

1 KINGS 3 – Solomon Requests Wisdom! -- The LORD, “Ask, What Shall I Give You?”

9/1/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

HE GIVETH MORE GRACE – Anne J Flint – Bill & Gloria Gaither

*He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater, He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;
To added afflictions, He addeth His mercy, To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.*

*Refrain: His love has no limits, His grace has no measure, His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*

*When we have exhausted our store of endurance, When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources Our Father’s full giving is only begun. (Refrain)*

Chapter 3– Solomon Receives God’s Wisdom

Solomon’s marriage to an Egyptian princess was purely a political move; later he was to wed other heathen women (1Ki 11:1) and be turned away from the true worship of Jehovah. But at the beginning of his career, he had a sincere love for the Lord and wanted to put Him first in his life. When God gave Solomon the privilege of asking for anything he wanted, he asked for wisdom and an understanding heart; and God answered his prayer. Furthermore, God gave him all the other blessings too (Mat 6:33). Of course, if Solomon wanted to enjoy these blessings, he would have to walk in obedience to the Word (1Ki 3:13-14).

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom

1Ki 3:1 *Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall all around Jerusalem.*

- Let us hear the law: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son; for they will turn away thy son from following me, etc. Exo 34:16; Deu 7:3, Deu 7:4.

1Ki 3:2 *Meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the LORD until those days.*

1Ki 3:3 *And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.*

1Ki 3:4 *Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place (where the tabernacle and the brazen altar were): Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.*

1Ki 3:5 *At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"*

- The more we abound in God's work the more comfort we may expect in Him; if the day has been busy for Him, the night will be easy in Him. Silence, retirement help our communion with God. His kindest visits are often at night.
- “What do you want?” Here is a young man, who has about anything that a person could ever desire. He is king over the powerful Israel. He is wealthy. He has inherited his father’s wealth, powerful. What would my response would be if God should say to me, “What do you want? 3 Just **what it would be that I would ask the Lord?**

1Ki 3:6 *And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.*

1Ki 3:7 *Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.*

1Ki 3:8 *And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.*

1Ki 3:9 *Therefore give to Your servant an understanding (hearing, listening) heart to judge Your people, that I*

may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

- David has prayed this way, so Solomon prays and pleaded as well. **Psa 119:125** *I am Your servant; Give me understanding, That I may know Your testimonies.* We must pray similarly for an understanding and listening heart with application to our calling and the various occasions we have for it. Give me an understanding, not to please my own curiosity with, or puzzle my neighbors, but to minister to Your people.

1Ki 3:10 **The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.**

- It was a pleasing prayer! How Often are our prayers pleasing to Him?

1Ki 3:11 **Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,**

- Even today we are prone to ask God for these three things – long life, riches, death of our enemies – over having wisdom and a heart for the Lord.

1Ki 3:12 **behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.**

thee (3:9-12).

- ***A wise and understanding heart.*** The wisdom of Solomon, of course is legendary. If you want to challenge the wisdom of Solomon. Try to sit down and write a book of proverbs and see how wise your proverbs are. His are proverbial, in their wisdom. And a whole book of proverbs! The wisdom of God given unto him.

1Ki 3:13 **And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.**

- So, just like God. He gives us more than we ask. Consider His grace and mercy He has given us!
- God said to Solomon, "I'll give you what you haven't asked too". The goodness of God. Now the Lord gives the conditions.

1Ki 3:14 **So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."**

- "I'll give you long life too." But **the long life promise was predicated upon his obedience to the statutes and the commandments of the Lord.** He is saying, "Honor me, I'll lengthen your days".

1Ki 3:15 **Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.**

SUMMARY:

- Solomon began so well! He loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father, David!
- We do see an "except he sacrificed and burned incense in the high places".
- He most generously offered a thousand burnt (consecration) offerings to the LORD at Gibeon.
- God spoke to Solomon that night, saying, "Ask! What shall I give you?"
- Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or death to his enemies, but asked for an understanding, hearing heart to judge His people.
- God answers, but notice! He gave Solomon much more that he asked!
- If Solomon wanted to enjoy these blessings, he would have to walk in obedience to the Word (***1Ki 3:13-14***).
- What a loving, gracious, kind God, we serve! God is a debtor to no man! We can never out give our God!
- ***Eph 3:20*** ***Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,***

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court.

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com