



# Church of God Sunday School

## SOLOMON SEEKS WISDOM

1 Kings 1-2:12; 3

King David was very old. He was going to die soon. His son, Adonijah, had set about making himself the next king. When Adonijah called his men together, he did not call any of the men who were faithful to David, such as Zadok the priest, Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, or Nathan the prophet. And he did not call his brother, Solomon, because Solomon was supposed to be the next king, according to the Word of God in 1 Chronicles 22:9.

Nathan went to Bathsheba and said: "Hast thou not heard that Adonijah . . . doth reign, and David our lord knoweth it not? . . . Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me . . .? why then doth Adonijah reign? Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words."

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. Zadok and Nathan were to anoint Solomon with oil. The trumpet was to be blown—really loud—and they were to shout, "God save King Solomon." Next, Solomon should 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. He knew that Solomon had been made king, so he ran and caught hold of the horns that were on 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. Solomon just said to Adonijah, "Go to thine house."

As David's time to die drew nearer, he charged Solomon to do many things, but the most important charge that 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.

Now it was Solomon who was king. Solomon loved God and kept God's statutes, as David had. But he did sacrifice and burn incense in the high places, "because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD" yet. When King Solomon went to Gibeon, "the great high place," to offer "a thousand burnt offerings," the Lord spoke to him in a dream. God said to Solomon, "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, instead of something else, that He said: "Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, 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.

"And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. 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 thought about the dream. He went to Jerusalem and stood before the Ark of the Covenant and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to God, and he had a feast for all his servants.

Now, two women came to King Solomon. They had a dispute they wanted Solomon to settle. These women lived in the same house, by themselves: they had no husbands. They both had given birth to baby boys, born only three days apart. One baby died in the night. The mother of the dead child got up. She



sneaked over to where the other woman was sleeping and quietly laid her dead child in the arms of the sleeping woman. Then she took the living child for her own! The sleeping woman never knew about the trade!

In the morning, the woman with the dead child was frantic! Her son was dead! As she looked closer at the dead baby though—she realized that he *was not her son!* But the other woman fervently claimed that the living child *was her son!* How could two women be the mother of

one child? That could not possibly be true! The women could not agree; so they had come to the king to have him decide who was the real mother of the living child.

As the women argued back and forth, back and forth, in front of King Solomon, he suddenly stopped them. He said: "The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead [son], and my son is the living. . . . Bring me a sword. . . . 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? What an awful thing to do!

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." This was, supposedly, in fairness to both women. (But what about the poor little baby?) King Solomon was wise. He knew which was the real, true 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 . . . ." True mothers love their children.

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.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

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

*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





# Solomon Asks for Wisdom