

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 KINGS 3

1 KINGS 3:1-3 - EARLY STAGES OF SOLOMON'S KING

V. 1 - MARRIAGE ALLIANCE WITH PHAROAH (FORESHADOW OF LATER PROBLEMS)

V. 2 - NO CONSOLIDATED LOCATION FOR THE WORSHIP OF YAHWEH

V. 3 - SOLOMON LOVES THE LORD.

THE ACT OF SACRIFICING AND BURNING INCENSE IN THE HIGH PLACES WAS NOT AN ACT OF FULL WORSHIP OF THE LORD. "EXCEPT HE DID _____" INDICATES THAT.

1 KINGS 3:4-5 - THE LORD APPEARS TO SOLOMON

V. 5 - **ASK WHAT YOU WISH ME TO GIVE YOU** - THE LORD GIVES SOLOMON AN OPEN QUESTION, ALLOWING HIM TO ASK FOR ANYTHING FROM THE LORD. WHAT A MOMENT! CAN YOU IMAGINE BEING ASKED SUCH A QUESTION? WHAT WOULD YOU ASK FOR?

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS MOMENTS IN SOLOMON'S LIFE. THE LORD'S QUESTION AND SOLOMON'S SUBSEQUENT ANSWER ARE VERY WELL KNOWN. IN FACT, THIS MOMENT WILL IMPACT SOLOMON'S EARLY REIGN SPECIFICALLY AND DRAMATICALLY.

1 KINGS 3:6-10 - SOLOMON'S REQUEST

SOLOMON RECOUNTS THE GOODNESS OF GOD AND THE FAVOR UPON DAVID'S FAMILY. HE RECOGNIZES THE GREAT TASK BEFORE HIM AND CONFESSES HIS AWARENESS OF THE GREAT ROLE HE IS PLAYING.

14X IN VERSES 6-10 SOLOMON USES THE WORDS "YOU" OR "YOURS". HE CALLS HIMSELF "YOUR SERVANT" AND HIS SUBJECTS "YOUR PEOPLE". CLEARLY SOLOMON IS AWARE OF THE TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY HE HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED - AND AS A RESULT, HE ASKS FOR THAT WHICH IS HIS GREATEST NEED.

AS A PARENT, WHAT IS YOUR REQUEST OF THE LORD? AS AN EMPLOYER OR EMPLOYEE, WHAT DO YOU ASK FROM GOD? AS A LEADER, WHAT DO YOU DESIRE FROM GOD? AS A HUSBAND OR WIFE, WHAT IS YOUR PRAYER?

"I SUGGEST THAT VERSE 10 HOLDS OUT TO US THE GOAL OF OUR PRAYING - TO PLEASE YAHWEH. IN FACT, SHOULD THIS NOT BE THE INTENT OF ALL OUR WORSHIP, PRIVATE OR PUBLIC? THE CHURCH HAS GONE AMUCK BY FORGETTING THIS VERY PRINCIPLE. WE DEBATE STYLE OF WORSHIP, FORMAL OR CONTEMPORARY, WORSHIP TEAMS WITH MIC-POWER OR CHOIRS. WE HEAR HOW WORSHIP MUST CATER TO FELT NEEDS. BUT IT'S ALL (FUTILE). THE GOAL OF WORSHIP IS TO GIVE PLEASURE TO GOD, THE ONLY AND TRUE AUDIENCE." (DALE RALPH DAVIS, 1 KINGS, FOCUS ON THE BIBLE, PG 38)

1 KINGS 3:11-15 - THE LORD'S ANSWER

V. 12-13 - THE LORD IS SO IMPRESSED WITH SOLOMON'S ANSWER THAT HE PROMISES TO GIVE HIM THAT WHICH HE ASKED FOR (DISCERNMENT AND WISDOM) AND HE WILL GIVE HIM WHAT HE HAS NOT ASKED FOR AS WELL! (RICHES AND HONOR)

V. 15 - WORSHIPFUL RESPONSE

1 KINGS 3:16-23 - TWO WOMEN, ONE BABY

1 KINGS 3:24-28 - THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

HOW DOES GOD GIVE SOMEONE A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING HEART? HOW DOES GOD GIVE SOMEONE COMPASSION OR PATIENCE OR OTHER SPIRITUAL VIRTUES THAT WE PRAY FOR? SOMETIMES AFTER OUR REQUEST IS MADE FOR THESE IMPORTANT THINGS, WE ARE PLACED IN SITUATIONS WHERE THESE CHARACTERISTICS ARE NEEDED OR CAN BE PUT ON DISPLAY. DID GOD GIVE SOLOMON A SPECIAL ENDOWMENT OF WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING AND DISCERNMENT? YES. BUT HE ALSO PUT HIM IN A SITUATION WHERE HIS WISDOM WOULD BE NEEDED AND WHERE IT COULD BE MANIFESTED. SOLOMON IS GOING TO WALK AWAY FROM THIS SITUATION SAYING "WOW, GOD REALLY DID GIVE ME A HEART OF WISDOM."

V. 26 - "THIS ORDER SO STIRRED AND ALARMED THE MOTHER-LOVE OF THE REAL MOTHER THAT SHE INSISTED THE OTHER WOMAN BE GIVEN THE LIVING BABY. IF SHE CANNOT OBTAIN JUSTICE, AT LEAST SHE WILL SECURE THE LIFE OF HER CHILD." (DAVIS, PG. 39)

V. 28 - AND NOT ONLY WOULD SOLOMON WALK AWAY REALIZING WHAT GOD HAD GIVEN HIM, THE NATION HEARS OF THIS AND RECOGNIZES THE WISDOM AND INSIGHT OF THEIR NEW KING.

NOTE THE OBSERVATION THAT THE NATION MADE OF SOLOMON AFTER THIS INCIDENT:

1 KINGS 3:28 (KJV) - AND ALL ISRAEL HEARD OF THE JUDGMENT WHICH THE KING HAD JUDGED; AND THEY FEARED THE KING: FOR THEY SAW THAT THE WISDOM OF GOD WAS IN HIM, TO DO JUDGMENT.

COMPARE THIS TO SOLOMON'S ORIGINAL REQUEST

1 KINGS 3:9 - "SO GIVE YOUR SERVANT AN UNDERSTANDING HEART TO **JUDGE** YOUR PEOPLE TO DISCERN BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. FOR WHO IS ABLE TO **JUDGE** THIS GREAT PEOPLE OF YOURS?"

GODLY AND SPIRITUAL WISDOM IS MORE THAN JUST KNOWING FACTS OR BEING ABLE TO LOOK AT A PROBLEM AND FIGURE IT OUT. IT IS THAT IN THE LEAST, BUT MORE THAN THAT. IT HAS A DEPTH AND PRECISION THAT GIVES EVIDENCE TO A "HIGHER POWER" FUELING IT. THIS INSTANCE WITH SOLOMON AND THE VOLUMINOUS PROVERBS AND WORDS OF WISDOM IN PROVERBS (AND ELSEWHERE) TESTIFY TO THIS.

PROVERBS 1:1-6 - THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON THE SON OF DAVID, KING OF ISRAEL: 2 TO KNOW WISDOM AND INSTRUCTION, TO DISCERN THE SAYINGS OF UNDERSTANDING, 3 TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN WISE BEHAVIOR, RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTICE AND EQUITY; 4 TO GIVE PRUDENCE TO THE NAIVE, TO THE YOUTH KNOWLEDGE AND DISCRETION, 5 A WISE MAN WILL HEAR AND INCREASE IN LEARNING, AND A MAN OF UNDERSTANDING WILL ACQUIRE WISE COUNSEL, 6 TO UNDERSTAND A PROVERB AND A FIGURE, THE WORDS OF THE WISE AND THEIR RIDDLES.

PROVERBS 2:6-7 - FOR THE LORD GIVES WISDOM; FROM HIS MOUTH COME KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. 7 HE STORES UP SOUND WISDOM FOR THE UPRIGHT; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO WALK IN INTEGRITY,

PROVERBS 3:13-18 - HOW BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO FINDS WISDOM AND THE MAN WHO GAINS UNDERSTANDING. 14 FOR HER PROFIT IS BETTER THAN THE PROFIT OF SILVER AND HER GAIN BETTER THAN FINE GOLD. 15 SHE IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN JEWELS; AND NOTHING YOU DESIRE COMPARES WITH HER. 16 LONG LIFE IS IN HER RIGHT HAND; IN HER LEFT HAND ARE RICHES AND HONOR. 17 HER WAYS ARE PLEASANT WAYS AND ALL HER PATHS ARE PEACE. 18 SHE IS A TREE OF LIFE TO THOSE WHO TAKE HOLD OF HER, AND HAPPY ARE ALL WHO HOLD HER FAST.

PROVERBS 4:5-8 - ACQUIRE WISDOM! ACQUIRE UNDERSTANDING! DO NOT FORGET NOR TURN AWAY FROM THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH. 6 "DO NOT FORSAKE HER, AND SHE WILL GUARD YOU; LOVE HER, AND SHE WILL WATCH OVER YOU. 7 "THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM IS: ACQUIRE WISDOM; AND WITH ALL YOUR ACQUIRING, GET UNDERSTANDING. 8 "PRIZE HER, AND SHE WILL EXALT YOU; SHE WILL HONOR YOU IF YOU EMBRACE HER.

PROVERBS 8:11 - "FOR WISDOM IS BETTER THAN JEWELS; AND ALL DESIRABLE THINGS CANNOT COMPARE WITH HER.

PROVERBS 9:10-11 - THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM, AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY ONE IS UNDERSTANDING. 11 FOR BY ME YOUR DAYS WILL BE MULTIPLIED, AND YEARS OF LIFE WILL BE ADDED TO YOU.

PROVERBS 16:16 - HOW MUCH BETTER IT IS TO GET WISDOM THAN GOLD! AND TO GET UNDERSTANDING IS TO BE CHOSEN ABOVE SILVER.

PROVERBS 19:8 - HE WHO GETS WISDOM LOVES HIS OWN SOUL; HE WHO KEEPS UNDERSTANDING WILL FIND GOOD.

PROVERBS 24:14 - KNOW THAT WISDOM IS THUS FOR YOUR SOUL; IF YOU FIND IT, THEN THERE WILL BE A FUTURE, AND YOUR HOPE WILL NOT BE CUT OFF.

WE TOO CAN (AND SHOULD) ASK FOR WISDOM. IN FACT WISDOM IS GREATLY NEEDED BY ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN THIS GENERATION. GOD PROMISES TO GIVE US WISDOM WHEN WE ASK:

JAMES 1:5 - BUT IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, LET HIM ASK OF GOD, WHO GIVES TO ALL GENEROUSLY AND WITHOUT REPROACH, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO HIM.

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15 - YOU, HOWEVER, CONTINUE IN THE THINGS YOU HAVE LEARNED AND BECOME CONVINCED OF, KNOWING FROM WHOM YOU HAVE LEARNED THEM, 15 AND THAT FROM CHILDHOOD YOU HAVE KNOWN THE SACRED WRITINGS WHICH ARE ABLE TO GIVE YOU THE WISDOM THAT LEADS TO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS.

EPHESIANS 1:17-19 - (I PRAY) THAT THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY, MAY GIVE TO YOU A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND OF REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM. 18 I PRAY THAT THE EYES OF YOUR HEART MAY BE ENLIGHTENED, SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW WHAT IS THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, WHAT ARE THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, 19 AND WHAT IS THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE.