

1/30/11

1Kings 3-4

Solomon is sitting on the throne, his internal enemies and rivals have been eliminated, so the throne of Israel by the decree and hand of God.

Solomon now begins to rule, but he did so having earned nothing, all was given to him.

I would rather have one David to 1,000 Solomons, for Solomon had a half-heart towards God, while David had a whole heart.

David loved God for who He was, Solomon loved God for what He had given him!

3:1-28 **The early days of the reign of Solomon.**

3:1-3 The treaty Solomon made with Pharaoh.

- 1) The treaty was for political alliances to strengthen and the protect the nation of Israel, gaining trade routes and business ventures. vs. 1a
 - a) Egypt was the nation that had enslaved the people of God and from where God had delivered them.

b) Egypt at this point had more to benefit than Israel, but it would still guarantee a safe border in the south.

2) The marriage of Solomon to Pharaoh's daughter. vs. 1b

a) The prohibition for the King of Israel was clearly stated in the Law. Deut. 17:17

* Literally, "he made himself son-in-law to Pharaoh."

b) The king of Israel was not to multiply wives, lest his heart turn away or return to Egypt. Deut. 17:17a-b

c) The practice of marrying foreign women was not uncommon, but for those of Israel, it was only allowed if the woman abandoned her gods and idles and embraced Yahweh.

1)) There was Rahab the harlot married an Israelite, Salmon, who begot Boaz, making her the Great, Great, Great Grandmother of David. Ruth 4:21, Matt. 1:5

2)) There was Ruth the Moabites, who married Boaz and became the Great, Great Grandmother of King David. Ruth 4

3)) There was even a provision in the law allowing a man to marry a woman taken in the conquest of a

- war, with very specific details.
Deut. 21:10-14
- 3) The decision of Solomon to bring her to the city of David. vs. 1c-d
- a) She apparently resided in the original city of David, “Ophel” on the southern side on the eastern ridge of Jerusalem, in the Kidron Valley, sloping down to the Hinnom Valley and later built a palace for her. 1Kings 7:8, 9:24
- 1) Since there is not rebuke in the text, she must of given up her gods but she did not reside in the palace of David, due to the ark having been there. 2Chron. 8:11
- 2) Yet in the exercise of his liberty, Solomon began to sow the seeds of his flesh, which would only make greater demands on him, marrying many other foreign women and walk away from God.
- 3) She is distinguished from the others heathen he married. 1Kings 11:1-3
- b) The duration of her stay in the city of David is associated with three things.
- 1) The house of the Lord only took 7 years. 1Kings 6:38

- 2) Till Solomon finished building his own house, which took 13 years. 1Kings 7:1
- 3) The wall built all around Jerusalem for security.
- 3:2a** The people were sacrificing to Yahweh God in the high places. vs. 2a
- 1) There is a caution, a check if you will by the statement, “Meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places.”
- 2) The term of high places “bamah”, the locations of worship and the technical name for cultic a platform.
- 3) The pagan inhabitants and nations all around Israel worshipped their gods in the high places, the mountains and hills, but also in elevated places in the valleys.
- 4) The sacrifices were to Yahweh, but after the manner and at times in past locations of the pagans that could easily be confused for pagan worship.
- 3:2b** The reason being that there was no house built for the name of the LORD, Yahweh, until those days. vs. 2b
- 1) The statement is not an approval, but the explanation for the temporary practice of the people.

- a) And the material in the book of King has been compiled to enable us to see the little things that do not seem to be sin in themselves, but through time and progression lead to horrible sins.
 - b) The practice was even condoned after the temple by righteous kings. IKings 15:14, 22:43, 2Kings 12:3, 14:4, 15:4, 35
- 2) There was no need for that, for God had given strict instruction about their worship when they entered the land.
- a) They were suppose to bring their offerings before the Tabernacle, as they did at Shiloh, in the days of Eli and Samuel and later at Nob, until Saul killed all the priest. Lev. 17:1-10, 1Sam. 21
 - b) This was clearly laid out in Deut. 12:1-14

3:3 The reigning King, Solomon, followed and worshipped Yahweh. vs. 3

- 1) The passion of Solomon was God, he loved the LORD. vs. 3a
 - a) Solomon wisely chose the most important commandment, ever before God endowed him with wisdom.
 - 1)) To love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul,

and with all your strength. Deut. 6:4-5

- 2)) This is known as the “Shama” of Israel, which means to hear with understanding,
- b) Why would Solomon not love God.
 - 1)) God had chosen to name him Jedidiah, beloved of Yahweh. 2Sam. 12:25b
 - 2)) God had chosen him to be King.
 - 3)) God had chosen him to build the Temple.
- 2) The practical evidence of Solomon’s love for God is declared by “walking in the statutes of his father David.” vs. 3b
- a) The word for walking ‘yakak”, is used in a figurative way to indicate his literal obedience to God ‘s word.
 - b) In the statutes of his father David, indicates the prescribes ordinances that David obeyed, the word of God.
- 3) The personal check on Solomon was, “except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.” vs. 3c
- a) Again, we are told Solomon loved the Yahweh.
 - b) Solomon demonstrated his love for Yahweh by walking in the statutes of his father David.
 - c.) But one day he would be worshipping the pagan gods of his wives in the

high places, as they would turn his heart to other gods. 1Kings 11:4-8

3:4-9 The journey of Solomon to worship God. vs. 4-9

- 1) The location was at Gibeon. vs. 4
 - a) Gibeon “ib’own”, means “hill city” and was the great high place.
 - 1)) Located 6 miles north-west of Jerusalem. 2Chron. 1:2-13
 - 2)) Excavation in 1956 unearth Canaanite occupation, as early as 2800 B.C., followed by Israel’s occupation.
 - 3)) The tabernacle had been pitched at Gibeon and a tent at Jerusalem for the ark by David. 2Chron. 1:2-4
 - 4)) Zadok was the priest at Gibeon and Abiathar for Jerusalem, both were priest to David, until Abiathar was banished for siding with Adonijah. 2Sam. 20:25, 1Kings 2:27-28
 - b) The sacrifices were after the order of the Mosaic law.
 - 1)) He offered 1,000 burnt offerings on the alter, indicative of the important occasion, which represented total dedication and consecration to God.

2) All are found in Leviticus. Lev. 1-7

2) The revelation at Gibeon. vs. 5

- a) The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night. vs. 5a
 - 1)) Dreams are while you are sleeping, distinct from vision, while a person is awake, there would be a second time. 1Kings 9:1-9
 - 2)) God had used dreams and vision in the past, such as Joseph and Isaiah.
- b) The LORD spoke to Solomon, “Ask! What shall I give you?” vs. 5b-c
 - 1) God spoke to Adam and Eve.
 - 2) God spoke to Noah.
 - 3) God spoke to Abraham.
 - 4) God speaks to you and I through His word, very personally!
- 3) The petition at Gibeon. vs. 6
 - a) Solomon begins by declaring his gratitude to God. vs. 6
 - 1)) First for his Father David. vs. 6a-e
 - 2)) Second for himself. vs. 6f-e
 - b) Solomon confessed his inexperience to God to rule as King. vs. 7
 - 1) He acknowledge God had called him to be King. vs. 7a-c
 - 2) He humbly declared his inability to fulfill the office of King. vs. 7d-e

- * Jeremiah stated the same. Jer. 1:6
- c) Solomon acknowledge his privilege, as one of the people and his responsibility to the people. vs. 8
- 1)) He called himself, Your servant, he served God.
 - 2)) He saw the people as belonging to God, “Your people”.
- d) Solomon made his request of God, vs. 9
- 1)) The particular request was for the benefit of the people of God. vs. 9a
* Literally, a listening heart! The word is “shama”, the same as the great command to Israel. Deut. 6:4
 - 2)) The particular purpose regarded good and evil. vs. 9b
 - 3)) The particular overwhelmed condition. vs. 9c

10:10-15 The prayer of Solomon was answered.

- 1) The response of God was that the speech pleased the LORD. vs. 10
 - a) The word pleased “yatab”, means to be glad or joyful.
 - b) The reason being that the petition came of his own free-will, revealing his heart for God and the people.
- 2) The request of Solomon had been granted. vs. 11-13

- a) God commended Solomon. vs. 11
 - b) God honored Solomon. vs. 12
* The record of his wisdom. 1Kings 4:29-34, 10:1-25
 - c) God blessed Solomon. vs. 13
- 3) The condition of God to Solomon is stated. vs. 14
- a) Solomon did not continue to walk in the ways of God, keep His statutes, nor His commandments. vs. 14a-b
 - b) Solomon reign 40 years, if he began his reign at 20-25, he died at 60-65, he was not granted long life, due to his unfaithfulness.
 - 1) “Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.” 1Kings 11:6
 - 2) “So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.” 1Kings 11:9
- 4) The full awareness of God’s divine encounter. vs. 15
- a) The affirmation. vs. 15a-b
 - b) The celebration. vs. 15c-f
* The ark of the covenant was at Jerusalem, where David had brought it!

3:16-22 The case of two prostitutes brought before Solomon.

- 1) The two presented themselves before King Solomon. vs. 16
* The Law required justice for all the people and the prophet the Kings for failing to do so. Deut. 10:18, 27:19, Is. 1:17, 23, 9:17, Zec. 7:10, Mal. 3:5
- 2) The one woman presented the case to Solomon. vs. 17-18
- 3) The woman accused the other woman of her crime. vs 19-20
- 4) The shock that her child had been switched in the night. vs. 21
- 5) The second woman denied the accusation, claiming the living son was hers. vs. 22

3:23-28 The decision of the wise King revealed the wisdom of God.

- 1) Solomon repeated the claims of both women before all. vs. 23
 - a) Probably to see if they stood their ground.
 - b) Probably to give place for one to admit her lie.
- 2) Solomon gave his verdict that would reveal which woman was the true mother. vs. 24-25
 - a) His request. vs. 24
 - b) His command. vs. 25

- 3) Solomon knew the true mother, would gladly give up her child, rather than see him die, do he ordered the child to be cut in two. vs. 26-27
* Yearned “kamar”, means to grow hot and emotionally agitated!
- 4) Solomon was acknowledged by all Israel to be endowed with God’s wisdom. vs. 28

4:1-34 The administration and prosperity of the reign of Solomon.

- 4:1-6** The officials of the court of Solomon.
- 1) Solomon was chosen by God to rule over all of Israel. vs. 1
 - 2) Solomon appointed officers to govern along side him. vs. 2-6
 - a) Azariah was a priest, who was the son of Zadok, the high priest. vs. 2
 - b) Perhaps his grandson. 2Chron. 1:2-4
 - 3) The two scribe Elihoreph and Ahijah took care of the domestic and foreign correspondence, a secretary of state. vs. 3a
 - 4) The recorder Jehoshaphat, the official officer over the records and annals. vs. 3b
 - 5) The general and commander of the armies was Benaiah. vs. 4a-b
* 1Kings 2:35

- 6) The two high priest were Zadok over Gibeon, Abiathar over Jerusalem, until he was deposed for siding with Adonijah. vs. 4c-d
* 1Kings 2
- 7) Two of Solomon's nephews, sons of Nathan, Solomon's uncle, one of the sons of David, were head officers over other officers. vs. 5
a) Zabud was a priest.
b) Nathan Solomon's uncle. 2Sam. 5:14
- 8) Ahishar oversaw the household of Solomon to keep it in order and Solomon informed. vs. 6a-b
- 9) Adoniram was over the labor force, keeping work crews, materials, schedules, bills, payments and taxes, etc. vs. 6c-e
* Solomon was going to raise up an entire work force just for the building of the Temple. 1Kings 5:13-18

4:7-19 The twelve governors over the new districts.

- 1) These 12 governors were responsible for the food provisions of Solomon's entire household, one month each year. vs. 7
- 2) They would also be in charge of their cities to administrate them and keep them in order, including public works, etc.

- 3) Two of them were married to Solomon's daughters. vs. 11, 15
* All provisions were taken to storage cities. 1Kings 9:19

4:20-28 The greatness of the reign of Solomon.

- 1) The period of Solomon enjoyed the time of peace. vs. 20
a) God had fulfilled his promise to increase them, "as the sands of the sea, Judah and Israel united as one nation. vs. 20a
* Gen. 22:17, 28:14
- b) They enjoyed the peace, security and prosperity with great contentment that David had fought so hard for, indicated by the phrase, "eating and drinking and rejoicing." vs. 20b
- 2) The authority and borders of the Kingdom of Solomon are defined. vs. 21
a) He reigned over all kingdoms from the River Euphrates, to the north, to the land of the Philistines, on the southwest, as far as the border of Egypt. vs. 21a-b
* Solomon inherited all this, her earned none of it!
- b) All kingdoms within these boundaries brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life. vs. 21c

- * These border were promised
beforehand by God. Josh. 1:3-4
- 3) The daily provisions for his court. vs. 22
- a) approximately 340 bushels of fine flour. and 155 bushes of meal. vs. 22
 - b) Ten fatted oxen, twenty oxen from the pastures, and one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl. vs. 23
- 4) For he had dominion over all *the region* on this side of the River from Tiphseh even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River; and he had peace on every side all around him. vs. 24
- 5) The entire nation was secure and enjoying their prosperous. vs. 25
- a) This is indicated by the phrase, “each man under his vine and his fig tree.” vs. 25a-b
* The phrase is prophetic of the Messianic reign. Micah 4:4, Zach. 3:10
 - b) The whole of the land is indicated by the phrase, “from Dan as far as Beersheba.” vs. 25c
 - c) The duration is stated, “all the days of Solomon.” vs. 25d
* The kingdom would be divided under his son Rehoboam.

- 6) The stable of Solomon are indicated as 40,000 but it is most likely a copyist error, it should read 4,000, as in Second Chronicles. vs. 26a
- a) And 12,000 horsemen. 2Chron. 9:25
 - b) This would in line with the number of chariots, 1,400. 1Kings 10:267
 - c) Archeological excavations of Megiddo, at the plain of Esdraelon has many of such stables and overlooks the field of for the war of Armageddon.
- 7) The summary statement for Solomon’s provisions. vs. 27
- a) Each of these governors performed his duty at the set month, including all guest. vs. 27a-c
 - b) There was no lack in their supply. vs. 27d
- 8) The governors also provided the barley oats and straw for the horses. vs. 28
- 4:29-34** The wisdom of Solomon.
- 1) The extent of wisdom given to Solomon was like the sand on the seashore. vs. 29
 - 2) The wisdom of Solomon surpassed all. vs. 30-31
 - a) He excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. vs. 30
 - b) 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. vs. 31

- 3) The list of the diverse wisdom of Solomon. vs. 32-33
 - a) He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. vs. 32
 - b) 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. vs. 33
 - * We have only two Psalms, 72, 127, Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes.
- 4) The vast audience of Solomon to hear his wisdom. vs. 34
 - a) Men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth.
 - b) The reason was they had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.