

1 Kings 2-3

Good evening church.

It is a joy to be here with you.

Tonight we will continue our study of 1 Kings, we will be in chapters 2 and 3 tonight.

Let's pray before we begin...

Remember last week, we saw a very weak and feeble King David.

And once again, David's aloof parenting proved to be one of his greatest follies.

Adoni-jah his eldest son at this point in his life sees his father's weakened condition, and he takes a play right out of Absalom's playbook, and tries to take the throne for himself.

Understand at this point in Israel's history, the oldest son was not yet considered the automatic heir to the throne.

Remember David was the youngest of eight brothers.

Also, God had promised that Solomon would sit on the Throne of his father David, Solomon was 9th or 10th as far as age was concerned.

Adoni-jah was assuming the customs of the surrounding people's, upon God's Kingdom, and God has a way of doing things counter to man's way.

Now Adoni-jah's rebellion seemed successful from the start, if you simply look at who supported him.

He had David's mighty warlord, Joab by his side, the priest Abiathar, also all of David's other children.

And even as we will see later, he had the majority vote in the nation of Israel.

But he was not God's man, and we saw men and women, loyal to God's cause, step up and intervene.

David, Zadok, Nathan, Benaiah, and Bathsheba all worked together to inaugurate Solomon as God's King, and they were successful.

When the detractors heard the celebrations underway about a mile away, they knew their false king's gig was up.

They all fled for their lives, and Solomon became coregent with King David, until the death of David, for which we will see tonight.

Like all the other heroes of the Bible that we have fallen in love with since the Book of Genesis, David will go the way that all men go, and he will pass off the scene of history.

His name will be more renown than most, but only by the fact that the Messiah, the Savior of all mankind, will descend from David.

Jesus will be known as the Son of David, a Messianic Title.

But the Bible never allows us to exalt man too high until they pass away, the main character of the whole Bible remains God's Son.

So, chapter 2 opens up with David's final instructions to his son Solomon.

Let's read now starting in verse 1...

David's Instructions to Solomon

2:1 Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: 2 "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. 3 And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; 4 that the Lord may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

In Antiquity, a person's dying words were super important.

We see the importance of David's last instructions here, as it says David charged his son, that Word is the same root word as last will or testament.

Now, there has been some time for the two Kings to rule as coregents.

It seems that the events of 1 Chronicles 28 and 29 may have transpired during this time, leading some to believe David had recovered from his ailment for a time.

This was the preparation time for the Temple.

But we see eventually old age caught up with the mighty King David, and he is “going the way of all the earth.”

Death is the most disparaging topic, and many pretend the day will never come for them.

But in Romans we see **Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -**

And this is the way of all the earth, because of our first mother and father sinned against God.

There is only really one Hope for humanity now, that is to put our faith in the One who conquered sin and death, and provides a way of escape, a way to eternal life with Him, Jesus.

And our faith in Jesus allows us to look at death as David did in **Ps 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

And if we are honest, all of us are walking in this valley today, this is this world's unavoidable reality.

You can be in superb health even tonight, and still be dead before the sun rises in the morning.

The only hope is to be ready for that day...

So David tells Solomon, "Be strong, therefore prove yourself a man."

Solomon was not rugged like his father.

Solomon would have been raised in women's palaces, instead of out on the field with his father.

He was one of David's protected and privileged sons, his hands were soft.

David's hands were callous and rugged from years of battle.

And he was the type of dad who changed his son's car oil his whole life, and when his boy finally gets out on his own, he knows nothing about caring for his own car.

And now that he is about to leave his son, he is worried about his masculinity, perhaps he never let his boy crest into manhood.

Solomon is not at all like his father, he is soft, raised in the palace, and pampered.

You think of Solomon's harem, hundreds of women.

This man knew nothing of the sweat of his brow, but he did now a lot about women, because that is who raised him.

Solomon is charged here to be a man, but David's words will prove to be incapable and too late, David never showed him how to be a man.

Father's, it is that shoulder to shoulder time, teaching your sons to be men, out in life that gives them the most valuable tools.

Don't protect them, let their hands get dirty and greasy.

Listen, for me, I know a project is going to take at least an hour longer when the littles are there with me.

Just this Monday, I was hanging two security screen doors at our house, normally it would take 20 minutes, but I have all those little hands wanting to help, it took me a lot longer.

And I found myself getting frustrated, and I wanted to tell Jess to get them out of my way so I could get it done.

But that thought came to me, that they will only be in the way for a short time, and I have this short time to teach them how to work.

So it helped make the time a little less frustrating, and the doors got hung.

David left the boys to their mothers, and they never became men.

Solomon's demise will be his adolescent view of women.

Notice in verse 3, David urges Solomon to stay close to the Lord and to the Word of God.

This is great advice, to put the Lord first.

And Solomon may have started out this way, and he did find immense prosperity as David assures him here.

It is so important to bring the next generation up in God's Word.

If there is hope for the next generation they need to turn back to God's Word.

There are so many fancy ways of reaching the next generation, to get them into a church setting, but the bulk of them are void of God's Word.

The church will never be healthier, then when it puts God's Word at the forefront, from the wee littles, all the way through the youth, to the young adult and into the sanctuary, may God's Word reign supreme.

So lastly David reminds Solomon that if he heeds the council of God's Word, and obeys Him, that there is covenant between David and God, and they will not lack a man on the throne of Israel, from David's lineage.

And after David charged Solomon in this manner, he will now warn him of the perils that await him in the future kingdom....

Starting in verse 5 now...

5 "Moreover you know also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed. And he shed the blood of war in peacetime, and put the blood of war on his belt that was around his waist, and on his sandals that were on his feet. 6 Therefore do according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.

7 "But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for so they came to me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

8 "And see, you have with you Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a malicious curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by the Lord, saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.' 9 Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man and know what you ought to do to him; but bring his gray hair down to the grave with blood."

David first names Joab, who was commander of David's army.

It is interesting, because he stood out as one of David's most loyal men, and stood with David through many perilous times.

But from time to time he asserted himself selfishly, and at times drifted from the big picture for self-seeking reasons.

David does not mention the fact that he rebelled against Solomon, that was a lesser issue than the two murders he had on his hands.

Joab had killed two noted warriors in cold blood because they posed a threat to his own position.

It is interesting that Joab helped David cover up his own sin with the murder of Uriah, and perhaps Joab held that over David's head, and blackmailed the King.

We know that Joab also defied the orders of the King and killed his son Absalom even with David ordering him to be taken alive.

Joab was self-willed, and those who view God's Work through the lens of selfishness cause so much damage to the work.

Joab must be dealt with, and David instructs his boy to deal with him.

Next we David also not only pointed out those who needed to be dealt with, but too he remembered his

friend Barzillai, and asks Solomon to bless his decedents.

Then David warns of one from the house of Saul, who cursed David when he was fleeing Absalom.

Shimei, who wanted to see Saul's line regain the throne, was a danger to Solomon.

Remember he hurled curses at David, and according to the law this was a huge violation.

Ex 22:28 "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

David however accepted the curses as a chastening from the Lord.

Of course when David regained the throne, Shimei came sheepishly to seek forgiveness, and David wisely forgave him at a tender time in his Kingdom.

But David knew that this pro-Saul movement could pose as a problem for the northern Kingdom, so he tells him to deal with Shimei as well.

Then in verse 10 now, David goes the way of all the earth...

Death of David(1 Chron. 3:4; 29:26-28)

10 So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. 11 The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three

years. 12 Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

Solomon had already co-ruled with David, so there was no need for anymore theatrics, and his throne was firmly established from the get go.

David left Solomon with some solid advice, and now the new king will wisely maneuver through all the opposition that will come his way.

Remember he forgave his brother for trying to take the kingdom from Solomon, but we will see Adoni-jah takes Solomon's meekness as weakness, and he will try to manipulate his way back to the top.

Look now starting in verse 13... As the new king is tested...

Solomon Executes Adoni-jah

13 Now Adoni-jah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. So she said, "Do you come peaceably?"

And he said, "Peaceably." 14 Moreover he said, "I have something to say to you."

And she said, "Say it."

15 Then he said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had set their expectations on me, that I should reign. However, the kingdom has been turned over, and has become my brother's; for it was

his from the Lord. 16 Now I ask one petition of you; do not deny me."

And she said to him, "Say it."

17 Then he said, "Please speak to King Solomon, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as wife."

18 So Bathsheba said, "Very well, I will speak for you to the king."

19 Bathsheba therefore went to King Solomon, to speak to him for Adoni-jah. And the king rose up to meet her and bowed down to her, and sat down on his throne and had a throne set for the king's mother; so she sat at his right hand. 20 Then she said, "I desire one small petition of you; do not refuse me."

And the king said to her, "Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you."

21 So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adoni-jah your brother as wife."

22 And King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adoni-jah? Ask for him the kingdom also — for he is my older brother — for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah." 23 Then King Solomon swore by the Lord, saying, "May God do so to me, and more also, if Adoni-jah has not spoken this word against his own life! 24 Now therefore, as the Lord lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the

throne of David my father, and who has established a house for me, as He promised, Adoni-jah shall be put to death today!"

25 So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he struck him down, and he died.

We see right off the bat that Adoni-jah is craftily masterminding another evil plot, because he avoids going directly to the king.

When people look for side channels and secret meetings it is more than likely because of evil intentions.

We see too the respect and honor that Bathsheba had within the Kingdom.

During this time, it was the Queen Mother who held the greater degree of honor, even over all the women in the king's harem.

We see here that Adoni-jah tries to play the Queen, and use her in his plot.

He wanted to marry Abishag, remember she was the young beautiful lady who they brought to warm David in his old age.

Now, on the surface this seemed like an innocent request, but this Adoni-jah was a presumptuous one.

The reality was, this would give him a little victory and another path to the throne.

It was ancient custom, to claim the widow or the harem of a deceased king, it was an indirect way of claiming the vacated throne.

Bathsheba may have been gullible here, thinking Adoni-jah and Abishag were both young and both known for their good looks, and it was a perfect match.

Some think the aged Bathsheba was unwittingly brought into this scheme.

But this can too be easily seen as Bathsheba being very wise, and obliging the naive Adoni-jah, knowing how Solomon would handle it all.

Bathsheba more than likely saw this as another coup, and she is going to let this treasonous plan be dealt with, and her son's throne will be even more securely established.

Notice in verse 15, Adoni-jah was upset that the popular vote went to him, but the electoral college put his brother in the position.

Something like that.

Really it was God's man who was on the throne.

Understand this, God is supreme over all the rulers of the world.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

We in the US have the privilege to vote, and then we leave the results up to our God.

And we should vote, I hope you are registered to vote.

Understand too, some leaders are appointed by God as a judgement against a nation.

Solomon was appointed by God, and no scheme of man could stop it.

The presumptuous older brother accuses Solomon of stealing the election, as if there was one to steal, but he admits this was from the Lord.

Solomon immediately detects the treachery in the message from his mother, and he names all the rebels in his kingdom, his brother, and in verse 22 he also names Abiathar the priest and Joab.

Now, understand, they thought they could trick the young Solomon, some historians put Solomon as young as 12 years old when he came to the throne, others put him at 14, this may explain David's hesitancy in putting him in that position.

But regardless if those ages were true, he was very young, and they thought that it could be to their advantage.

But we see the wisdom early on in Solomon's judgement.

He knew these men needed to be dealt with, and Solomon sends Benaiah to deal with his rebellious and presumptuous brother.

It is right to deal with people through Grace, it is always better to side on the side of Grace, and really with all these men, Solomon enacted a measure of Grace.

But it is not wise to keep allowing people to take advantage of that Grace.

Some people are so calloused they will try to exploit Grace as a weakness.

Solomon will not be exploited here, and we read now in verse 26...

Abiathar Exiled, Joab Executed

26 And to Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, for you are deserving of death; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord God before my father David, and because you were afflicted every time my father was afflicted." 27 So Solomon removed Abiathar from being priest to the Lord, that he might fulfill the word of the Lord which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh.

Now although Abiathar was deserving of death, Solomon remembered his faithfulness to his father.

And instead removed him of his position being High Priest, and sent him away to be a farmer.

This actually was the fulfillment for the prophecy given to the priest Eli in 1 Samuel 2:27-36 where God told Eli that because of his wickedness his position and family's rite to the high priestly office would be cut off.

And it will be from this moment on that Zadok's lineage will hold the position of High Priest in Israel.

The news of Adoni-jah's death and Abiathar's exile had reached Joab, and next we read... in verse 28...

28 Then news came to Joab, for Joab had defected to Adoni-jah, though he had not defected to Absalom. So Joab fled to the tabernacle of the Lord, and took hold of the horns of the altar. 29 And King Solomon was told, "Joab has fled to the tabernacle of the Lord; there he is, by the altar." Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down." 30 So Benaiah went to the tabernacle of the Lord, and said to him, "Thus says the king, 'Come out!'"

And he said, "No, but I will die here." And Benaiah brought back word to the king, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me."

31 Then the king said to him, "Do as he has said, and strike him down and bury him, that you may take away from me and from the house of my father the innocent blood which Joab shed. 32 So the Lord will return his blood on his head, because he struck down two men

more righteous and better than he, and killed them with the sword — Abner the son of Ner, the commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, the commander of the army of Judah — though my father David did not know it. 33 Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his descendants forever. But upon David and his descendants, upon his house and his throne, there shall be peace forever from the Lord."

34 So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck and killed him; and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. 35 The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his place over the army, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

Joab was part of the old guard, and remember they had a powerful spy network.

The news got back to him, and he knew he was next, and he fled to the tabernacle and claimed asylum.

However, Joab was guilty of a capital offense, and the asylum rules did not apply to his crimes.

Benaiah wisely sought King Solomon's advice, and he was then ordered to kill him on the altar, his blood was on his own hands.

Understand, Solomon's main motivation was not revenge, he was patient in his retribution here, but as he explains this was more for the innocent blood Joab had spilled of the two men more righteous than he.

Murder defiled the land according to **Num. 35:33-34**

33 So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it. 34 Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the Lord dwell among the children of Israel."

Solomon is within the bounds of the law here.

So next, that Saul supporter will challenge the King's Meekness as well, and he too will learn that King Solomon's Meekness is not Weakness.

Shimei Executed

36 Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere. 37 For it shall be, on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely die; your blood shall be on your own head."

He is wisely keeping Shimei out of Saul's territory where he could garner even more support for another rebellion.

He was allowed to live, but on house arrest within the city where Solomon could keep tabs on him.

38 And Shimei said to the king, "The saying is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do." So Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

39 Now it happened at the end of three years, that two slaves of Shimei ran away to Achish the son of Maachah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, "Look, your slaves are in Gath!" 40 So Shimei arose, saddled his donkey, and went to Achish at Gath to seek his slaves. And Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath. 41 And Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had come back. 42 Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the Lord, and warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and travel anywhere, you shall surely die'? And you said to me, 'The word I have heard is good.' 43 Why then have you not kept the oath of the Lord and the commandment that I gave you?" 44 The king said moreover to Shimei, "You know, as your heart acknowledges, all the wickedness that you did to my father David; therefore the Lord will return your wickedness on your own head. 45 But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever."

46 So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he went out and struck him down, and he died. Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

Another potential trouble maker is dealt with here. Shimei obeyed the terms of his sentence for three years.

And surely he thought he had gotten away with cursing the king, and here probably assumed he would get away with his transgressions again.

Surely he could have hired someone to get his slaves, but he thought time had passed and the guards had gotten lazy.

He deliberately defied Solomon and pushed the limits too far.

Solomon executed him for being a traitor.

And all of the potential trouble to his throne is now dealt with.

So next, as he is established, we get an account of his unique test before the Lord.

And we get some really neat insight here as we look at Solomon's prayer life.

Look now starting in verse 1...

Solomon Requests Wisdom(2 Chron. 1:2-13)

3:1 Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his own house, and the house of the Lord, and the wall all around Jerusalem. 2 Meanwhile the people

sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the Lord until those days. 3 And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.

We see right off the bat, Solomon is not King David. Even his love for the Lord was shaky from the get go. He starts off with a treaty marriage, David had moved the borders all the way down to Egypt, and had peace with the Egyptians.

Here we see a huge compromise is made, as Solomon's weakness begins to come to light, he had a weakness for women.

These women had a tendency to pull his heart away from God to false gods and false worship.

Remember he was brought up in the court of the women, and there he developed an unhealthy appetite.

Even Solomon's spiritual capacity was lacking compared to his father.

We see he kept the pagan practice of worshipping God on the high places.

God had designed His worship to be centralized at the Tabernacle, and yet we see Solomon was a syncretistic religious man, and made concessions immediately.

But even with these concessions we see next that he has a wonderful encounter with God in the beginning of his reign.

4 Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

6 And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. 7 Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am 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 numerous to be numbered or counted. 9 Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

10 The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor

have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, 12 behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. 13 And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. 14 So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

15 Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

We see a kind of coronation is assembled by Solomon in Gibeon, where the old tabernacle was.

This is where the altar of sacrifice was, about 5 miles north of Jerusalem.

Remember David had already begun to move the artifacts for the Temple, and the worship was divided between Gibeon and Jerusalem until the Temple was finished.

This act of worship would bring the nation together in a unified act of consecration.

There they praised the Lord and sought His face.

The assembly lasted all day, and at night Solomon was met in a dream by the Lord.

At times the Lord chose to speak through dreams in the Old Testament, today we have His Word.

I would be careful to make any life decisions based upon a dream, unless God has spoken first through His Word.

Sometimes when I eat pizza too late, I have incredible dreams, and very vivid.

I would be all over the place if I made decisions off of those crazy dreams.

Here Solomon is asked, or tested with a question.

“Ask, anything and it will be yours.”

The Lord must have known Solomon already had a measure of wisdom, because this is a dangerous question to ask a young man.

You know... what people ask for, really reveals their heart.

Some ask only for selfish things from the Lord, here Solomon asks for something that will not only benefit himself but those in his kingdom.

He knew the testimony of what God had done to his father David, he knew what God was capable of, and he knew his early success was due for the most part because of what God promised David.

But Solomon in verse 7 says something interesting, he confesses “I am a little child.”

Solomon is not like the normal know it all young person we have a plethora of in our culture, who just seem to know more than anyone else.

He admits his weakness and inexperience and his desperate need for the Lord.

There are many today who are serving the Lord who have never acknowledged their inadequacies before the Lord.

They believe God is indebted to them for their great sacrifices.

In any service to God, we need to recognize that we are in desperate need for God to help us.

This is the proper heart of the servant of God, we are inadequate in ourselves.

And from this place of true self-assessment we can then come with an honest and contrite heart, and bring our petitions...

Solomon asks for an understanding heart to lead and judge God's people.

We always say Solomon asked for wisdom, and in a sense that is true.

Now, the word for understanding here is hearing.

He wanted a hearing heart, and true wisdom comes from hearing what God has to say.

Solomon explains this kind of wisdom in **Prov. 3:5-8**

**5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.
7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the Lord and depart from evil.
8 It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.**

Solomon wanted God's wisdom in the "sickening" scene of politics.

Today's politicians are more about pleasing the masses than God.

They are more concerned with selling themselves than submitting to God's ways.

They hope for votes, not righteousness.

Solomon wanted to be politically right with God.

And God was pleased with Solomon's request.

The request showed that the young king was concerned about God and serving His people.

Solomon never heard the words of Jesus in **Matt 6:33**
But seek first the kingdom of God and His

righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

But Solomon experienced this verse.

God promised Solomon that since his request was correct, that everything Solomon did not ask for would be his as well.

But God was clear in verse 14, this was all contingent upon Solomon continually walking in His ways, and His statutes, and commandments as his father David did.

God's Word once again is the key to his success.

The law was clear in this regard... Deut. 17:18-20

"Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

And Solomon would know that true success would only come through obedience to God's Word.

If only Solomon could have finished as well as he started here.

So, we see in verse 15, Solomon went back to Jerusalem and offered more offerings there before the Lord.

So we will end with a story that demonstrates the wisdom that God granted to His young king.

Solomon's Wise Judgment

16 Now two women who were harlots came to the king, and stood before him. 17 And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house. 18 Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we were together; no one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house. 19 And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. 20 So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. 21 And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne."

22 Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son."

And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son."

Thus they spoke before the king.

23 And the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'" 24 Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. 25 And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."

26 Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!"

But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

27 So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."

28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

And here we get an illustration of the supernatural wisdom that this legendary king was blessed with.

We see these two prostitutes bring their case before the king.

And it is interesting to point out, that prostitution is condemned in scripture, but even these of the lowest

in society had rights, and are seen as helpless victims before the law.

We also see that no one was too low to come before the king with their cause.

The victim had no one to plead her cause.

Her only hope was that the king would hear her.

And Solomon exercised wisdom beyond his years here, and he knew he could count on the tender love of a mother to reveal the true identity of the baby's mother.

The real mother was willing to let her child go to others to let it live.

Genuine love is willing to give up the beloved for the sake of its wellbeing.

I think of the mothers who give their children up for adoption, they should not be demonized or demoralized, they are doing an incredible act out of love for their child.

So Solomon's reputation begins to spread here, and the realm under his influence knew that God had truly given him wisdom.

His fame will spread far and wide even beyond his own borders.

Next week, we will see this wisdom played out in his administration.

I hope you can join us as we continue our journey through God's Word.

Perhaps tonight, you need a measure of wisdom regarding your own circumstances.

I want to encourage you to come to the Lord on prayer tonight.

His Word assures us with an interesting promise...

James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Come to Him and ask, believing that He hears you, and then move forward in faith.

What ever you are going through tonight, bring it to God honestly, admitting you cannot handle it on your own, and petition Him to help.

He loves to hear from you, and He wants to show Himself faithful in your life...

Let's pray...