

## God's Answer to Man's Questions (I Kings 3:1-28)

### I. Introduction

#### A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. Our love for God is demonstrated in our obedience.
2. Our love for God is demonstrated by our generosity in worship.
3. God's wisdom is given to those who humbly ask.
4. God's wisdom is extraordinary, compassionate, and practical.
5. God's wisdom causes others to notice and glorify God.

**Question:** The Sunday School Quarterly left out the remainder of David's life after his affair with Bathsheba. What consequences, if any, befell David after his evil deeds?

#### B. Some probing questions.

1. Why do you attend Sunday School?
2. What is the purpose of Sunday School?
3. How important is good discussion?
4. John 8:31-32 says, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ***And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***"

#### C. In a Family Counseling class that I took, one of my assignments was to evaluate David as a family man. How would you rate him as a husband and father?

#### D. An important parenting principle (IMHO) - Correct wrongdoing, punish evil doing.

1. In II Samuel 13:11-13, one of David's sons (Amnon) raped one of David's daughters (Tamar)? David did not do anything about it.
2. In II Samuel 13:28-29, Absalom led a revolt against Amnon and killed him. Then, he fled the area, and again, David did not do anything.
3. In II Samuel 15:1-37, David was forced out of the palace, as Absalom returned to Jerusalem to overthrow his father and become king.
4. In II Samuel 18:1-16, Joab turned back Absalom's attack on David. In the process, Absalom was killed and David was devastated.
5. In I Kings 1:1-53, David's son, Adonijah, tried to become king as his aged father is about to die. The throne was supposed to go to Solomon.
6. In I Kings 2:1-46, Solomon became the king and killed Adonijah.

#### E. David suffered greatly for his very serious sin with Bathsheba and against Uriah.

#### F. How does the Lord deal with New Testament saints when they do wrong?

1. **Chastisement:** Hebrews 12:7-8 (NIV) says, "Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons."
2. **Loss of Reward:** I Corinthians 3:15 says, "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

### God's Answer to Man's Questions (I Kings 3:1-28)

3. **Premature Death**: John 15:2 says, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."

**Question:** Were all of the actions in I Kings 3:1-3 pleasing to the Lord?

- II. In I Kings 3:1-4, Solomon and the people were doing a lot of things. Was the Lord pleased with all of them?
- A. In verse 1, Solomon completed some building projects.
1. He finished building his own house.
  2. He finished building the Lord's house.
  3. He completed the wall around Jerusalem.
  4. Concerning verses 1-2, the Sunday School Quarterly correctly said, "Real love is demonstrated by our actions. People who love God go to church and worship Him. They talk to Him and listen to His Word. Because we love God, we want others to know His love, too. Our actions portray our faith."
  5. **The Bible is the inspired Word of God. Inspiration takes two forms.**
    - a. Verbal Inspiration means that EVERY word is inspired by God.
    - b. Plenary Inspiration means that every word is EQUALLY inspired by God.
  6. In verse 1, Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh, king of Egypt.
    - a. Affinity (*chathan* - to become a son-in-law, make oneself a daughter's husband.)
    - b. Numbers 36:9 says, "Neither shall the inheritance remove from one tribe to another tribe; but every one of the tribes of the children of Israel shall keep himself to his own inheritance."
    - c. In I Kings 11:1-12, Solomon angered the Lord greatly because of his behavior with the wrong kind of women.
    - d. Egypt was especially bad in God's eyes.
    - e. Some opinions:
      1. Dr. R. D. Patterson of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and Dr. Hermann J. Austel of Northwest Baptist Seminary defended Solomon's actions.
        - a) They wrote that marrying the Egyptian strengthened Israel's alliance with Egypt and secured their southern border.
        - b) They also wrote that such marriages were common among nations and that God only forbid marriage to Canaanite women (see Exodus 34:11-17 and Deuteronomy 7:1-6).
          - 1) Exodus 34:12, 16 says, "Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee. ... And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring

### God's Answer to Man's Questions (I Kings 3:1-28)

- after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods."
- 2) Deuteronomy 7:4 says, "For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly."
2. Dr. J. Vernon McGee wrote that Solomon made a mistake marrying the Egyptian woman.
3. MY ANALYSIS: I agree with Dr. McGee.
- a. The passages in Exodus and Deuteronomy warn about the Canaanite women influencing the Israeli men against the Lord. It seems likely to me that an Egyptian woman would pose the same threat.
- b. The passage in Numbers indicates God's concern that tribal boundaries should not be changed by marriages outside the tribes. It seems to me that marrying an Egyptian could pose the same threat.
7. What the Quarterly said about real love for the Lord is true. **However, my opinion is that Solomon marrying an Egyptian woman is not the right example to use to back up that statement.**
- B. As has been stated in previous lessons, a person must be very careful when comparing Old Testament and New Testament saints. We have already seen that Saul was not all bad and that David was not all good. We will now begin to see that Solomon was not all good, either.
1. The tendency, too often, is to see some saints as ALL GOOD and some characters as ALL BAD.
2. **The danger with this kind of thinking is that it can flaw our theological understanding.**
- a. If we see Abraham, Jacob, David, Daniel, and all the heroes of the Faith as being flawless, then we begin to think that we have to be flawless, too.
- b. The Lord has done us a great favor by giving us an honest book where we can see the ill deeds of His greatest saints.

**Question:** Does the end justify the means?

- C. In verse 2, it says, "Only the people sacrificed in high places." Verse 3 says that even Solomon sacrificed and burned incense in the high places.
1. The high places were used for heathen worship (see Leviticus 26:30, Numbers 22:41 (the high places of Baal), Numbers 33:52, Deuteronomy 33:29, I Kings 12:31 (Jeroboam), I Kings 13:2, **I Kings 14:22-23**, I Kings 15:14, I Kings 22:43, II Kings 12:3, **II Kings 14:3-4**, **II Kings 15:3-4**, II Kings 15:35, II

## God's Answer to Man's Questions (I Kings 3:1-28)

- Kings 16:4, II Kings 17:9, **II Kings 17:11**, **II Kings 18:1-4** (Hezekiah), and many more).
2. Drs. Patterson and Austel say that the people were offering sacrifices to the Lord on heathen altars. Dr McGee says that the people were returning to idol worship. Which was it?
    - a. The former two say that a temple was needed so that the people would not have to worship God on heathen altars.
    - b. The latter says that if that kind of worship had been acceptable, then David would have done it, too.
    - c. This time, I agree with Drs. Patterson and Austel. But does the end justify the means? **If Solomon was worshipping the Lord in the Canaanite high places, then he was doing it in the wrong way.**
  3. The Quarterly becomes problematic when the author tries to develop theological truths from genre that was intended to be narrative and historical. **The truths are not wrong. The problem is that this chapter does not totally support those truths.**
    - a. Isogesis - trying to make the Bible say what you want it to say.
    - b. Exegesis - trying to get the exact meaning from the Bible
  4. Verse 4 may shed some light on Israel's worship, but there may be another problem. The thousand offerings mean that it was a big deal.
    - a. II Chronicles 1:3 says, "So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness."
    - b. II Chronicles 1:3 and I Kings 3:4 are talking about the same trip to Gibeon, and the former passage makes it clear that Solomon and the people were worshipping the Lord. If that was true in verses 2 and 3, then Dr. McGee was not correct concerning Israel's return to idolatry.
    - c. Does the verse literally mean that Solomon offered the sacrifices? Remember that Saul got into a lot of trouble with the Lord in I Samuel 13:9 when he offered a sacrifice in Samuel's absence. Also remember that God looks on the heart.

**Question:** As we have carefully examined the lives of Saul, David and now Solomon, what truths can we conclude about the Lord that are true for Old Testament and New Testament saints?

1. God does not expect nor require us to be perfect. WE ARE HUMAN.
2. God is quick to forgive us when we fall short.
3. God loves us PERIOD !!! You cannot be so bad that the Lord will not love you and forgive you.
4. God has a Plan, and His Plan will be accomplished. He, at times, will use us even when we would be considered by many as being unusable.

### God's Answer to Man's Questions (I Kings 3:1-28)

III. In I Kings 3:5-10, Solomon answered the Lord well.

- A. Notice how difficult it can be to UNDERSTAND exactly what the Bible is saying. Sometimes, much effort is required to really get at the truth, but we should always be willing to make the effort.
1. Saul apparently offered a sacrifice himself. Did Solomon? Maybe he did and maybe he did not. But because God never changes, one would have to conclude that Solomon was not actually offering the sacrifices himself.
  2. Verse 5 says that God came to Solomon in a dream. Does that mean that He only came to people in a dream when the Bible says so? Maybe it does, but maybe it does not.
- B. "Ask what I shall give thee." *Were there limits to what Solomon could ask?*
1. Matthew 7:7-8 says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."
  2. James 4:3 says, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."
- C. The Lord was testing Solomon, and Solomon passed the test. Be careful what you dream.
1. *Pastor Paul does not like the salvation prayer.*
  2. But the problem is not the prayer. It is the condition of the person's heart when the prayer is made. **If you pray earnestly and ask the Lord to enter into a personal relationship with you, then He will do it one hundred out of one hundred times.**
  3. The problem is that we many times want to be delivered from an unpleasant predicament rather than wanting a personal relationship with the Lord.
  4. Solomon was earnest and sincere, and his prayer was answered. If we are earnest and sincere, then our prayers will be answered, too.

IV. In verses 11-15, the Lord blessed Solomon in the dream. Then, Solomon awoke, went to Jerusalem and offered more sacrifices.

- A. God told Solomon that he would be blessed with riches and honor, as well as wisdom.
- B. Solomon was also promised lengthened days if he would walk in the ways of David, his father.
- C. David went to Jerusalem to the Ark of the Covenant. Remember that David had brought it there.
- D. In his commentary on II Chronicles 1:2-3, Dr. McGee wrote an interesting opinion about Solomon's trip to Gibeon and then to Jerusalem.
  1. The Tabernacle was at Gibeon, and the brazen altar was in the Tabernacle. The brazen altar represented Jesus on the cross.
  2. The Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem was where Solomon and the people could meet with God.

**God's Answer to Man's Questions (I Kings 3:1-28)**

3. Before Solomon and the people could meet with God, they had to go through the brazen altar (Christ on the cross).
  4. ***His actions were a perfect picture of how we come to God through the cross at Calvary.***
- V. In verse 16-28, Solomon was presented with an unusual problem.
- A. He suggested that two women, who were fighting over the possession of a child, split the child in half. His suggestion revealed the true mother.
  
  - B. Solomon's fame and wisdom spread, and people could see that the Lord was with him.
- VI. Next week's lesson: A Bright Light in a Dim World (I Kings 10:1-13).