

1 Kings 3:1-28

Asking for Wisdom Then and Now or A Great Start Overall... ...With a Foreshadowing of Future Disaster

A Desire for Godly Wisdom in Solomon 3:1-15

Bad News v1-4

Solomon adds Wife #2 to his (extended) family, while this kind of thing was SOP for kings at this time and did have pragmatic benefits, it was still sketchy/less than the best.

(+) Solomon loved the LORD...and basically lived out that love at this stage of his life
(-) Except [in addition to what we know about Wife #2], he sacrificed on the high places, which means Solomon was doing the right kind of things in wrong ways/places

Good News v5-15

Solomon wisely asked for wisdom when told by the LORD he could ask for anything

Under the Mosaic Law/Constitution for the nation of OT Israel, Prophets/Kings as God's spokesmen to His Theocratic Nation would "routinely" receive direct divine revelation (Heb 1:1-3). On the NT side of the finished work of Christ for our salvation and the foundational work of the NT Apostles (Eph 2:20 Christ Himself being the cornerstone), God speaks to all believers through His written Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Solomon's request here reveals his humility/dependence on the LORD (which is the very essence of "The Fear of the LORD" a reverential awe that motivates a believer to honor God in his/her thinking and living; see Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10).

God still makes His wisdom available to believers today, but it isn't accessible to short-sighted/second-guessing ("double minded" James 1:5-8) believers. Beyond just "wanting wisdom" one needs 1: a self-concept centered on the fear of the LORD 2: an active lifestyle of trusting/obeying God while seeking to know and submit to His will. This is a lifelong process not a point act (Proverbs 2:4-7). Assuming one can acquire a mature level of godly wisdom while limiting his/her spiritual diet to contextually challenged Bible McNuggets or on the other hand when embracing a complex theological system that "answers all the questions" (1 Peter 2:1-3) is doomed to fail, however it can easily lead to smug self-righteous arrogant pride-so beware.

Wisdom is skill in thinking and living in ways based on DVP = Divine View Point

When wisdom is lived out consistently over time, it allows believers to honor God in a superlative manner regardless of our circumstances good or bad.

Wisdom is wonderful, and can lead to many blessings but it is not a substitute for +R

IOWs a lifestyle of righteous obedience to the LORD by a believer. Solomon's great wisdom didn't guarantee he would always live it out.

A Demonstration of Godly Wisdom by Solomon 3:16-28

Two (Wo)Men and a Baby-From Many Possible Examples of Solomon's Wisdom This Incident is recorded here/has been discussed worldwide for thousands of years

The Point

Solomon looked past the argument and responded to the core issue-realizing the real mother would choose the life of her baby > winning the argument/getting her way

The Resolution of This Controversy

Demonstrated the wisdom of Solomon in a feud involving two women who weren't always real honest/trustworthy. Flipside: don't assume intense disagreements between NT believers isn't possible and must "prove" one or both of the feuders can't really be a Christian. See: Paul/Barnabas at the beginning of the 2MJ in Acts 15 and two of the pillars of Philippi Bible Fellowship (Euodia/Syntyche in Philippians 4:2-3).

Take This To Heart

Asking for Wisdom Then and Now

Solomon (in the midst of a unique audience with the LORD) asked for wisdom and it was given to him. Church Age believers are told to ask for wisdom (James 1:5-8) especially in times of great suffering/stress and told it would be given (but not imposed) which means we must receive it in the Fear of the LORD and with a desire to honor Him in thought, word and deed regardless of our circumstances.

A Great Start Overall With a Foreshadowing of Future Disaster

Solomon was able to "see" the root problem when two women from the other side of the tracks argued over the life of one baby but apparently wasn't able "to see" or choose not "to see" the problem of the new King of Israel worshipping the wrong ways/wrong places and having two wives by adding a pagan spouse to the royal circle.

Just like you and me even the wisest of people have spiritual blind spots-can rationalize/redefine their sin.

