

# Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

## Solomon's Reign Begins

- Solomon formed an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt [1 Kgs 3:1].
  - This alliance was sealed by marriage.
    - ✦ Solomon was not careful about marrying non-Israelites.
    - ✦ This marriage was obviously political in nature.
    - ✦ When Solomon built his palace, he constructed a special home for her in Jerusalem [1 Kgs 7:8].
  - This alliance resulted in peace with Egypt.
- Solomon loved the Lord but offered sacrifices on the high places [1 Kgs 3:2-5].
  - The “high places” were on hilltops and other elevated locations.
  - This practice started during the time of the Judges and was adopted from a Canaanite custom.
  - The pagan Canaanites felt being higher up helped their prayers and offerings reach their gods.
  - A “great” (popular/large) high place was at Gibeon which is about 5 miles north of Jerusalem [v. 4].
  - Solomon made generous sacrifices to the Lord there even though they should have been offered at the tabernacle [Lev 17:3-4].
  - While in Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at night [v. 5].
  - It appears that God had regard for Solomon's offerings because He spoke to Solomon in the dream and told him to ask for whatever he wanted [v. 5].
- Solomon took the opportunity to ask God for a discerning heart [1 Kgs 3:6-9].
  - He began by expressing great humility [vv. 6-8].
    - ✦ He recognized that the lovingkindness God had shown to his father David (who walked in righteousness and truth) was the reason he was on the throne [v. 6].
    - ✦ He knew that he was young and inexperienced [v. 7].
    - ✦ He was awed to be leading God's chosen people [v. 8].
  - He then made his request from God [v. 9].
    - ✦ He knew he needed an understanding heart.
    - ✦ He wanted the ability to properly judge the people of Israel by discerning between good and evil.
    - ✦ He recognized that his role as judge over Israel was a position of great responsibility.
- God answered Solomon's request above and beyond all that he asked for [1 Kgs 3:10-15].
  - God was pleased with Solomon's humility [v. 10].
  - God granted Solomon a wise and discerning heart and much, much more [vv. 11-13].
  - NOTE: This is a perfect demonstration of God providing “far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think” [Eph 3:20].
  - He also promised Solomon a long life for faithful service [v. 14].

- Solomon woke from the dream and responded to God abundant blessings by worshiping the Lord properly at the tabernacle [v. 15].
- Solomon wasted no time in demonstrating his God-given discernment [1 Kgs 3:16-28].
  - Two women laid out their predicament before Solomon concerning their two sons [vv. 16-22].
  - Solomon proposed a ludicrous solution which revealed the mother of the living son [vv. 23-27].
  - All of Israel had reverence for Solomon when they heard about his wisdom in this judgment [v. 28].