

1 Kings 4

Wisdom

I. Solomon's Administration

1 So King Solomon was king over **all Israel**.

- **All Israel?**

Contrasted with coming divided Kingdom due to Solomon's disobedience

- **Judah** in the South
- **Israel** in the North

2 **And these were [Solomon's] 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.

- **Solomon's Cabinet:** Great wisdom now revealed in delegating authority
 1. **Benaiah** over Military
 2. **Zadok** over Priests: Abiathar removed in Ch. 2 but title remains
 3. **Sons of Nathan**
 - **Azariah:** Over the officers
 - **Zabud :** Priest and the king's friend
 4. Jehoshaphat: Recorder continuing after serving under David
 5. **Ahishar** over Solomon's household
 6. **Adoniram** over work 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. 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 Hopher; 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.

- **12 Governors over all Israel past/future**

Acts 1:6 [During 40 days after resurrection/before ascension] ...when [Apostles] had come together, they asked Him, saying, "**Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?**"

- Jesus doesn't deny the future establishment His Kingdom in Israel...but get to work

Jesus will establish his Kingdom on Earth at His Second Coming

- **Jesus will reign as king:** Ruling with Rod of Iron/Shut mouths of wicked

Psalms 2:9 You shall break them with a **rod of iron**; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

Revelation 2:27 'He shall rule them with a **rod of iron**; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels— as I also have received from My Father...

Revelation 12:5 She [Israel] bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a **rod of iron**. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

Revelation 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a **rod of iron**. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

- Reign for 1000 years as **King of Kings**
 1. **No one above Him!**
 2. **No one more powerful than Him**
 3. **No comparison. Who is like Him? No one**

1 Timothy 6:14 keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, 15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only **Potentate**, the **King of kings and Lord of lords**, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Revelation 17:14 [Ten "baby" Kings of Earth] will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is **Lord of lords and King of kings**; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

- **Great Tribulation:** 1) Call the Israel to Jesus 2) Judge sinful/rebellious man

Revelation 19:15 Now out of [Jesus] mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God..."

- Jesus King
- **David Prince**

Ezekiel 34:23 [Read] I will establish **one shepherd** over them, and he shall feed them—My **servant David**. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And **I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince** among them

Ezekiel 37:25 [Read] Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant **David shall be their prince forever.**

- Jesus King
- David Price
- **12 Apostles governors over all Israel**

Jesus: "...it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven"

Matthew 19:27 [Read] Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" 28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- **SUMMARY:** Solomon's Administration
 1. Solomon establishes his **Cabinet**
 2. Solomon appoints 12 **Governors**

II. Good Times: Golden Age of Israel

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.

- **Judah/Israel:** Anticipating split?

For now Life is good! More people in Israel than grains of sand on the beach?

- **Hyperbole:** Exaggeration to make a point
- Lit. Multitudes/multitudes of people in Israel
- All Eating/Drinking/Rejoicing
- **NOTE:** Solomon/People are enjoying the territory his father David conquered

**Second Generation believers enjoy territory their parents have conquered for them
Danger of being a Second Generation Believer**

Danger of taking parents victories: Love/Peace in home, truth, integrity **for granted**

Danger? Complacency...leading to laziness... leading to presumption... leading to sin... leading to regret. Regret of 2nd generation for *not taking territory for themselves* [NJC]

- Israel is NOT in sin as they enjoy the victories of David

- Danger is ***presuming enemy is asleep...***

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith

2nd Generation Believers can enjoy victories of parents but must gain victories of their own
There will never be a cease fire this side of heaven

The reign of Solomon was a golden age for Israel as a kingdom. The population grew robustly and it was a season of great prosperity, allowing plenty of leisure time and pursuit of good pleasures. [Guzik] [See David]

- **Lost in Space:** Danger Will Robinson!
- Walk circumspect **especially when things are good. Devil prowls...**

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.

- **One Day Provisions:** Entire Royal Court
 1. 30 - 55 Gallon Drums of **Flour**...every day
 2. 30 **Oxen** every day
 3. 100 **Sheep** every day + various other animals
- Some estimate enough for at least *15,000 people per day*

Characterizing prosperity of Solomon's Kingdom in Golden Age of Israel

24 For [Solomon] 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. He had **peace on every side all around him**. 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.

- **Solomon's Kingdom/Israel's Territory**
 1. **East to West:** Euphrates on East to Gaza on West
 2. **North to South:** Dan in North to Beersheba in South
- **Genuine Good Time!**
 1. Peace without
 2. Abundance within...

Everyone under his own fig tree: Figurative of "time of peace" as other scripts
All the days of King Solomon

- **Peace would fall apart at end of Solomon's life**
- Disobedience would lead to disaster: Sin would find him out

Deuteronomy 17:16 ... [the king] *shall not multiply horses for himself...* **yet...**

26 Solomon had **forty thousand stalls of horses** for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

- David trusted in God for victory... not physical weapons of war

Psalm 20:7 [A psalm of David] Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

Acquiring horses exemplified Solomon's lack of faith in God's supernatural protection
Acquiring horses was disobedient to God's Word...yet

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

- Do we have an "except that" kind of love for God?

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Thus a *Direct correlation* between our Obedience to God and our Love for God
Our obedience to God is proof of our love. Period.

- David acquired territory *trusting in the Lord*. Being *obedient to the Lord*

Did not *just happen* as some second generation believers might hope. There is no auto-pilot

- **Second Generation Solomon:** His "Except that's" would get more and more

Peace/Abundance...leading to complacency...leading to laziness... leading to backsliding... leading to sin... later leading to regret for not taking the teaching of godly parents seriously

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.

- **12 Governors over all Israel:** Taxed people and provided for Solomon/Friends
- **No lack of STUFF. No lack of worries. Vanity of vanities....**

More we have... more we have to worry about

Matthew 6:24b... [Read] You cannot serve God and mammon. 25 "Therefore I say to you, **do not worry about your life**, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. **Is not life more** than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

- **Is not life...real life**...more than stuff?
- Solomon was rich but not happy...

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; 29 and **yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these**. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which

today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 **“Therefore do not worry**, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But **seek first the kingdom** of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

What does a life without worry feel like?

- **How much is enough?**

Rockefeller was at one point the world's richest man and *first ever American billionaire*. Considering he was a billionaire in the early 1900's he is still considered as the richest person in modern history. When a reporter asked him, “How much money is enough?” He responded, **“Just a little bit more.”**

- Solomon realized after too late...

Ecclesiastes 5: 9 Moreover the profit of the land is for all; even the king is served from the field. 10 **He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver**; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity. 11 When goods increase, They increase who eat them; So what profit have the owners Except to see them with their eyes? 12 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, Whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep. 13 There is a severe evil which I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt. 14 But those riches perish through misfortune; When he begets a son, there is nothing in his hand. 15 As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand. 16 And this also is a severe evil— Just exactly as he came, so shall he go. And what profit has he who has labored for the wind? 17 All his days he also eats in darkness, And he has much sorrow and sickness and anger. 18 Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. 19 As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, **to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor**—this is the **gift of God**. 20 For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps him busy with the joy of his heart.

Do we own stuff or does stuff own us?

- **Simple things make us happy**...working hard/enjoying family /friends

28 They also brought barley and straw to the proper place, for the horses and steeds, **each man according to his charge.**

“In Solomon's court all his officers had a service to carry out, **‘every man according to his charge.’** It is exactly so in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we are truly his, he has called us to some work and office, and he wills us to discharge that office diligently. We are not to be gentlemen-at-ease, but men-at-arms; not loiterers, but laborers...” [Spurgeon]

Romans 12:4 ...we have many members in **one body**, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- **One Body with one purpose:** Glorify Jesus.
- **Gifts:** Make Jesus beautiful to a dying world...

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- **Each man served the King**...according to his charge:

29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.

- **Largeness:** To continue to grow
- **Heart:** Lit. Understanding

Largeness of heart: Continuous growth in understanding
...yet not always listening to his own advice

- Solomon spoke with the **wisdom of God**...

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...

- **Wiser than...**

1. Confucius
2. Friedrich Nietzsche
3. Stephen Hawking
4. Voltaire
5. Isaac Newton
6. Albert Einstein
7. Galileo
8. Plato
9. Charles Darwin

- **Wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite?** Author of Psalm 89

Psalm 89:47 Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men?

Solomon was wiser than all men who ever lived before him *or will ever live after him!*

Solomon had wisdom but...Jesus is wisdom!

1 Corinthians 1:24 ... Christ [is] the power of God and the **wisdom of God**...

- Jesus exemplifies application of all knowledge
- **Gnostics/Free-Mason:** Secret knowledge [steps] led to spiritual enlightenment

Colossians 2:3 ...in [Jesus/Father] are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and**

knowledge.

- Everything Jesus said/did exemplified pure **Wisdom**
- **Everything there is to be known...applied by Jesus demonstrated to men...**

Matthew 13:54 [People were amazed when Jesus spoke] "Where did this Man get this **wisdom** and these **mighty works**?"

- To listen to Jesus teach was to listen to God teach!

Mark 6:2 [Jesus] began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? **And what wisdom is this which is given to Him**"

- Never a mistake of misjudgment...people came to acknowledge...

Mark 7:37 ...they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well."

- People should recognize God's wisdom in our speech/actions

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

- **Solomon wiser than ALL Men...** except Jesus

31...and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.

In a sense, these blessings came upon Solomon more for David's obedience than for his own. David was far more loyal and intimate with God than Solomon; yet God outwardly blessed Solomon more for David's sake than He blessed David himself. [Guzik]

32 [Solomon] spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.

- Solomon inspired by God's Holy Spirit wrote
- Most of Proverbs, All of Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon +1004 more Songs

Solomon the Scientist...

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.

- Varieties of Trees: From **Cedar the highest** level to **Hyssop the least**
- Varieties of Animal, Birds, Bugs, and Fish

1 Kings 10:22 For the king had merchant ships at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came bringing gold, silver, ivory, **apes, and monkeys.**

- Why **apes/monkeys** in Israel unless dissection?

The Israeli Primate Sanctuary Foundation operates Afrikef as a refuge and rehab center for

hundreds of monkeys that were used in **lab experiments** or **illegally smuggled** into the country. Abigail Klein Leichman NOVEMBER 27, 2012

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.

- Kings of all nations traveled to Israel to hear the Kings Wisdom

Solomon's Wisdom Sought Out: Picture of our Coming King

- **Coming Golden Age of Earth's History:** Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ

Zechariah 8:22 ... many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the Lord.' 23 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that **God is with you.**"

Isaiah 2:2 [Read] Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; **He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.**" For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, **Neither shall they learn war anymore.**

Solomon: Wise but Imperfect King ruling during Golden Age of Israel
Picture of King Jesus the all wise and perfect King ruling during coming Golden Age of Earth