

1 Kings 3

Fruit of the lips

Kingdom now firmly established...House is Clean/Swamp drained...for now

I. Solomon's Vulnerable Request

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 marries Pharaoh's Daughter**
- **Political Marriage:** That Egypt might be Israel's ally

Dating/Marrying a non-believer strictly forbidden in Scriptures
Choose to sin...choose to suffer. Period.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

- **Why?** Have different god. **And If it is not God of Bible it is not God at all.**

Deuteronomy 7:3 [Do not marry the Canaanites]. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. 4 **For they will turn your sons away from following Me**, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. 5 But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

- Solomon's Hard Life/Ultimate downfall began with compromise and justification
 1. **Compromise:** Not a believer but sweet masacara
 2. **Justification:** Only political. Keep peace with Egypt [World]

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- **Miserable regret begins with...**
 1. **Compromise:** Don't believe God's word; i.e. "Don't be unequally yoked"
 2. **Justification:** I know I can lead them to the Lord; Missionary dating?

Solomon's difficult life began with compromise/justification and ended in miserable regret
End his life knowing that he sacrificed his children to Satan

1 Kings 11:1 [Read]But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites— 2 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. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. 4 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. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after **Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.**

600 wives and 400 concubines

From loving God to frying his new-born children on white hot metal arms of a demon idol...

One of the false-gods his first wife worshiped. Not the Egyptian. Amonite.

- Pharaoh's daughter not Solomon's first marriage...
 1. Before king Solomon married Naamah the Amonitess
 2. Amonites were perpetual enemies of Israel: Worship included child sacrifice
 3. Naamah the Amonitess bore **Rehoboam**

Rehoboam would cause split of his father Solomon's kingdom in two
Eventually Northern/Southern Kingdom's defeated/exiled...I was just?

- 500 years later Solomon would be an byword of "**what not to do**"
- After 70+ years of exile people return with Nehemiah and marry pagan wives...

Nehemiah 13:25 [Read] So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves. 26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin. 27 Should we then hear of your doing all this great evil, **transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?**"

- Solomon will reap what he sows; Emptiness of emptiness all emptiness

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

- **High Places:** Worship site on hill that contained Altar
 1. Known for Pagan worship
 2. Where people worshiped before Temple built
 3. Tabernacle is now at a "high" place in Gibeon outside of Jerusalem

People "called out" for worshipping at high places **after the Temple built**

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.

Solomon loved the Lord
Solomon made some very poor choices.

- Married foreigner?
- Sacrificing in high places?

...wet tissue paper relationship with God
Compared with the **David's rock solid** relationship with God

- Solomon struggling as basically a second generation believer

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 loved the Lord and the Lord was with Solomon...

2 Chronicles 1:1 Now Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly. 2 And Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' houses. 3 Then Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for the tabernacle of meeting with God was there, which Moses the servant of the Lord had made in the wilderness.

Good Times

- Solomon at Tabernacle in Gibeon: Big shindig. Lots of people including dignitaries
- Offered 1000 Burnt Offerings to the LORD

Worships into the night until he drops...

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night

- **God appears in a dream?**
- Vision is a "waking dream"

This is a sleeping dream where God showed up

- **Old Testament**
 1. God sent a Pagan King a dream not to touch Abram's wife Sarah
 2. Joseph had a dream from God he would be bowed down to
 3. Cupbearer/Baker had similar God-given dreams w/ w2 different meanings
 4. Pharaoh had a dream from God Joseph interpreted as a coming famine
 5. Gideon overheard his enemies relating their God-given dream...
 - Mentioned Gideon by name
 - That Gideon would be victorious
- **New Testament**
 1. Joseph warned not to divorce Mary as the Baby would be of God
 2. Pilate's wife warned by God to warn Pilate Jesus was innocent

Acts 2:17 [Read] 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.

Aaron Strohbach: CCY Missionary to Africa regarding Muslim dreams of Jesus

There is [a] Muslim lady who is having dreams of Jesus in a white robe but she isn't saying it's Jesus Christ, but interprets it as Jesus the prophet giving a message of judgment and warning.

Earlier this month [we] had the privilege of leading a former Muslim man to Christ. The man had several visions and dreams of Jesus. These visions included seeing Jesus in a white robe with a red stripe down his side. While this man stood in Jesus' presence he felt unworthy and the despair of his own sin. He asked Jesus what the red stripe was and Jesus explained how his blood was shed for his forgiveness.

The man's descriptions sounded similar to how Jesus' is depicted in the book of Revelations. He told us how Jesus' eyes radiated with magnificent light. When Jesus spoke it sounded like the roaring and echoing of the ocean. Jesus' main purpose was to call people to worship God through Him. The man's latest vision happened in March, Jesus was calling him to go to the nations and draw people to worship God.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in dream by night...

...and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

- What was the desire of Solomon's heart as he began as King over Israel?

Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

**As we delight ourselves in the Lord we will ask for what we need to please Him
God asks us the same question... "What shall I give you?"**

Mathew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

1 John 5:14 14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, **whatever we ask**, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

- Then why don't I have my Cadillac? Name/Claim or Blab/Grab

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

- Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart

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.

- You have shown great mercy to my dad because...
- **He walked before you...**in truth, righteousness, and uprightness

Solomon may have had in mind a song his father David wrote and sung

Psalm 15 [David] 15 Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? 2 He who walks **uprightly**, And works **righteousness**, And speaks the **truth** in his heart; 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

- David walked before God in **Truth, Righteousness and Uprightness**
- Now Solomon's' turn...Second Generation Believer grasping at his own faith...

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.

- **Vulnerable** prayer
- **Honest** prayer
- **Humble** prayer

I feel like a child sent to do a man's job
David had no time to teach Solomon to be a Leader over God's people

- Because of David there is now peace on all sides
- People are looking to Solomon to lead...

I feel like a child sent to do a man's job

9 **Therefore** give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil.

- **I ask for Wisdom:**
 1. **Understanding of Heart to Judge:** Underneath the superficial
 2. **Discernment:** What is good in Your sight? What is evil in Your sight?

Give me an *understanding heart*; Lit. A hearing heart

9b...For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

Solomon already understood that a key component of leadership is wise and just discernment. Many leaders do not have this discernment or the courage to use it. [Guzik]

- Being a great secular leader *does not mean* you will be a great Spiritual leader
- Spiritual leaders need to first realize their *utter deficiency to lead* without the Lord

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) **nothing good dwells**; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find...**24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- **“Who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”**

“Apart from Jesus I can do nothing...but with Jesus I can do anything”

Luke 18:27 “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

- I ask for wisdom to judge Your people...

10 The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

- Vulnerable/Honest/ Humble

The Lord of the Universe digs Childlike Faith

Matthew 18:2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever **humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:13 Then little children were brought to [Jesus] that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of **such is the kingdom of heaven.**”

- Those who **“humble themselves”** will be greatest in Kingdom of God
- Those who do not humble themselves will be least or even excluded due to pride

The greatest enemy to the human soul is the self-righteous spirit which makes men look to themselves for Salvation [Spurgeon]

The Lord of the Universe digs those who trust Him in Childlike Faith

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...”

- **Unselfish Request...**

1. Not long life
2. Not riches
3. Not death of enemies [moot point after Ch. 2]

Solomon’s request exemplified God’s heart: Love your neighbor as yourself

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.

- Greater wisdom than any human before or after [apart from Jesus]

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.

More riches and honor than any king of any nation while you reign
Greatest king ruling the greatest kingdom on earth

- **Humility moves God to bless...**

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."

Conditional Promise

If you Walk in My ways as you father did and told you to do you will have long life

15 Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream.

- All really happened but all in a dream

15b...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 Response to God's promises**

1. Blesses God
2. Blesses God's people

SUMMARY Solomon's Vulnerable Request

When Solomon woke he had more wisdom than anyone on earth had/will ever have

II. Wisdom Knowledge Applied

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."

- Two prostituted each have a baby. No one else in house
- First woman claims second woman suffocated her baby then pulled switcheroo

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.**

- Thus they “spoke before the king” each one claiming the live baby

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.’”

- **Knowledge:** Acquiring the facts in order to solve a problem
- **Wisdom:** Application knowledge. Taking what know and actually solving the problem

If knowledge is screwing in light bulb then wisdom is flipping the switch.

- **Light bulb!** [Gru]: Solomon’s’ **Elaborate production begins...**

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!”

- **First mother says stop!**
- **Second woman** doesn’t seem to care much...

26b... 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.**”

- **Knowledge:** Natural process of acquiring of facts of a matter
- **Wisdom:** Supernatural application of those facts
- **Solomon was blessed with an Understanding Heart**

A heart that acquires facts regarding a judgment/decision needed to be made
A heart that allows God’s Spirit’s to use those facts to provide a supernatural solution

Paraphrase: Solomon could not have come up with this solution himself

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.

SUMMARY Wisdom: Knowledge Applied