

1/30/11

**Solomon Began Well**  
**1Kings 3:1-28**

The kingdom of Solomon has been established and all the internal potential enemies have been eliminated, Solomon is now sitting on the throne of Israel by the decree and hand of God.

Remember that God directed the compiling of the material in the books of Kings to communicate the history of the nation through the compromise and disobedience of the kings and the people, which did not happen in one day, but through the process of time.

\* Chapter 3 was probably a selection from the acts of Solomon, “Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?” 1Kings 11:41

What we have before us is the early days of the reign of Solomon, characterized by three elements:

- I.** The liberty that would ensnare Solomon. vs. 1-3
- II.** The humble request that would endow Solomon. vs. 4-15
- III.** The wisdom that would exalt Solomon. vs. 16-28

**I. The liberty that would ensnare Solomon. vs. 1-3**

- A.** The newly inaugurated King began to make his political alliances. vs. 1
  - 1.** Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt. vs. 1a
    - a.** The treaty was for strengthening and protection of the nation of Israel, trade routes and business ventures.
    - b.** Egypt was the nation that had enslaved the people of God and from where God had delivered them.
    - c.** Egypt at this point had more to benefit than Israel, but it would still guarantee a safe border in the south.
  - 2.** Solomon married Pharaoh’s daughter. vs. 1b
    - a.** The prohibition for the King of Israel was clearly stated in the Law.
      - 1)** Literally, “he made himself son-in-law to Pharaoh.”
      - 2)** The king of Israel was not to multiply wives, lest his heart turn away. Deut. 17:17a-b
      - 3)** The king of Israel was not to return the way of Egypt. Deut. 17:17c
    - b.** 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 idols and embraced Yahweh.

- 1) There was Rahab the harlot that received the spies at Jericho, as they were going to conquer the land, she 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, renouncing her gods and putting her faith in the God of Israel. Deut. 21:10-14
3. Solomon brought 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 and 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, “But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites--from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.” 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.
- B.** The subjects of the newly inaugurated King followed and worshipped Yahweh. vs. 2
1. The people were sacrificing to Yahweh God in the high places. vs. 2a
    - a. There is a caution, a check if you will by the statement, “Meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places.”
    - b. The term of high places “bamah”, the locations of worship and the technical name for cultic a platform.
    - c. 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.
    - d. 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.
  2. The reason being that there was no house built for the name of the LORD, Yahweh, until those days. vs. 2b

- a. The statement is not an approval of the practice, merely the record and explanation for the temporary practice of the people.
  - 1) And the material have been gathered together, in such a way, 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.
  - 2) The practice was even condoned after the temple by righteous kings. IKings 15:14, 22:43, 2Kings 12:3, 14:4, 15:4, 35
- b. There was no need for that, for God had given strict instruction about their worship when they entered the land.
  - 1) 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
  - 2) “These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. “You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which

you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. “And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. “You shall not worship the LORD your God with such things. “But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.” Deut. 12:1-5

- 3) “There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. “And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you. “You shall not at all do as we are doing here today--every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes--

“for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you. “But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety, “then there will be the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the LORD. “And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. “Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see; “but in the place which the LORD chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you

shall do all that I command you.”  
Deut. 12:6-14

- C. The newly inaugurated King also followed and worshipped Yahweh. vs. 3
1. The passion of Solomon was God, “And Solomon loved the LORD.” vs. 3a
    - a. Solomon wisely chose the most important commandment, even 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. Solomon had good reason to 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 his practice of, “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 from the word of God.
3. The personal check on Solomon is stated, “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. 1Kings 11:4-8
    - \* “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. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the

people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.”

### **Illustration**

The Scriptures tell us “It is the little foxes that spoil the vine”. Song Sol. 2:15

\* Those little things that are not sin in and of themselves, but if ones keeps doing them and adding to them, it becomes a way of life that one day destroys our life!

### **Application**

1. How we have seen through the years of ministry so many men go into business with unbelievers and it turned out for the worst.

- a. Some have done it ignorantly.
- b. Others willfully.
- c. Still others, thinking and believing they were the exception to the rule.
- d. But each of them found out that God is telling the truth about not being unequally yoked with unbelievers.

\* “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” 2Cor. 7:14

2. How equally true we have seen through the years of ministry men and women marry unbelievers to their own ruin.

- a. Some have done it ignorantly, not knowing, being young in the Lord.
- b. Others have done it willfully, in disobedience to the Lord.
- c. Some think God brought the unbeliever to them and that God is going to save them, but that is contradicting the word of God.
- d. But all of them suffered the consequences of having a divided home, emotional pain and horrible regret.

\* “And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” 2Cor. 7:15-17

3. The believer has the greatest liberty in Christ, but he must always be cautious that the same liberty does not enslave him again back into sin.

- a. I want to be careful to not be enslaved again, “All things are lawful for me, but all things

are not helpful. **All** things are **lawful** for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” 1Cor. 6:12

- b.** I have to be careful with the things that tear me down, “**All** things are **lawful** for me, but not **all** things are helpful; **all** things are **lawful** for me, but not **all** things edify.” 1Cor. 10:23
- c.** “And **do** not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that **good** and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Rom. 12:2
- d.** “**Do** not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with **good**.” Rom. 12:21
- e.** “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does **not** eat from **faith**; for whatever is **not** from **faith** is **sin**.” Rom. 14:23
- f.** “**Do** not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts **good** habits.” 1Cor. 15:33
- g.** “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it **is sin**.” Ja. 4:17
- h.** “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the **latter end** is worse for them than the beginning.” 2Pet. 2:20

*The liberty that would ensnare Solomon would just be a matter of time!*

## II. The humble request that would endow Solomon. vs. 4-15

- A.** Solomon went 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) The meal or meat offering, for service to God
  - 3) The peace offering, to fellowship with God.
  - 4) The sin offering, to be forgiven and maintain fellowship with God.
  - 5) The trespass offering, to be forgiven of willful sin and maintain fellowship with God.
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 God 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, “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.” vs. 6a-e
- 2) Second for himself, “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.” 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, “Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David.” vs. 7a-c
    - 2) He humbly declared his inability to fulfill the office of King, “but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.” 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. “And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.” 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, “Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people.” 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, “that I may discern between good and evil.” vs. 9b
  - 3) The particular overwhelmed condition, “For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?” vs. 9c
- B. Solomon returned having the wisdom of God. vs. 10-15
  - 1. The response of God was that the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.” 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, “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.” vs. 11
  - b. God honored Solomon, “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.” vs. 12  
\* The record of his wisdom. 1Kings 4:29-34, 10:1-25
  - c. God blessed Solomon, “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.” vs. 13
- 3. The condition of God, “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.”  
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, “Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream.” vs. 15a-b
  - b. The celebration, “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.” vs. 15c-f

\* The ark of the covenant was at Jerusalem, where David had brought it!

### **Illustration**

The young preacher who went up to the pulpit proud and Spurgeon told him when he came down, “if you would of gone up the way you came down, you would of come down the way you went up!

### **Application**

1. God tells us that in and during the Age of Grace, He speaks to us through His Son.

a. “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” Heb. 1:1-4

b. God is still able to use dreams and vision, in fact that is part of the promise of Joel in the last days, indicating from the first to the

second coming of Jesus, Peter quoted it in the Day of Pentecost. Joel 2:17, Acts 2:28

\* “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see **visions**.”

b. But if it is God, He will give you the interpretation and they will never contradict the Scriptures! Acts 17:11

2. What if God came and asked you, “What shall I give you?”

- a. What would you ask God for?
- b. Would it be to enrich you materially or spiritually?
- c. Certainly all would say right now would say, “I would ask for spiritual enrichment, like Solomon”, but God alone knows our heart!
- d. Here is a good principle to be aware of, “For where your **treasure** is, there your heart will be also.” Matt. 6:21

*The humble request that would endow Solomon would benefit him for a time!*

### III. The wisdom that would exalt Solomon. vs. 16-28

A. The case before the wise King regarding two prostitutes. vs. 16-22

1. The two presented themselves before King Solomon, “Now two women who were harlots came to the king, and stood before him.” 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, “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. 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.” vs. 17-18

3. The one speaking accused the other woman of her crime, “And this woman’s son died in the night, because she lay on him. 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.” vs 19-20

4. The shocking reality that her child had been switched in the night, “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.” vs. 21

5. The second woman denied the accusation, “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.” vs. 22

**B.** The decision of the wise King would reveal the wisdom of God. vs. 23-28

1. Solomon repeated the claims of both women, “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.’” vs. 23
  - a. To see if they stood their ground.
  - b. 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, “Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword before the king.” vs. 24
  - b. His command, “And the king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other.” vs. 25
3. Solomon knew the true mother, would gladly give up her child, rather than see

him die, “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.” vs. 26  
\* Yearned “kamar”, means to grow hot and emotionally agitated!

4. Solomon ordered the child be given to the true mother, “So the king answered and said, “Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she *is* his mother.” vs. 27
5. Solomon was acknowledged by all Israel to be endowed with God’s wisdom, “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.” vs. 28

### Illustration

A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew.” (Illust. Biblical Preaching, page 396)

### Application

1. There are so many different situations that will present themselves in life, that we need to be forever dependent of God for wisdom.

- a. The case may be between two of your children and one of them is lying.
  - b. The case may be between two Christians that are telling you two different things.
  - c. The case could be between, which loan is the best for me to get.
  - d. The case could be two job offers.
  - e. The case might be a marriage decisions.
    - \* “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.” Prov. 3:5-8
2. Are you constantly asking God for wisdom and then seeing God endow you with wisdom?
- a. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise **wisdom** and instruction.” Prov. 1:7
  - b. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of **wisdom**, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Prov. 9:10
  - c. “When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is **wisdom**.” Prov. 11:2
  - d. “How much better to get **wisdom** than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.” Prov. 16:16
  - e. “In whom are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom** and knowledge.” Col. 2:3

- f. “If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” Ja. 1:5
- g. “This **wisdom** does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. “But the **wisdom** that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.” Ja. 3:15, 17

*The wisdom that would exalt Solomon would be his mark throughout time!*

### Conclusion

These were the early days of the reign of Solomon marked by:

- I. The liberty that would ensnare Solomon, would just be a matter of time!
- II. The humble request that would endow Solomon would benefit for a time!
- III. The wisdom that would exalt Solomon would be his mark throughout time!