

4.12 SOLOMON USES HIS WISDOM

1 KINGS 3

Solomon's father, King David, had died. Now, it was Solomon's job to be king. There were so many responsibilities! David had given Solomon many instructions about listening to God. But now, Solomon was thinking about all the people in the country and what a big job this would be.

The Israelites wanted to worship God, but there was no temple. One of Solomon's jobs would be to build a temple for worship. The people were disobedient in the way they worshiped now. Even Solomon had been disobedient. Solomon needed wisdom from God.

One night, God had spoken to Solomon in a dream. God asked Solomon what he wanted more than anything. Solomon said he wanted wisdom. He wanted to be able to rule the people with a wise heart, listening to God. God gave this to Solomon. God was pleased with what he had asked for.

One day, Solomon had to use his wisdom in a mighty way. There were two women who lived together in the same house. They had an argument to settle. They came to King Solomon to solve this really big problem.

One woman said, "Please, my master, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby not too long ago. Then, soon after, this other woman had a baby. No one else was in the house with us at the time. This other woman's baby died in the night. She got up and took my baby from me while I was sleeping and put her baby near me—the baby who had died. When I got up in the morning, I saw that the baby next to me was dead. When I looked at him carefully, it wasn't my baby at all! She had switched them!"

The other woman cried, "No! The living baby is mine! Your baby died."

The woman who spoke first insisted, "No! The living one is MINE!"

King Solomon said, "So one of you says 'This is my son who lives and the other baby who died, is yours,' and the other one of you says, 'No! That's not true!'" Then, the king asked for a sword. "Let's divide the living child into two pieces—one half for each of you!"

The woman who really loved her baby said, "Oh, my master, give the other woman the baby. It must live!" The other woman said to divide the child! Solomon made his decision and said, "The woman who wants life for the baby—she is the true mother. Do not kill it. Give the baby to her."

All of Israel heard this story and the people were amazed. They knew Solomon's wisdom came from God.

4.12 SOLOMON USES HIS WISDOM - TEACHER'S GUIDE

1 KINGS 3

HIGHLIGHTS:

Solomon became king of Israel after his father, King David, died. God spoke to Solomon and asked him what he wanted most. Solomon said he wanted wisdom to lead all the people.

There were two women in town who lived in the same house. They each had a baby. One night, one of the babies died. One woman said the other woman's baby had died and she switched her dead baby with the one that was alive. The second woman said this was not true. They went to King Solomon to settle the argument.

King Solomon said, "Bring me a sword. We will divide the baby and each woman will get half."

One woman said, "Give the other woman the baby. It must live." The other woman said to divide the child!

King Solomon made his decision. The woman who wanted the child to live must be the true mother. So, the baby was given to her.

All of Israel heard this story and the people were amazed at King Solomon's wisdom. They knew it came from God.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What did Solomon want most of all from God?
- 2) What problem did the two women have?
- 3) What did King Solomon say he should do?
- 4) How did King Solomon decide which woman was the real mother?
- 5) Where did King Solomon's wisdom come from?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Solomon wanted wisdom most of all.
- 2) The two women each had a baby. One baby died and both women said the baby that was alive was theirs.
- 3) King Solomon said he should divide the baby into two pieces.
- 4) King Solomon knew that the woman who wanted the baby to live was the true mother.
- 5) King Solomon's wisdom came from God.