

# A STUDY OF FIRST KINGS, LESSON 03

## REVIEW

- I. THE UNITED KINGDOM: SOLOMON TO REHOBOAM [1:11-11:43]
  - A. SOLOMON'S ASCENSION TO THE THRONE [1:1-2:46]
    - 1. ADONIJAH'S ASPIRATION IS DEFEATED [1:1-53]
    - 2. THE LAST WORDS AND DEATH OF DAVID [2:1-11]
    - 3. SOLOMON'S ELIMINATION OF RIVALS [2:12-46]

## CURRENT LESSON

### B. THE WISDOM AND WEALTH OF SOLOMON [3:1-4:34].

#### 1. SOLOMON'S MARRIAGE TO PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER [3:1]

3:1] - This was strictly a political move; and is listed here somewhat out of chronological order.

#### 2. SOLOMON'S WORSHIP AND VISION [3:2-15].

3:2-3] - These "high places" were elevated platforms dedicated to God. It is a carry-over from Canaanite religion where "high places" were places of sacrifice. There was no designated central place at this time; and was "acceptable" but led to a dangerous practice.

3:4] - Gibeon of the Tribe of Benjamin was the location of the Tabernacle.

3:5-8] - This is a blessing from God to the King of His people; and it is reasonable that he could have been granted anything he requested, within reason. He was only twenty years old; and knew he was sadly lacking in wisdom to correctly rule over the People of Almighty God (which would have been highly intimidating within itself).



Solomon's request for "a hearing heart" so that he could

3:9-15] - Give therefore your servant an understanding heart ("a hearing heart") to judge you "judge correctly" pleased The Lord; and He actually congratulated the King for asking the higher prize. Other things he could have requested could have been justified, but the desire for wisdom surpassed them all. In

addition to the "wisdom", God was going to grant all the things Solomon did NOT request – but COULD HAVE.

It must be noted that the blessing was conditional to Solomon's conduct!

When Solomon awoke; he immediately returned to Jerusalem and began to worship The LORD with various offerings.

### **3. SOLOMON'S WISDOM DISPLAYED (3:16-28).**

3:16-28] - The test of his wisdom followed very quickly in the form of the problem of the two mothers and the one living baby. This situation has been used from that day until now to demonstrate the God-given "wisdom of Solomon".

NOTE: The "fear" that all the people experienced is the same as a "genuine respect" for their King. This is the same "fear" we are told to show towards The LORD; and takes the form of genuine "reverence" and "respect".

### **4. ORGANIZATION OF THE EMPIRE (4:1-28).**

4:1] - The nation was united under this one head; and prosperity and happiness was evident everywhere.

4:2-20] – Solomon used his wisdom to wisely organize his "government". Some of these men served on a rotating basis for one month; and some were permanent.

The wars of David were in the past, and they were looking at a bright future.

4:21-24] - His kingdom extended from the Euphrates to Egypt. Egypt and Syria were weakened powers, and his marriage affiliations were increasing his strength.

"Tipsah" is noted to be a major crossing point on the Euphrates to the north of Israel (in modern day Turkey and Syria).

4:25-28] – The nation dwelt in peace and prosperity. A great deal of Solomon's wealth was invested in horses.

### **5. A SUMMARY OF SOLOMON'S WISDOM [4:29-34].**

4:29-34] – It should be noted that the bulk of Solomon's wisdom was mainly involved with mundane civil policies, rather than spiritual realities. His court was open to all peoples.