

Pastor  
**STEVEN ROSSI**

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# The man who HAD IT ALL: *Solomon*

First  
FIRST THINGS FIRST

**THE HEIGHT OF ALL WISDOM** | 1 KINGS 8

**WHAT SOLOMON THOUGHT ABOUT GOD WAS THE HEIGHT OF HIS WISDOM**

“

*What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us ... Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God.*

*For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.*

”

~ A.W. TOZER (*The Knowledge of the Holy*)

**SOLOMON KNEW THAT GOD WAS A FAITHFUL GOD**

“ <sup>14</sup> While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them. <sup>15</sup> Then he said: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David.”

1 KINGS 8:14-15 (NIV)

“ <sup>56</sup> “Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.”

1 KINGS 8:56 (NIV)

**SOLOMON KNEW THAT GOD WAS A HOLY GOD**

“ <sup>3</sup> When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark, <sup>4</sup> and they brought up the ark of the Lord and the tent of meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests and Levites carried them up, <sup>5</sup> and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

1 KINGS 8:3-5 (NIV)

**SOLOMON KNEW THAT GOD WAS A FORGIVING GOD**

“ <sup>30</sup> Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

1 KINGS 8:30 (NIV)

<sup>33</sup> “When your people Israel have been defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you, and when they turn back to you and give praise to your name, praying and making supplication to you in this temple, <sup>34</sup> then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to their ancestors.

<sup>36</sup> ...then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants...

1 KINGS 8:33-34, 36 (NIV)

<sup>50</sup> And forgive your people, who have sinned against you; forgive all the offenses they have committed against you, and cause their captors to show them mercy...

1 KINGS 8:50 (NIV)

## SOLOMON KNEW THAT GOD LOVED ALL NATIONS/PEOPLE

“<sup>41</sup> As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name—<sup>42</sup> for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, <sup>43</sup> then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.”

1 KINGS 8:41-43 (NIV)

“<sup>59</sup> And may these words of mine, which I have prayed before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, that he may uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel according to each day's need, <sup>60</sup> so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other. <sup>61</sup> And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time.”

1 KINGS 8:59-61 (NIV)

“<sup>15</sup> On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, <sup>16</sup> and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. <sup>17</sup> And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

MARK 11:15-17 (NIV)

### SO WHAT

#### AT THE PINNACLE OF SOLOMON'S WISDOM HE KNEW THAT:

- God was a faithful God
- God was a Holy God
- God was a forgiving God
- God loved all Nations/people

#### HOW WE SEE GOD IN HIS:

- Faithfulness
- Holiness
- Forgiveness
- Love for all people

SHOULD SHAPE EVERYTHING WE DO IN OUR LIVES!

~ TRUE WISDOM means aligning your whole life around the **Knowledge and Promises of God** ~

## DISCUSSION *Questions*

- 1 - What are some of the things in your life that you know or believe (other than God) that shape who you are as a person? How do they shape you?
- 2 - Do you agree with A.W. Tozer's Quote? ("What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us"... ) Why or why not?
- 3 - Which of God's attributes that Solomon refers to (Faithfulness, Holiness, Graciousness, or Love for the outsider) do you most relate to? Why? Are any of them harder to relate to? Why?
- 4 - Re-Read 1 Kings 8:59-61, In the midst of such an extravagant display of power, wealth, and achievement in building the temple for God and His people, why do you think Solomon makes such point to mention those who are foreigners or outsiders? What does this tell us about God's heart? What implications could this have for the way we live our lives today?
- 5 - What is one way this week that we can apply Solomon's wisdom and knowledge of God from 1 Kings 8 into our lives? How might we model what we learn of God in our own lives?