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**KING SOLOMON**

**Known for:** A man of wisdom

**Scriptures to study:** 1 Kings 3:1-15, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes

Solomon was the third and final king of the unified nation of Israel, succeeding King Saul and King David. He was the son of David and Bathsheba, the former wife of Uriah the Hittite whom David had killed to cover his infidelity with Bathsheba while her husband was on the battlefront. Solomon ruled for 40 years (1 Kings 11:42).

When Solomon rose to the throne, he sought after God, and God gave him an opportunity to request for whatever he desired. Solomon humbly recognized his inability to rule well and nobly asked God for the wisdom he would need to govern God’s people righteously. God gave him wisdom and also wealth (1 Kings 3:4-15). In fact, “King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth” (1 Kings 10:23). God also gave Solomon peace on all fronts during most of his reign (1 Kings 4:20-25).

Even though he was named the wisest person on earth, King Solomon did not always act in the wisest manner. He acquired a harem of 700 wives and 300 concubines during his reign. While most of those wives and concubines were gifts from kings from other neighboring nations, they eventually led King Solomon astray and forced him to erect shrines to foreign idols. Solomon’s indiscretions caused his descendants to stumble and the Kingdom of Israel to be torn apart during his son’s reign after him.

**Key thoughts:**

* When given a “wish” by God, Solomon asked for wisdom, and it was granted to him.
* Solomon liberally shared his wisdom with others through his writing and leadership, including the Proverbs.



* Why is wisdom important to life and leadership?
* How can we best gain wisdom?
* How can we best pass on wisdom to others?



* Read 1 Kings 2:1-4. What instructions did David give his son, Solomon?
* Read 1 Kings 4:29. What was God’s gift to Solomon? Why was this valuable to him as a leader?
* Read Proverbs 1:7. What did Solomon write regarding wisdom? How should we treat those who do not value wisdom?
* Read 1 Chronicles 29:23 and 1 Kings 4:20-25. How does the Bible characterize the reign of Solomon?
* Read 1 Kings 5:5-6, 1 Kings 6:15 and 1 Kings 8:63. How did Solomon fulfill the instructions he was given?
* Read 1 Kings 11:1-5. What was Solomon’s downfall in terms of leadership? How did he disobey God?
* Read 1 Kings 11:9. What the result of Solomon’s disobedience?



* What relationship can you form that will bring greater wisdom into your life and work?
* How might you put wisdom and experience to work in order to benefit your family and organization?
* How can you better recognize others who are speaking wisdom into your life?