

Character Study: Solomon

Part 1 – Solomon Requests Wisdom

I Kings 1-4

What's happening?

- As King David grew old in age, his son Adonijah tried to take his throne. However, David knew that God's plan was to have his other son, Solomon, reign in his place (1 Chron. 28:5). David quickly sent his top men to anoint Solomon king before the people. Seeing King David's approval of Solomon, the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon!" (1:33-39)
- God spoke to Solomon and offered to give him whatever he wanted. Solomon, recognizing that he was young and inexperienced and in a position of great responsibility, asked God to give him wisdom. (3:5-9)
- God was so pleased that Solomon did not use His offer as a means of selfish gain, that He greatly blessed him. God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding unlike anyone before or after him. He also additionally blessed him with riches and honor that would set him apart from all the other kings. (3:10-15)
- God had blessed Solomon with "wisdom and understanding beyond measure" so much so that his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. People came from all over to hear him speak. (4:20-34)

What's God doing?

> God had carried out His will and made Solomon the next king over Israel. Seeing Solomon's desire to be a wise leader over Israel, God gave Solomon wisdom that set him apart as the wisest man of his day.

What's to learn?

→ Solomon did not just desire knowledge, Solomon desired wisdom. Knowledge is an understanding of facts and information, but wisdom is the ability to make right decisions and choices. Solomon wanted the ability to apply knowledge in a way that enabled him to make wise decisions in any situation.

→ In Solomon's position of influence and leadership, he knew that good discernment and wise judgment was important. As followers of Christ, having wisdom is key if we are to make decisions that please God.

→ Solomon asked for wisdom and God gave it to him. God promises to give us wisdom if we seek it as well (Prov. 2:1-7; James 1:5-8).