



Church of God Sunday School

SOLOMON SEEKS WISDOM

1 Kings 1:1 — 4:34; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12

King David was very old. He was going to die soon. His son, Adonijah (*ad-uh-NI-juh*), decided to make himself the next king. When Adonijah called his men and his brothers together, he did not call any of the men who were faithful to David, such as Zadok (*ZAY-dok*), the priest; Benaiah (*be-NYE-ya*), captain of the king's bodyguard; or Nathan, the prophet. He did not call his brother, Solomon, either. Adonijah knew God had said Solomon was to be the next king (1 Chronicles 22:9-10).

Nathan went to Bathsheba and told her what Adonijah was doing. Nathan told her to remind King David he had promised Bathsheba that Solomon would be the next king. She was to ask, "Why then doth Adonijah reign?" Bathsheba went to David. As she was telling him what Nathan had said, Nathan himself came in and said it was all true.

So David told Zadok, Nathan, and Benaiah to have Solomon ride upon the king's mule, the special mule that only the king rode (Adonijah did not have it). They were to go to the spring called Gihon (*GI-hon*). Zadok and Nathan were to anoint Solomon with oil. The trumpet was to be blown, and they were to shout, "God save king Solomon." Next, Solomon was to be brought back to the city to sit upon David's throne. That would surely let everyone know that David wanted Solomon to be the next king, not Adonijah.

When the trumpet was blown, all the people shouted and rejoiced loudly. The noise of their rejoicing could be heard where Adonijah was. When news came that Solomon had been made king, everyone with Adonijah was afraid and fled. Adonijah ran "and caught hold on the horns of the altar." That was a plea for mercy from King Solomon. Adonijah was afraid that Solomon would kill him.

King Solomon said if Adonijah would be a worthy man, he would not be killed. But if he proved to be wicked, he would die. When Solomon had Adonijah brought before him, Adonijah bowed to Solomon. Then

Solomon said to Adonijah, "Go to thine house."

As David's time to die drew nearer, he gave Solomon instructions concerning many things. The most important charge David made to Solomon was that he continue to keep all God's laws, commandments, and testimonies. Soon after that, David died. He had reigned forty years.

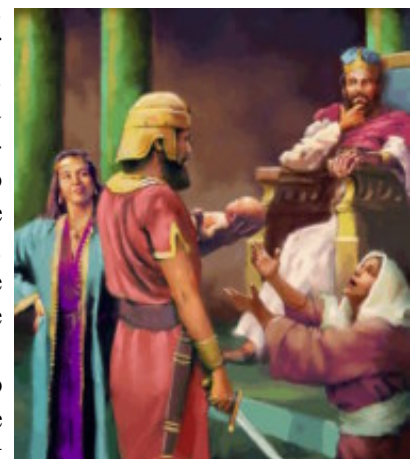
"Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly." Things did not go smoothly at first. Again, Adonijah tried to sneakily work against Solomon. When Solomon realized what his brother was doing, he commanded that Adonijah be put to death. (Remember, Solomon had promised Adonijah could live as long as he was not wicked.)

Solomon loved God and kept God's statutes (laws), as David had. When Solomon went to Gibeon (*GIB-ee-uhn*), "the great high place," to offer "a thousand burnt offerings," the Lord spoke to him in a dream. God said, "Ask what I shall give thee."

King Solomon said, "O LORD my God . . . I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. . . . Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"

God was so pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom! God told him that because he asked for wisdom and not for "long life" or "riches" or for "the life" of his enemies, God would answer his prayer. God said, "I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee."

God promised to give Solomon the things he had not



asked for—"riches, and honour." Lastly, God said to Solomon, "And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes . . . as thy father David did . . . then I will lengthen thy days."

When Solomon woke up, he went to Jerusalem and stood before the Ark of the Covenant. There he offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to God.

Then, two women came to King Solomon. They had a problem they wanted Solomon to settle. These women lived in the same house, together, and they had no husbands. They both had given birth to baby boys, born only three days apart. One baby died in the night.

One woman accused the other woman of trading the dead baby for her own baby while she was sleeping. She said that when she awoke, she knew the dead baby was not her son. But the other woman argued that the living son was her son! Because no one else had been in the house since the babies were born, only the two women knew the truth.

The two women went to King Solomon to have him decide who was the real mother of the living child. As the women argued, back and forth, King Solomon called for a sword to be brought. "And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other." Oh, no! Did the king really mean what he said? Was he going to have the baby cut

in half? That would be awful!

One mother spoke up right away. She said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it." But the other woman said, "Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it." (How could the true mother say that?)

King Solomon was wise. He knew which woman was the real mother. He said to give the living child to the woman who had begged that it not be killed. "Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof." True mothers love their children and do not want any harm to come to them.

Soon all Israel heard of the judgment that King Solomon had made. Everyone feared and respected him. They could tell that God had given him godly wisdom, to make right decisions. Solomon was "wiser than all men . . . and his fame was in all nations round about." People came from "all kings of the earth" to hear Solomon's wisdom.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Give . . . thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad . . ."*  
 —1 Kings 3:9  
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Word Maze

A	K	G	W	M
W	I	S	E	U
T	N	O	I	L
S	G	P	N	E
M	A	E	R	D



Find these words in the maze:

WISE KING MULE OIL DREAM