



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

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### **Solomon's Wisdom!**

**Lesson Text:** 1 Kings 3-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9

**Focus Verses:** 1 Kings 3:11-12 - <sup>11</sup> And God said unto him, 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; <sup>12</sup> 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.

**Truth About Covenant:** God blessed Solomon as long as he lived in covenant with God.

**Covenant Context:** After David's reign, his son Solomon was chosen as the next king of Israel. God's promise for David to always have a descendant reign on the throne was already coming to pass. Although Solomon wisely began as a humble king who built the Temple for God to dwell, the end of his reign as king was mired in war and idolatry. Solomon's foolishness would eventually lead to the Divided Kingdom of Israel and Judah, showing us both an important development in human history and our own need to guard against an enemy of covenant: selfishness.

We who read the Bible primarily know Solomon for two things: (1) his request for God to give him wisdom and (2) his many wives. Solomon felt unequal to his father and the task before him. When the Lord offered to grant Solomon what he wanted, the king humbly admitted he felt like a little child despite his elite status as the king of Israel. Fully aware of the daunting task ahead of him, Solomon wisely asked the Lord for wisdom. Asking the Lord for wisdom was the wisest decision of his young life.

The Lord gave Solomon rest on every side. As a result, Solomon and the people could begin work on building the Temple as a permanent dwelling place for the presence of God on earth. The alliance between Solomon and Hiram, the king of Tyre reveals that wise people often seek the assistance of others. A wise individual will not feel threatened but will humbly accept someone else's expertise and utilize those talents for the glory of God.

The Temple served as a visible reminder of God's covenant with Israel. No longer would they move the Tabernacle from place to place—they were finally home in the Promised Land. Even outsiders from other nations who saw the Temple would know that the Lord dwelled in Israel. The Temple also reflected the unity of the tribes of Israel. The Law required Jews to appear at the Temple for three different feasts: Passover, Pentecost, and Sukkot (Booths or Tabernacles). Solomon knew the Temple needed to be dedicated to God. At the dedication of the Temple, God promised to remember His covenant with the people of Israel and heal their covenant land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Solomon's wives from foreign lands led his heart astray. As a result of Solomon's dalliances with foreign gods, the Lord called Jeroboam to rule over the ten northern tribes. The rise of Jeroboam reveals that God's Spirit will not always—and does not have to—strive with us. Solomon's life serves as a warning. He failed to realize he needed to continually seek after God. Being right with God in the beginning did not necessarily mean he would be right with God at the end. Perhaps he grew too complacent, thinking the Lord would honor him no matter what. If we are wise, we will heed the cautionary story of the wise king who became a fool.

In this New Covenant, we are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Just as God blessed Solomon's Temple, the Lord wants to bless us. To fully receive the benefits the Almighty desires to give us, we must place our trust in God and seek His wisdom. The book of wisdom known as Proverbs tells us we should trust in the Lord with all our heart. We should not lean to our own understanding. If we acknowledge the Lord in all our ways, He will direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

In our own times of distress, we must realize the Lord will hear our prayers. If we want to maintain our covenant relationship with God, we must be willing to humble ourselves in repentance. We must have faith when we pray. We must call on the name of Jesus, the name above every name. When we reach out in faith, we renew our covenant with God.