

SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM

Introduction:

1. After the death of David, Solomon was established on the throne of Israel.
2. Though these two men were father and son, they were very different in personality, ability, and leadership.
 - a. David was a soldier; Solomon was a scholar.
 - b. David lived the simple life of a shepherd; Solomon lived a life of luxury.
 - c. David is known for his psalms; Solomon is remembered for his proverbs.
 - d. David led as a warrior; Solomon led as a politician.
 - e. “When David died, the people mourned; after Solomon died, the people begged his successor ...to lighten the heavy yoke” he had place on them.
3. Yet, Solomon began his reign as a godly man and a good king.
4. This is seen in his request to God for wisdom.

- I. Worship at Gibeon (2 Chronicles 1:1-6)
 - A. As he began to reign as king, God was with Solomon.
 - B. One of his first acts was to lead a great number of the congregation to Gibeon to offer sacrifice to Jehovah.
 1. Before the Temple was built, the Tabernacle, along with the brazen altar, remained at Gibeon – about 5 miles north of Jerusalem.
 - a. David had brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.
 - b. There, he had built a tent for it.
 - c. This was in preparation for the building of the Temple.
 2. The “high places” were often used for idolatrous worship.
 3. God had warned Israel about worshipping in this manner and instructed them to tear down the high places and destroy the idols (Num. 33:52; Deut. 7:5; 12:1-3; 33:29; etc.).
 4. Solomon’s worship here was not idolatrous but demonstrated the need for the Temple – a central location for all Israel to assemble to worship.
 - C. Solomon sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings to the Lord on this occasion.
 - D. It was an act of consecration and a statement of the unity of Israel’s leaders.
- II. The Request of Solomon (2 Chronicles 1:7-10)
 - A. After a full day of worship, Solomon and the others remained in Gibeon for the night.
 - B. The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, “Ask! What shall I give you?”
 1. This was both a demonstration of God’s goodness and a test of Solomon’s character.
 2. That which one requests reveals the desire of his or her heart.
 3. The desire of one’s heart reveals his or her character.
 - C. Solomon’s response showed him to be a man of true humility with a desire to serve God and His people.
 - D. First, he acknowledged God’s love and faithfulness to David.
 - E. Next, he recognized God’s grace in allowing him to serve as King.
 - F. Then, he confessed his inadequacy as a “little child” to lead such a “great people.”
 1. Solomon was about 20 years old at this time.
 2. He did not know how to lead a nation (cf. Num. 27:15-17; Dt. 31:2-3).

1 Kings 3; 2 Chronicles 1

- G. Finally, he asked for wisdom, knowledge, and an understanding heart.
 - 1. Knowledge has to do with the acquisition of facts and truth.
 - 2. Wisdom is the proper use of knowledge – in the right way at the right time – to create a life truly well-lived.
 - 3. An understanding heart is a hearing mind – a heart open to the will of God and ready to accept and obey it.
 - H. The Christian should remember the promise of James 1:5 (cf. 3:17; Prov. 4:23; Phil. 1:9-11; Isa. 11:1-5).
- III. The Response of God (2 Chronicles 1:11-12)
- A. God approved of Solomon's request and his attitude in making it.
 - B. God granted Solomon both wisdom and knowledge.
 - C. He also blessed him with riches, wealth, and honor – greater than any king of Israel.
 - D. He also promised to give Solomon long life if he would live in obedience to his Word (1 Kings 3:14).
 - E. In response, Solomon offered sacrifices to God and held a feast for his servants (1 Kings 3:15).
- IV. The Demonstration of Wisdom (1 Kings 3:16-28)