

I KINGS 3; May 12; Solomon Requests Wisdom from God

ANALYSIS:

1. What problems do you see in Solomon's life as this chapter begins?

2. What did the LORD say to Solomon in a dream?

3. What wise request did Solomon make that pleased the LORD?

4. What did the LORD promise Solomon in addition to what he requested? _____

5. When King Solomon ordered that the living child be cut in half, how did the reaction of the two women clearly show who was the actual birth mother? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Solomon's humility (and wisdom) are expressed by the words, "I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in." He was not talking about not knowing enough about court manners to be a king. He was admitting he needed divine understanding to be the ultimate judge over the LORD'S people. He was asking for a spiritual heart to discern between good and bad, which every judge and ruler faces. That attitude God loves, and God rewarded Solomon abundantly.

As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have a wonderful promise equal to the one made to Solomon. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (Jam 1:5). Do we ask humbly, believing, with the intention of serving the LORD more perfectly?

HELP:

1. Solomon marries an Egyptian, he allows the people to sacrifice in high places, and he also sacrificed and burnt incense in high places (vs 1-3). [The term "high places" seems always to be descriptive of idolatry and false worship.]

2. "Ask what I shall give thee" (v 5).

3. Give me wisdom so I can judge thy people rightly (v 9).

4. Riches, honor and long life (if Solomon walked in the ways of the LORD) (vs 13-14).

5. The true mother said, "give her the living child, and in no way slay it." But the woman who was not the mother of the child said, "Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it" (vs 24-27)