

### Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom (c. 969t/968t BC)

#### 1 Kings 3:2–15

#### 2 Chronicles 1:2–13

2 The people were still sacrificing on the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the LORD until those days.

3 Now Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

4 The king

went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place;

Solomon

offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what *you wish* me to give you."

6 Then Solomon said, "You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day.

7 Now, O LORD my God,

You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

8 Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted.

9 So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people

2 Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands and of hundreds and to the judges and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' *households*.

3 Then Solomon

and all the assembly with him

went to the high place which was at Gibeon, for God's tent of meeting was there, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.

4 However, David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to the place he had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.

5 Now the bronze altar, which Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, was there before the tabernacle of the LORD, and Solomon and the assembly sought it out.

6 Solomon went up there before the LORD to the bronze altar which *was* at the tent of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

7 In that night God appeared to Solomon and said to him,

"Ask what I shall give you."

8 Solomon said to God, "You have dealt with my father David with great lovingkindness,

and have made me king in his place.

9 Now, O LORD God,

Your promise to my father David is fulfilled, for You have made me king

over a people

as numerous as the dust of the earth.

10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people,

to discern between good and evil.  
 For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"  
 10 It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing.  
 11 God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice,  
 12 behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.  
 13 I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days.  
 14 If you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days."  
 15 Then Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream.  
 And he  
 came to Jerusalem  
 and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and made peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

for who can rule this great people of Yours?"

11 God said to Solomon, "Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king,

12 wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you.

And I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed nor those who will come after you."

13 So Solomon went from the high place which was at Gibeon, from the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem,

and he reigned over Israel.

### The First Demonstration of Solomon's Wisdom (c. 968t BC)

1 Kings 3:16–28

16 Then two women who were harlots came to the king and stood before him.  
 17 The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she *was* in the house.  
 18 It happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house.  
 19 This woman's son died in the night, because she lay on it.  
 20 So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom.  
 21 When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I looked at him carefully in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne."  
 22 Then the other woman said, "No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." But the first woman said, "No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king.

23 Then the king said, “The one says, ‘This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one’; and the other says, ‘No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.’”

24 The king said, “Get me a sword.” So they brought a sword before the king.

25 The king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.”

26 Then the woman whose child *was* the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, “Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him.” But the other said, “He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide *him!*”

27 Then the king said, “Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother.”

28 When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

## Solomon’s Government (c. 968t BC)

1 Kings 4:1–19

### The King’s Court

1 Now King Solomon was king over all Israel.

2 These were his officials: Azariah the son of Zadok *was* the priest;

3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha *were* secretaries; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* the recorder;

4 and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the army; and Zadok and Abiathar *were* priests;

5 and Azariah the son of Nathan *was* over the deputies; and Zabud the son of Nathan, a priest, *was* the king’s friend;

6 and Ahishar *was* over the household; and Adoniram the son of Abda *was* over the men subject to forced labor.

### The King’s Governors

7 Solomon had twelve deputies over all Israel, who provided for the king and his household; each man had to provide for a month in the year.

8 These are their names: Ben-hur, in the hill country of Ephraim;

9 Ben-deker in Makaz and Shaalbim and Beth-shemesh and Elonbeth-hanan;

10 Ben-hesed, in Arubboth (Socoh *was* his and all the land of Hepher);

11 Ben-abinadab, *in* all the height of Dor (Taphath the daughter of Solomon *was* his wife);

12 Baana the son of Ahilud, *in* Taanach and Megiddo, and all Beth-shean which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah as far as the other side of Jokmeam;

13 Ben-geber, in Ramoth-gilead (the towns of Jair, the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead *were* his: the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, sixty great cities with walls and bronze bars *were* his);

14 Ahinadab the son of Iddo, *in* Mahanaim;

15 Ahimaaz, in Naphtali (he also married Basemath the daughter of Solomon);

16 Baana the son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth;

17 Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar;

18 Shimei the son of Ela, in Benjamin;

19 Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the country of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan; and *he was* the only deputy who *was* in the land.