ben-Hur, in the mountains of Ephraim; 9 Ben-Deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh, and Elon Beth Hanan; 10 Ben-Hesed, in Arubboth; to him belonged Sochoh and all the land of Hepher; 11 Ben-Abinadab, in all the regions of Dor; he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as wife; 12 Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth Shean, which is beside Zaretan below Jezreel, from Beth Shean to Abel Meholah, as far as the other side of Jokneam; 13 Ben-Geber, in Ramoth Gilead; to him belonged the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, in Gilead; to him also belonged the region of Argob in Bashan—sixty large cities with walls and bronze gate-bars; 14 Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim; 15 Ahimaaz, in Naphtali; he also took Basemath the daughter of Solomon as wife; 16 Baanah the son of Hushai, in Asher and Aloth; 17 Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar; 18 Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin; 19 Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, in the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan. He was the only governor who was in the land.

- Here we're introduced to these 12 Governors, which points to how the number twelve is a type of government in the scriptures.
- It's interesting to note the number 12 is used 187 times in scripture as a picture of perfect government, 12 tribes, disciples, etc.
- It's also interesting to note that of those 187 times the number 12 is mentioned in scripture 22 are in the book of Revelation.

20 Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing. 21 So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

- It's important to understand that Israel enjoyed this season of peace and prosperity because of the battles that David had won.
- The reason I point this out is because it speaks of Jesus, our greater than David winning the battle so we could enjoy peace.
- Namely, the peace of God that comes vis-à-vis peace with God, whenever one comes to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

22 Now Solomon's provision for one day was thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal, 23 ten fatted oxen, twenty oxen from the pastures, and one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl. 24 For he had dominion over all the region on this side of the River from Tiphshah even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River; and he had peace on every side all around him.

- One commentator has estimated this much food could feed up to 35,000 people, which is roughly the population of Kaneohe.
- Just the logistics of all this would be very complex, let alone the sheer volume of food being prepared for Solomon's household.
- Again, this is yet another example of the supernatural wealth that God had given to Solomon, when he had asked for wisdom.

25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon. 26 Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen. 27 And these governors, each man in his month, provided food for King Solomon and for all who came to King Solomon's table. There was no lack in their supply. 28 They also brought barley and straw to the proper place, for the horses and steeds, each man according to his charge.

- The expression used here; "each man under his vine and his fig tree," was a proverb of sorts describing peace and prosperity.
- This because, king David had achieved it as a mighty warrior prior. However, we now begin to see a problem coming from it.
- More specifically, God forbid the multiplying of horses, which Solomon has began doing because Israel would trust that instead.

Deuteronomy 17:16a But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses...

29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. 30 Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all men—than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. 32 He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. 33 Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. 34 And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

- I suppose it should come as no surprise Solomon's fame would spread throughout the earth because of Solomon's wisdom.
- In other words, when all the nations of the earth had heard of Solomon's unprecedented wisdom, they would come to hear it.
- Actually, this is exactly what God promised to Israel if they would obey the voice of the Lord and observe His commandments.

Deuteronomy 28:1 (NKJV) — 1 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

Deuteronomy 28:10 (NKJV) — 10 Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

5:1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, because he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always loved David.

- Here we're told that Hiram, who was the king of Tyre, which is modern day Lebanon heard about Solomon being anointed king.
- Because of his love for David, he sends his servants to Solomon knowing as David's son, he was the one to build the temple.
- As such, Hiram will give Solomon the cedars of Lebanon, which is a strong insect proof wood that's good for use in buildings.

Noting that Hiram is an abbreviation of Ahiram one wrote that, "Archaeologists have discovered a royal sarcophagus in Byblos of Tyre dated about 1200 B.C. inscribed with the king's name, 'Ahiram.' Apparently it belonged to the man in this passage."

2 Then Solomon sent to Hiram, saying: 3 You know how my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which were fought against him on every side, until the LORD put his foes under the soles of his feet.

- The detail we have here would seem to indicate that David had told Hiram why he himself could not build a house for the Lord.
- It seems David, in his wisdom, had made a friend and an ally in Hiram and that Hiram understood the spiritual side of all this.
- So much so that God would use this king of Tyre in the building of the temple, now that Solomon has been anointed as king.

4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence. 5 And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name." 6 Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and my servants will be with your servants, and I will pay you wages for your servants according to whatever you say. For you know there is none among us who has skill to cut timber like the Sidonians.

- There's another detail here that can easily be missed at first and it has to do with the temple being built in the name of the Lord.
- The significance of this is that the pagan temples were built for their gods, whereas this temple was in the name of their God.

Of this one commentator wrote, "It is to be 'an house for the name of the LORD.' That is not the same as 'for the LORD.' Pagan temples might be intended by their builders for the actual residence of the god, but Solomon knew that the heaven of heavens could not contain Him, much less this house which he was about to build."

7 So it was, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, for He has given David a wise son over this great people! 8 Then Hiram sent to Solomon, saying: I have considered the message which you sent me, and I will do all you desire concerning the cedar and cypress logs. 9 My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon to the sea; I will float them in rafts by sea to the place you indicate to me, and will have them broken apart there; then you can take them away. And you shall fulfill my desire by giving food for my household. 10 Then Hiram gave Solomon cedar and cypress logs according to all his desire. 11 And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty kors of pressed oil. Thus Solomon gave to Hiram year by year. 12 So the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty together. 13 Then King Solomon raised up a labor force out of all Israel; and the labor force was thirty thousand men. 14 And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts: they were one month in Lebanon and two months at home; Adoniram was in charge of the labor force. 15 Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens, and eighty thousand who quarried stone in the mountains, 16 besides three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon's deputies, who supervised the people who labored in the work. 17 And the king commanded them to quarry large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation of the temple. 18 So Solomon's builders, Hiram's builders, and the Gebalites quarried them; and they prepared timber and stones to build the temple.

- Those of us who went to Israel saw these stones one of which measures 40 feet in length and weighs between 500-600 tons.