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## Daily Rice 2024 March 9

YouTube Prayer Link

Has the wisdom of God in heart, but cannot practice the truth of God

In 1 Kings 3

3:5 And it came to pass, in Gibeon's dreams by night, that Jehohua appeared to Solomon and said unto him, What wilt thou that I would give thee. You can ask for it.

3:9 Grant me wisdom therefore to judge thy people, and to discern right from wrong. Otherwise, who can judge such a large number of people ?

3:13 Whatever thou hast not asked for, I will give thee, riches and honors, so that there may be no king like thee in the days of thy life.

3:14 If thou wilt follow the example of thy Father David and walk in my ways, and keep my statutes and commandments, I will make thee live long.

In 1 Kings 3, King Solomon talks to God, and God asks him what he wants, to which Solomon replies that he needs wisdom to rule God's people properly. God has blessed him with wisdom and wealth, and no one can be wiser than him. He also gained fame and respect, and many people came to listen to his wisdom and judgment. In one case where both women claimed to be the mother of a baby, King Solomon wisely suggested that the baby be cut in half so that each woman would have half of it, and that the true mother would give up her portion in order to

protect the baby's life. After the case was resolved, the people respected King Solomon's wisdom and ability even more.

Solomon is portrayed as a king who received God-given wisdom that not only enabled him to excel in governing the country and solving problems, but also gave him knowledge and respect for God. However, despite his God-given wisdom, he also experienced challenges in his life, including his deviation from God's truth in some ways.

In Solomon's youth, he was favored by God for praying for wisdom, which showed his reverence and desire for God. However, as time went on, Solomon's heart drifted away from God's truth. His political marriage and handling of diplomatic relations show that he has disobeyed God's instructions in some way. In addition, his pursuit of pleasure and material possessions also led to a weakening of his faith in God.

Solomon 'had the wisdom of God in his heart, but he still 'took Pharaoh's daughter as his wife' (v.1) and tolerated 'offering sacrifices and burning incense in the high places' (v.3). It was these two seemingly small breaches that eventually grew larger and larger, gradually causing "Solomon to do evil in Jehovah's sight, and to devote himself to obedience to Jehovah without conforming to his father David"

Despite his superior intelligence, Solomon was also a flawed man whose actions reflected human fragility and error. However, the Bible's portrayal of Solomon also reminds us that even in our most remarkable moments, we can get lost in temptation and wrong choices. Therefore, we should humbly rely on God and continually seek His wisdom and truth to guide us in the path of righteousness.

Exodus 20:1-17 - This is the account of the Ten Commandments, which includes God's basic requirements and norms for mankind and guides people to follow God's ways.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 - God requires people to fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him, serve Him, and keep His commandments and statutes with all their hearts and souls.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Remind the people to trust in God with all their hearts, not in their own understanding, but to establish Him in all things, to make His paths straight, and He will direct the steps of men.

These chapters emphasize the importance of following God's ways and laws, as well as people's trust and obedience to God.

## 2 Peter 1:5–7

That is why you have to work harder. To faith is to be added virtue, to virtue is to knowledge, to knowledge is to be added, to self-control is patience, to patience is to patience, to patience is to be added, to godliness is to be added, to godliness is to be added to godliness, and to brotherly love is to love of all men.

We pray

Heavenly Father, we come before you to thank you for your life and all your grace. Today, we gather together to pray to you and ask you to help us never forget your grace and grace.

Pray that we will help us to feel your grace every day, both in our joy and in our challenges and difficulties. Let our hearts always be thankful and in awe, for you are the source of all goodness, and your grace is more abundant than we can comprehend.

Lord, help us not to forget your grace and to fill our lives with thanksgiving and praise. As we face trials and challenges, let us remember how you have saved us and trust in your promises steadfastly.

Pray that the Lord will guide our hearts and minds so that we will always remember your grace and not be stray from your path because of the busyness and temptations of life. May we walk in your light with humble hearts and praise your name forever and forever. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

## 1 Kings chapter 3

New International Version

Solomon Asks for Wisdom

3 Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the temple of the Lord, and the wall around Jerusalem. 2 The people, however, were still sacrificing at the high places, because a temple had not yet been built for the Name of the Lord. 3 Solomon showed his love for the Lord

by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

6 Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

7 “Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. 11 So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, 12 I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. 13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. 14 And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” 15 Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

### A Wise Ruling

16 Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. 17 One of them said, “Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. 18 The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

19 “During the night this woman’s son died because she lay on him. 20 So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. 21 The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn’t the son I had borne.”

22 The other woman said, “No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.”

But the first one insisted, “No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine.” And so they argued before the king.

23 The king said, “This one says, ‘My son is alive and your son is dead,’ while that one says, ‘No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.’”

24 Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword for the king. 25 He then gave an order: “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

26 The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, “Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!”

But the other said, “Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!”

27 Then the king gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.”

28 When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

Here's a detailed summary of chapter 3 of 1 Kings:

Chapter 3 begins with Solomon making an alliance with Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, by marrying his daughter. Solomon then goes to Gibeon, a high place where people worshiped God, to offer sacrifices.

While there, God appears to Solomon in a dream and offers to grant him anything he desires. Solomon asks for wisdom and understanding to rule God's people, and God is pleased with his request. He not only grants him wisdom, but also riches and honor beyond any other king.

The chapter then tells the famous story of two women who came before Solomon with a baby, each claiming to be its mother. Solomon suggests cutting the baby in half and giving each woman half, but the real mother is willing to give up her claim to the child rather than see it harmed. Solomon then gives the baby to the real mother, earning the respect of his people and establishing his reputation as a wise ruler.

Solomon's reign as king is also highlighted in this chapter, as he builds up the kingdom and establishes justice throughout the land. He also continues to offer sacrifices at the high places, though the temple has not yet been built.

The chapter ends with Solomon returning to Jerusalem, where he establishes his court and begins to rule over Israel with wisdom and fairness.

Here are some important verses from 1 Kings chapter 3 in the Christian Bible:

1 Kings 3:1 - Solomon forms an alliance with the Pharaoh of Egypt by marrying his daughter.

1 Kings 3:2-4 - Solomon offers sacrifices at the high places, which were places of worship outside of the temple in Jerusalem.

1 Kings 3:5-9 - God appears to Solomon in a dream and offers to give him anything he desires. Solomon asks for wisdom to govern the people of Israel justly.

1 Kings 3:10-15 - God is pleased with Solomon's request and grants him wisdom, as well as wealth and honor.

1 Kings 3:16-28 - Two women come before Solomon with a baby, each claiming to be its mother. Solomon proposes to cut the baby in half to settle the dispute, and the real mother reveals herself by offering to give up her claim to save the baby's life. Solomon gives the baby to her and the people of Israel are amazed at his wisdom.

These verses demonstrate Solomon's early reign as king and how God blesses him with wisdom and discernment to govern the people justly. The story of the two women and the baby is a well-known example of Solomon's wisdom and shows how he was able to resolve disputes in a just and compassionate manner.

In the third chapter of the book of 1 Kings in the Bible, we witness a pivotal moment in the life of King Solomon. Let's reflect on some key points from this chapter:

Seeking wisdom above all else: In this chapter, Solomon demonstrates his desire for wisdom by asking God for an understanding heart to govern and judge His people. This request pleases God, and He grants Solomon not only wisdom but also riches and honor. It reminds us of the importance of seeking wisdom in our own lives, recognizing that it is a valuable gift from God that can guide us in making righteous decisions.

Making choices with discernment: The famous story of the two women who come before Solomon with a dispute over a child showcases Solomon's discernment and wisdom. He proposes a test to determine the true mother by suggesting to divide the child in two, knowing that the real mother would rather give up her claim than see harm come to her child. Solomon's discernment in this situation highlights the importance of making choices with wisdom and considering the well-being of others.

The consequences of wise decisions: As a result of Solomon's wise decision and his commitment to seeking God's wisdom, he gains a reputation for his discernment and justice throughout the kingdom. This leads to the people respecting and revering him as their king. The chapter reminds us that wise decisions can have far-reaching effects and can shape our reputation and influence in positive ways.

The blessings of obedience: In response to Solomon's humility and obedience in requesting wisdom from God instead of selfish desires, God not only grants him wisdom but also promises him riches, honor, and long life if he continues to walk in His ways. This emphasizes the blessings that come from obedience and aligning our desires with God's will.

These reflections provide insights into the themes and lessons found in the third chapter of 1 Kings. As you continue to explore the book, you will encounter more stories and teachings that offer further spiritual guidance and wisdom.