



L3L34: Solomon Becomes King

1 Kings 1-2

Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba. Though David had other sons, he promised Bathsheba that her son Solomon would be the next king of Israel. But as David lay on his deathbed, a different son, Adonijah, proclaimed himself king! Imagine the uproar this caused, as the followers of Adonijah celebrated his coronation. When David was told of Adonijah's take-over attempt, he acted quickly, announcing his choice of Solomon as king in his place. He commanded that Solomon should rule over Israel, not Adonijah. He gave instructions for his immediate coronation. David's decisive action set the stage for a dramatic showdown between Adonijah and Solomon.

Discuss:

- Bathsheba was the daughter of Eliam (one of David's mighty men) and the granddaughter of Ahithophel (one of David's advisors).
- Adonijah was presumptuous to make himself king. What does it mean to be **presumptuous**, and how does God view this (Psalms 19:13, 1 Peter 2:10)?
- The people who supported Adonijah were directly rebelling against the instructions of King David, who had been guided by God to select Solomon as king. What can we learn from this example regarding who we support?
- Solomon's name means rest or peace.



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Where do we read about the peace that the land of Israel enjoyed during his reign? (note that this introduces the child to the parallel account of the kings of Israel and Judah in 1 and 2 Chronicles)

Memory Challenge:

1 Kings 1:37

As the Lord has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David.



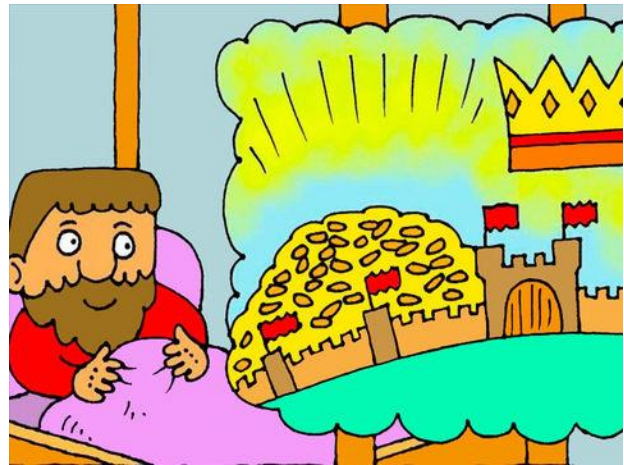
L3L35: Solomon's Special Request

1 Kings 3

Solomon was a young man when he became king of Israel. It was a big job to oversee the whole nation, and Solomon knew he needed help. One night, God spoke to Solomon in a dream and asked him what was his heart's desire. God told him that he could have anything he wanted! He could have asked for fame, riches, or a long life. Solomon's response showed a maturity, humility and concern for his people. God gave him exactly what he needed to fulfill his role as king...and much more!

Discuss:

- Solomon offered sacrifices to God at Gibeon. Ultimately, God led him to build a temple at another location, which would serve as a worship-house for God for generations to come. Where was that temple built?
- What would you ask for if you could have anything want? What would be the wisest thing to request of God?
- Why do you think God was so happy with Solomon's request?
- Why do you think it was important to Solomon to have wisdom?
- We have Solomon's wisdom with us today in the Bible. He wrote Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon, and most of the book of Proverbs. Find a passage in the book of Proverbs that tells us how important it is to find wisdom.



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Memory Challenge:

1 Kings 3:9

“...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?”



L3L36: Solomon's Prosperous Reign

1 Kings 4-7

During the reign of Solomon the kingdom of Israel had peace, productivity, and prosperity during the reign of Solomon. It was said that gold was so abundant, silver was considered practically worthless. Solomon's friends respected him and his enemies feared him. God had given Solomon the responsibility to build the temple, a task which Solomon took very seriously. It became clear that God was blessing him and the nation of Israel. Solomon's fame began to spread far and wide, and many important people including kings and queens came to see for themselves. They could hardly believe what their eyes had seen. The nation of Israel under King Solomon came to surpass all the kingdoms of the earth in wisdom and riches. Yet, who was really responsible for the prosperity and blessings that the kingdom of Israel enjoyed?

Discuss:

- Marriage was often used to establish peace between countries. King Solomon married the daughter of the king of Egypt which achieved this purpose.
- Israel had trade agreements with the surrounding nations. Why do you think this would be helpful in having a peaceful kingdom? Though these types of agreements can be helpful, who do we look to as the true source of peace?
- Solomon's wealth and wisdom attracted many people; one of the more famous was the Queen of Sheba. What was her assessment of the facts when she visited Solomon?
- The temple that Solomon built was magnificent! His father David had prepared much of the materials for its construction including gold, silver, precious stones, marble, and wood (1 Chronicles 29:1-5). It took seven years to build, but when it was finished it was very beautiful. What do you think it would have been like to visit Jerusalem after the temple has just been completed?
- Solomon worked hard, and God blessed his efforts (Ecclesiastes 2:4-9). God often blesses us by blessing the efforts we put forth. Hard work is a principle that applies to us (Proverbs 10:4).



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Memory Challenge:

1 Kings 4:29

And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.



L3L37: Solomon's Legacy

1 Kings 8-11

Solomon started his reign as king with fear and reverence for God. God blessed him, and Solomon prospered. His wisdom and accomplishments became famous. Sadly, human beings often forget about God when life goes well. Would Solomon fall into that trap? God warned Israel not to multiply wives, horses (for battle), and riches (Deuteronomy 8:11-18). As a powerful king, Solomon had the opportunity to do all these things. What would Solomon's legacy be? Would he continue to follow God just like his father King David had done...or would he turn his back on God?

Discuss:

- Solomon had the opportunity to build and dedicate the temple. What kind of attitude does Solomon show toward God in his prayer for the dedication of the temple? How did God respond to his prayer?
- God told the Israelites not to marry foreigners. Why did God give this command? (Deuteronomy 7:1-4)
- Solomon ignored God's command, and married hundreds of women from a variety of different countries. Why did Solomon do this? What were the results?
- After Solomon died, God allowed the kingdom of Israel to fracture into two parts, just as it had been before the time of David. What were these two parts called and why did God allow this to happen?
- What important lessons can we learn from Solomon's life?



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Memory Challenge:

1 Kings 8:61

Let your heart, therefore, be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day.