

The Kings of Israel

Solomon – 1 Kings 3:7 – 28; 11:1 - 6



Sermon Discussion Guide

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STUDY NOTES

A little child . . . do not know (3:7). Solomon, about twenty years old when he became king, humbly admitted his inexperience and immaturity. He acknowledged his dependence on God.

Give you . . . riches and honor (3:13). Solomon's request for wisdom pleased God. Instead of asking for riches or power, Solomon knew his greatest need was for discernment from God. In his generosity, God said he would give Solomon riches and honor in addition to the wisdom he requested.

Stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed (3:15). Instead of making an offering to God at the high place, Solomon went to the tabernacle. Since only the high priest could enter there once a year, the king stood outside, facing the ark and made burnt offerings to show his dedication to God

1. This weekend, we celebrated the birth of our country. Some individuals “celebrated” through riots and destruction, while others celebrated by commemorating our founding fathers. What do you see as the “guiding wisdom” between the two types of celebration?

Read 1 Kings 3:7-28

2. Solomon asked God for a discerning heart. What do you believe is the reason that Solomon asked for wisdom above anything else?
3. How have you gained your life's wisdom?
 - Through experience
 - Through education
 - Through studying the Bible
 - From other people
 - By asking God for it
 - Not sure
4. In addition to wisdom, God blessed Solomon with riches and honor (vs 13):
 - What are some of your riches?
 - What is your “abundantly more” (blessings from God that exceed that which you have asked for)?
5. How did Solomon react to the dream (vs 15)?
 - How do you react when God provides you with clear wisdom and direction?
6. When Solomon made the decision on which mother to give the living infant to (vs 27), he relied totally on wisdom from God.
 - How do you tend to make your decisions?
 - Gather the facts
 - Go with a gut feeling
 - Consult with others
 - Seek God's wisdom
 - Other

STUDY NOTES

He also made fellowship offering to symbolize the relationship people can enjoy with God and others through God's grace.

Loved many foreign women (11:1). God established monogamy in Genesis 2:24 and forbade a king to marry many wives (Deuteronomy 17:17). He also forbade marrying foreign women because they worshiped false gods. But Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. His pagan wives led him into idolatry.

Solomon did evil . . . he did not follow the Lord (11:6). David had remained true to God and had never worshiped false gods. David had always repented of his sin and returned to obedience.

Read I Kings 11:1-6

6. How was Solomon influenced?
 - How does Solomon's example serve as a warning to you about the influence those close to you have on your spiritual life?
 - What helps keep you on the right path?
 - My family
 - Prayer
 - My church
 - Christian friends
 - Bible study
 - God's spirit in me
 - This group
 - Other
7. Solomon's life journey does not end as it began. Does understanding Solomon's failure provide us with wisdom for our own life journey?
8. Are you facing decisions in your life right now that require God's wisdom?
9. Why is it important for us to continually seek God's wisdom for our lives? Why do our lives seem more challenging when we fail to do this?