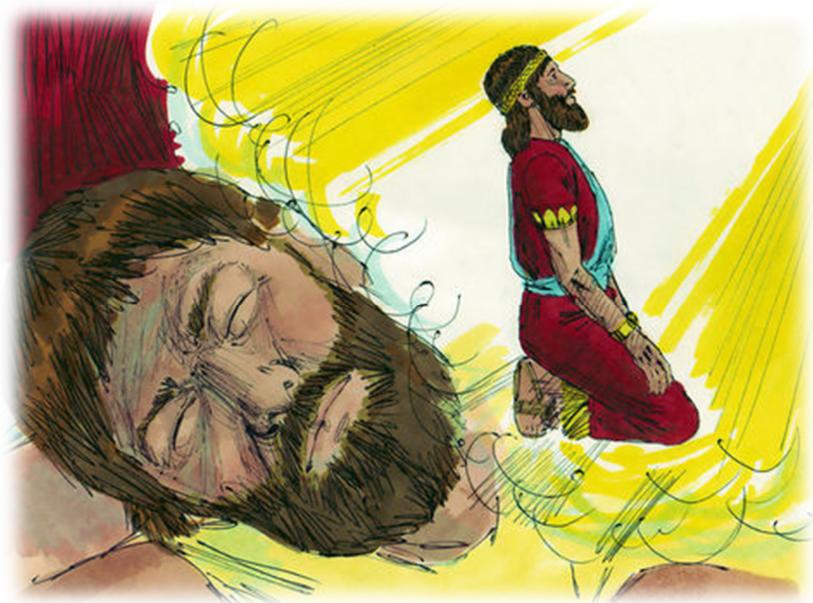
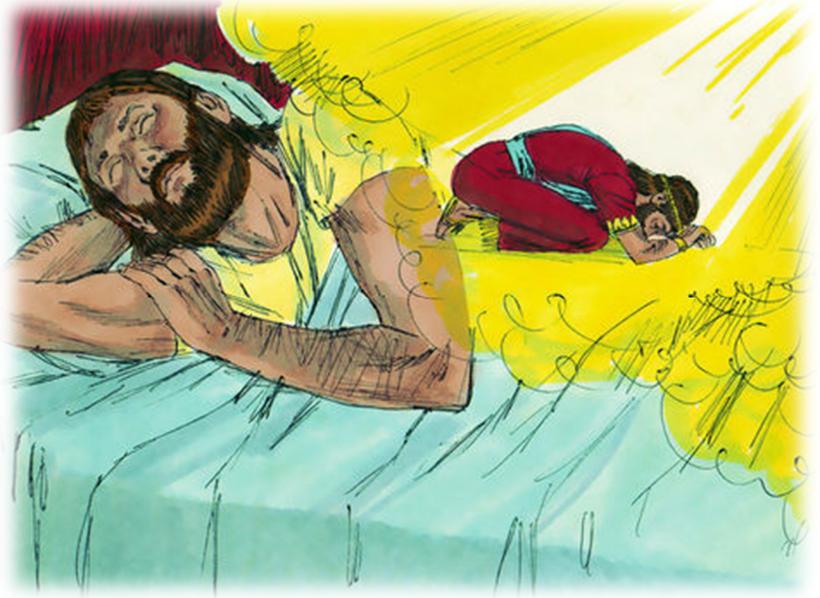


# Solomon Asks for Wisdom

## 1 Kings 3

After King David grew old and died, Solomon, his son, became the new king of Israel. Solomon loved God, like his father David did. One night Solomon fell asleep after offering a thousand burnt offerings to God.

As Solomon lay sleeping, God spoke to him in a dream. “Solomon! Ask! What shall I give to you?” God said.



Solomon did have something to ask of God! “O LORD my God, You have made your servant to be king, but I am a little child ruling over so many people they can’t be counted!

“Please give me a heart of wisdom so that I can judge Your people, and so that I can tell the difference between good and evil.”



Solomon's request pleased God. God said to Solomon, "You didn't ask for your self a long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but you asked for wisdom and understanding and discernment. Look, I will give you what you have asked, so that you will have a wise and understanding heart—more than any before you or any that will come after you! I will also give you the things you did not ask for—riches and honor. And if you continue to walk in my ways, I will give you a long life."

Solomon awoke from his dream, and went to Jerusalem where the ark of the covenant was. There he made a feast for all his servants and offered up sacrifices to God.

It wasn't long before, Solomon's wisdom from God was tested.

Two harlots came to the king. One woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and we both had little babies."



The woman continued, “But this woman laid on her son in the night, and he died! And she came in the night and stole my baby, and put her dead baby next to me! When I woke up, I saw my baby was dead... but when I looked closer it was not my son!”

The other woman replied, “No! The living baby is my son, and the dead one yours.”

And so the woman continued to argue, until Solomon said, “Bring me a sword!”

“Divide the child in half,” Solomon commanded, and give each woman half of the baby.



“No!” cried out the true mother, “Give the baby to the other woman, but don’t kill him!” The other woman replied, “Divide him, like the king said.”

“Give the first woman the living child, because SHE is the real mother.” Solomon commanded.

All Israel heard about wise king Solomon and saw that the wisdom of God was with him—just as Solomon had asked of God.

We can learn from the wisdom that God gave Solomon even today—in the book of Proverbs! In Proverbs, Solomon wrote: “Wisdom is the most important thing—it will keep you on the right path, and in the end it will give you life.”

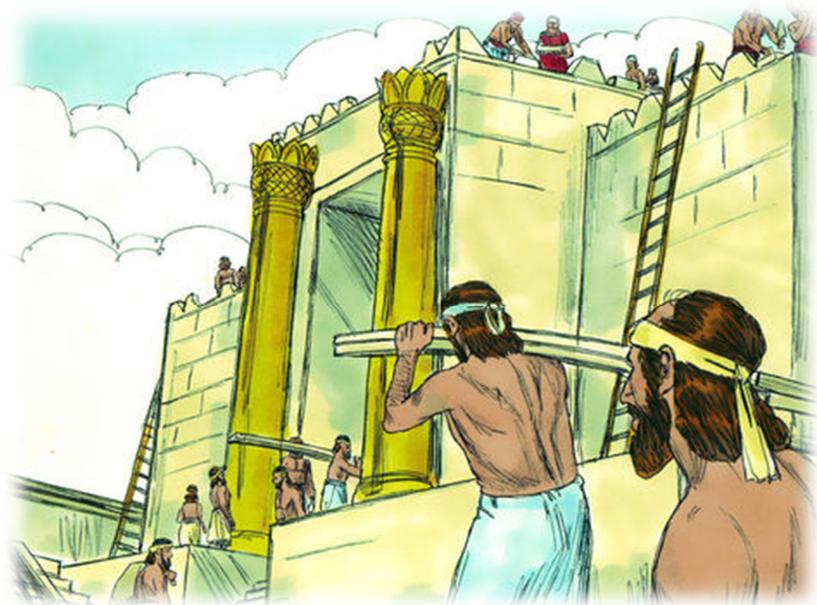
Sometimes it can be hard to know what the right thing to do might be, but we can ask God for wisdom, like Solomon, and we can

# Solomon Builds God's Temple

## 1 Kings 5-8

Before David died, he had gathered many supplies for Solomon to build a temple for God. He set aside gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, precious stones, and marble. David was not the man that God had chosen to build a temple, but he wanted to do everything he COULD do to help prepare for the temple!

Besides David's supplies, Hiram—the Gently King of Lebanon—heard that Solomon was building a temple for God. Hiram promised to Solomon as much cedar and fir wood as Solomon wanted. Hiram also sent men to help prepare the wood and stone for God's house.



The temple was beautiful. Outside the temple was a huge brass laver for washing held up by twelve brass oxen. The sacrifice altar was nearby—made of brass with steps for the priest to walk up to offer sacrifices.

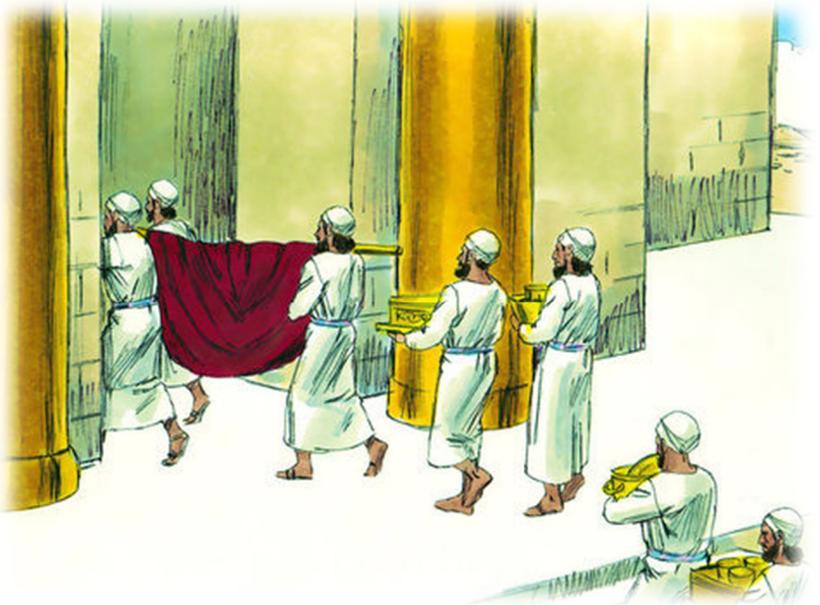
At the top of the stairs going into the temple, there were two, tall brass pillars on the porch. One pillar was named “Jachin” and the other “Boaz.”



Inside the temple had furniture like the holy place of the tabernacle—lampstand of gold, table of showbread of gold, and an incense altar of gold. Just like the tabernacle had a Most Holy Place for the ark of the covenant, the temple also had a Most Holy Place which is where the ark of the covenant would stay.

When the temple work was complete, Solomon gathered together all the elders of Israel. It was the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, and this Feast of Tabernacles would be a particularly important celebration!

The ark had been in its own special tent in Jerusalem since David had brought it back many years earlier. With Solomon and the elders assembled, the priests carefully brought the ark into the Most Holy Place in God's new Temple. When the priests left the temple, a great cloud entered and filled the temple - just like God showed His presence by a cloud to the children of Israel many years before!



After the ark was put in its place, and God's cloud filled the temple, Solomon prayed and stood at the altar outside the temple and prayed.

“O LORD God of Israel, there is no God like You! Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain You, how much less this house that I have built. Nevertheless, You have said that Your name will be here at this place, and that you will hear the prayers of your servants or of strangers when they pray towards this place. “



After Solomon's prayer, all Israel held a great feast, like never before. And when it was over, they went home joyful and thankful for all the goodness that God had done.

Solomon, David's son, built a house for God. One day soon, a greater Son of David will be building an even greater Temple for God! Just like Gentiles were involved in building Solomon's house, Gentile nations will serve the King Jesus and send gifts and supplies for the building of the temple in the Kingdom! It will be a temple where ALL nations can come and learn about and worship God. What a wonderful time that will be!

# The Kingdom is Divided

## 1 Kings 12

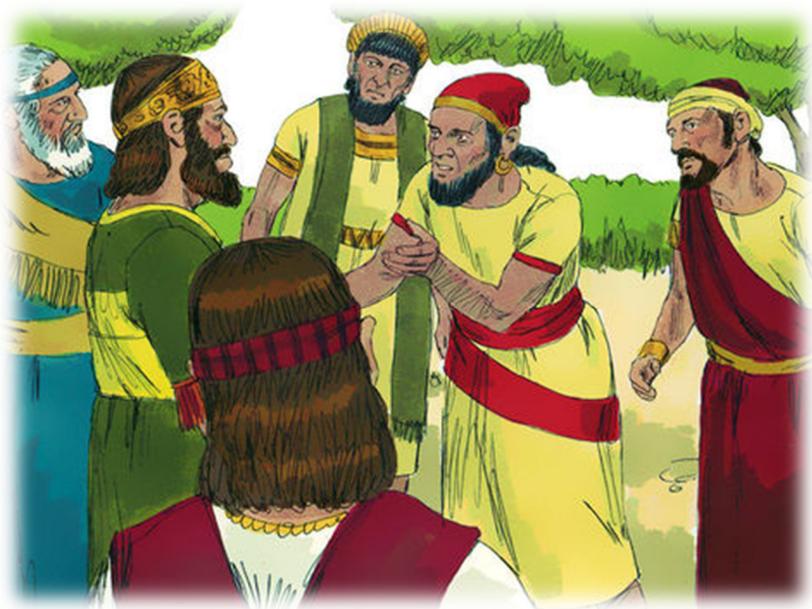
Although Solomon served God when he began his reign as king, later he married many wives who did not serve God. These wives led Solomon to disobey God.

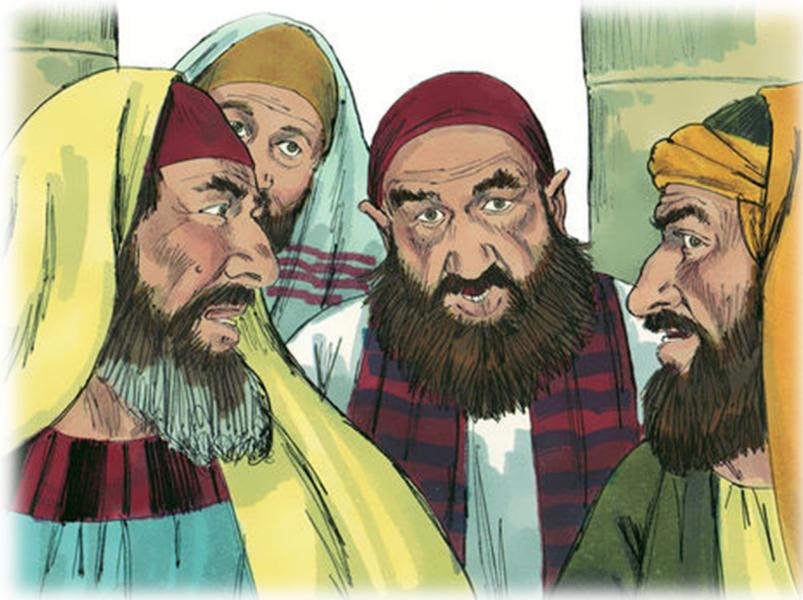
God told Solomon, “Because you have disobeyed me and not kept my covenant, I will rend the kingdom from you and give it to another. But I will not do this while you are alive, for David your father’s sake. And for David your father’s sake, your descendants will continue to be king over Judah.”

After Solomon had died, his son Rehoboam became the new king of Israel.

When he became king, the people of Israel came to him with a question. “Rehoboam, your father Solomon made our yoke heavy—he worked us very hard! Please make our work lighter, and then we will gladly serve you.”

“Give me three days to think about this.” Rehoboam said. So the people left.



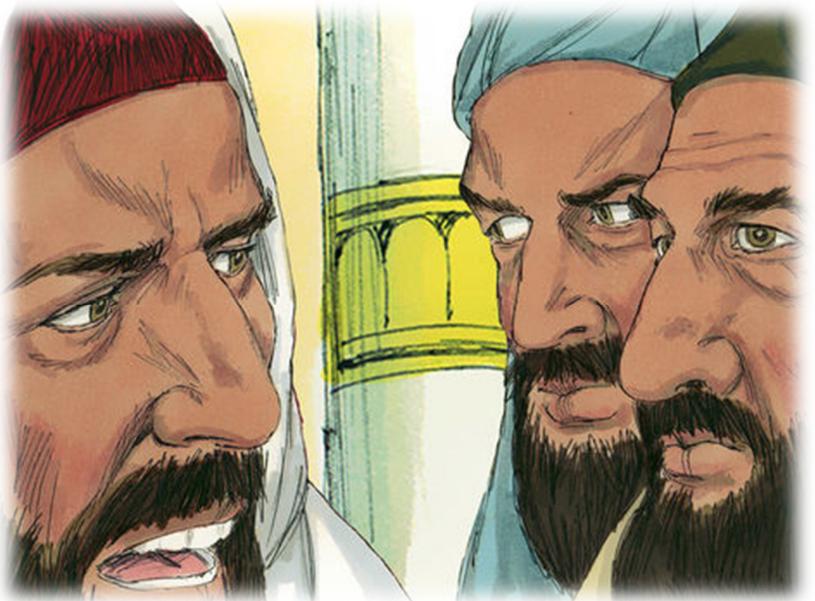


“What do you think about this? How should I answer these people?” Rehoboam asked the wise old men that had given his father Solomon advice.

The old men answered, “If you will serve the people, and give them a good answer, then they will be your servants forever.”

Then Rehoboam went to the young men who were his friends. “What do you think,” he asked them, “how should I answer the people?”

The young men said the opposite, “Here’s what you should say to them: ‘I will not make your work easier, I will add more to your work! My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions!’”



After three days, the people of Israel came back to Rehoboam. “What did you decide?” they asked him.

Rehoboam answered them roughly with the words from the young men, his friends. “I will not make your work easier, I will add more to your work! My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions!”

When the people heard Rehoboam’s response, they angrily went home. “Rehoboam is not our king!” they said.



Ten of the tribes of Israel chose a new man, named Jeroboam, to be their king, while Rehoboam continued to be the king over Judah and Benjamin just as God had warned.

Sadly, from then on there would be two kingdoms. One was called Israel (the ten tribes), and the other was called Judah (the two tribes) each with their own king.

The young men who were Rehoboam’s friends gave exactly the opposite advice of the wise old men. God told the children of Israel that they should give honor and respect to the old. When you do not know how you should handle something, ask your parents or aunts and uncles for wise advice.