



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA
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1 Kings 3

1 Kings 3:1 ¹Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David until he had finished building his own house and the house of the Lord and the wall around Jerusalem.

What is taking place here is a practice that was common to the Middle Eastern cultures of that day

When a peace treaty was made that alliance would be cemented by a marriage between the leader of one country and the daughter of the other country's leader

There are going to be times in the future of the divided kingdom when God will severely rebuke His people for making political/military alliances with Egypt rather than trusting in the Lord.

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord!

This does not appear to be the case with Solomon in **1 Kings 3**. There is a lot of speculation as to the identity of this Pharaoh — but we can say that this Pharaoh was “a late king of the 21st (or Janite) dynasty.”

The Pulpit Commentary: 1 Kings. 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (50).

Some think the marriage was actually proposed by Pharaoh because the 21st dynasty had become very weak” — and that it was Pharaoh who desired “friendly relations with the kingdom of Israel, which had grown into a power to be dreaded” (Keil).

Was such a practice lawful?

It was not wrong according to the letter of the law, because according to the letter of the law the only women that the Israelites could not marry were the Canaanite women. These women were off limits for Jewish men

KEY OBSERVATION: BUT - He did violate the *charge* of God concerning kings

Deu 17:16-17 “Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’” And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

I think this is a hint of things to come in Solomon’s life — and glimpse into one of the weaknesses in Solomon’s life — a weakness that will have tragic effect on his relationship with the Lord.

“The people were sacrificing at the high places, however, because no house had yet been built for the name of the Lord.

INSIGHT: Throughout the Old Testament in the land of Israel there were **HIGH PLACES** **GROVES**..... that were planted by the Canaanites for the purpose of worshipping the false deities of their culture

The Jews were using those same places to offer incense to the God of Israel.

WHY is that happening? We know from **2 Samuel 6** that David brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem. There David erected a new Tabernacle — a new tent to house the Ark of the Covenant.

But the old Tabernacle — the one erected under the leadership of Moses in the wilderness — had been at Shiloh. We know it was eventually moved to Nob because it was there when David was on the run from king Saul David fled to Nob. It tells us in **1 Chronicles**, it was eventually moved to Gibeon at this point in time. Gibeon was one of the high places just north of Jerusalem.

There was still a great deal of reverence for the original Tabernacle. Because that Tabernacle was associated with the **legitimate worship** of the **true God** some Israelites were actually offering sacrifices there.

Since Solomon had not yet built the Temple on the threshing floor of Onan — it is understandable that the children of Israel would have thought it permissible to worship at either of those tents — The one built by David housing the Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem, or the one built by Moses in the wilderness now located in the **HIGH PLACE** of Gibeon.

As a result the children of Israel **rationalized** — **became comfortable** with — sacrificing and worshipping the True and Living God **on the high places**.

This was a COMPROMISE and DISOBEDIENCE

Deu 12:2-5 ²You shall **surely destroy all the places** where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. ³You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place. ⁴**You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way.** ⁵But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There shall you go.

Deu 12:13-14 ¹²And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male servants and your female servants, and the Levite that is within your towns, since he has no portion or inheritance with you. ¹³Take care that you do not offer your burnt offerings at any place that you see, ¹⁴but at the place that the Lord will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you.

KEY POINT: They were **NOT** to worship the Lord in their own way. They were to worship only as God specified. Genuine worship is not a free for all. There is one true and living God. He has prescribed how man can approach Him. That was the point of the detailed sacrificial system of the O.T. — all of which pointed to Jesus as THE WAY to God!

compromise kills! This compromise — worshipping the true God in the wrong place — led to the sin of worshipping idols in those same high places. Compromise is partial obedience — which is in reality disobedience. It is a great tool of the devil to get us to the point where we are comfortable with disobedience!

3Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places.

KEY OBSERVATION: Solomon **LOVED THE LORD** — but tragically we find the word **ONLY** in this verse

*only = **HOWEVER***

*Solomon loved the Lord **HOWEVER**
he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.*

AGAIN — This action is not made all right simply because Solomon *loved the Lord*. **Loving God is not a sentimental kind of love!** To love the Lord is to obey the Lord.

***John 14:23** If anyone loves Me he will keep my word. 1*

***John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.*

Solomon should have led the people by example in holding fast to the **statutes** that God had given to Israel to govern worship

But he did not and this caused a problem for the people who followed his example

⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”

NOTICE: That the Lord appeared to Solomon in Gibeon

WHY? Because the Tabernacle was there

Solomon **set aside** his own ideas about worship and **submits** to the Lord's instruction concerning worship

NOTICE: 3 Things

1.) The PLACE — The Tabernacle. It speaks of Solomon meeting the Lord on the Lord's terms. Thus it speaks of Submission / Surrender / Obedience.

2.) The TIME — He had spent all day **worshipping** — **pouring out to the Lord**. It was **then** he **received from** the Lord. How often have we experienced God revealing Himself to us following those times of pouring out to Him a sacrifice of praise — pouring out to Him a sacrifice of service

3.) The METHOD — It was in a dream

Think about that tonight when your head hits the pillow. The Lord does and can speak through dreams. God does not tuck you in and tune you out. He can and may speak to us at night

It is not a bad idea as you pray before sleeping to say: *“Lord, if You want to speak to me tonight in a dream, go for it*

So here we see Solomon — at the tabernacle. pouring out in worship. Goes to sleep — and the Lord speaks to him

KEY OBSERVATION: *GOD SAID, ASK WHAT I SHALL GIVE THEE.*

WOW! Blank check endorsed by God drawn against His account! **Put yourself in Solomon's place.** You're an 18 year old. God comes and says — *anything you want — just ask in it's yours!* What are you gonna say? If you say *\$1 million* — you're stupid. If you say *\$100 million* — you're stupid. If you say *\$100 trillion* — you're stupid. Is that the biggest number you've got?

Let's see what Solomon asked for

6And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. **7**And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. **8**And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. **9**Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”**10**It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

KEY OBSERVATION: What did Solomon ask for?

He asked for wisdom so that he could serve God's people and judge God's people wisely

If you have ever read this portion of the Bible — and God appeared to you and asked the same question — you would know exactly how to answer! *I want an understanding heart.* Because you've read the chapter! You know that if you say that that God is going to give you **everything else** too. We need to remember — Solomon's never read the chapter. He doesn't know the story. **He answers from out of the desire of his heart.**

NOTE: Solomon's request is nestled and rooted in a genuine understanding that he is a part of the **great covenant relationship of God** with Israel.

In **verse 6** he references the Covenant of God with his father, David (Davidic Covenant [2 Sam. 7:8-17](#); [Psalm 89:3](#))

You have spoken prophetically of my father's throne. You have prophetically spoken of me — I'm just a kid. HOW am I supposed to behave?

In **verse 8** he references the Covenant of God with Abraham — the father of the nation of Israel (Abrahamic Covenant [Gen. 12:1-3](#); [13:16](#); [15:5](#); [17:1-8](#))

This is not just ANY people. These are YOUR people! How am I to GOVERN the apple of your eye?

APPLICATION: When we truly realize that our lives are nestled in and rooted in the new covenant established in the blood of Jesus, we will understand that life is bigger than our own concerns. We will understand that our lives involve the glory of Jesus — the Lamb of God! then — We will be desperate to know how to behave in light of the blood of Jesus shed for us and the glory of what we have been saved to. Then — We will be desperate to know how to rule our own lives. Then — We will be desperate to know how to govern a home or a relationship or an area of ministry.

KEY INSIGHT: Solomon was in the right place to receive wisdom

To receive wisdom you need to recognize that you need wisdom

You know that you are becoming wiser when you seek the Lord and say: *“Lord I need wisdom... I don't know as much as I used to think I knew”*

It is to that person that the Lord gives wisdom

James 1:5 ⁵*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*

¹¹And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your

word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

God said — *it is imparted, done. I have — past tense — given you. I have done according to your words. I have given you a wise and understanding heart.* But I believe that this wisdom — imparted by God — unmatched by any save Jesus — was exercised in the moment needed in his reign over Israel.

¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.

Jesus said — *Mat 6:33 ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

That is exactly what Solomon did. Solomon was asking for that which would enable him to best serve the Lord

KEY APPLICATION: How many of our prayers are committed to “*Lord, allow your Kingdom to be expanded... Your name to be exalted*” — **As opposed to** — “*Lord, I need this... I want that*”

¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Solomon didn't rush out to Neiman Marcus or Sach's to start spending his untold fortunes against the promise of God. He didn't go on the David Letterman show or the weekend news shows to tout his newly acquired wisdom on display— **He worshipped and blessed his servants.**

Now we come to the record of an event that is familiar to many of you.

God says — *I have given you wisdom* — and this is the first demonstration of it.

¹⁶Then two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷The one woman said, “Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. ¹⁸Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. And we were alone. There was no one else with us in the house; only we two were in the house. ¹⁹And this woman’s son died in the night, because she lay on him. ²⁰And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while your servant slept, and laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. ²¹When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, he was dead. But when I looked at him closely in the morning, behold, he was not the child that I had borne.” ²²But the other woman said, “No, the living child is mine, and the dead child is yours.” The first said, “No, the dead child is yours, and the living child is mine.” Thus they spoke before the king. ²³Then the king said, “The one says, ‘This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead’; and the other says, ‘No; but your son is dead, and my son is the living one.’” ²⁴And the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So a sword was brought before the king. ²⁵And the king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.” ²⁶Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, “Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means put him to death.” But the other said, “He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him.” ²⁷Then the king answered and said, “Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother.” ²⁸And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice.

I encourage you to read ahead — To look at the building of the Tabernacle— To look at the things that now begin to take place in his life. It is an amazing history of this young man Solomon and the power that he comes to upon the throne of Israel.

A COUPLE OF THOUGHTS IN CLOSING

FIRST — Solomon's wisdom and David's heart

Solomon said — Here's the one thing I want — wisdom.

David said — Here's the one thing I want — ***Psalm 27:4** One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire*

Solomon — carried along by the Holy Spirit — writes the amazing compilation of Proverbs. He will transgress virtually everything he writes in the Book of Proverbs. In it he will write — ***Prov. 4:23** guard your heart with all diligence because from it flow the issues of life.* And yet, God will say to Solomon — *your heart is not perfect towards me like the heart of your father David.*

Though he was the wisest man that ever lived — It was Solomon's **heart** that led him astray. David, on the other hand, was a flawed man — as we have seen all too clearly. But David never turned to idols. **Wisdom** is crucial for life in the Kingdom. **Heart** for Jesus is **essential**

SECOND — There's a radical picture in Solomon's wisdom regarding this child — Think of giving birth to something in terms of ministry or a church. I think how often someone comes around who is willing to cause division because they didn't go through the labor, they didn't give birth to it... they are willing to divide. The mother who carried the child to term — went through labor pain — gave life to the child — will give up that which she has birthed rather than see it destroyed.

You can tell those who have the least vested in a work of God — They are the ones that would rather see it destroyed than not get their own way with it.

KEY OBSERVATION: The real mother would not allow anything to hurt the child or tear at the child

KEY APPLICATION: So it is with those who truly love the Body of Christ. They are more concerned with the well being of the Body than they are of possessing some position or having their own way in relation to the Body

LAST — *Verse 24 - Bring me a sword*

IF you are involved in giving advice, the first words out of your mouth should be *Bring me a sword*

The Word of God has the answers for living

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Sadly — it is becoming the last resort for many Christians

Let's make sure that it is always our first point of reference and the Supreme Court of our decision-making processes.