

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS  
SOLOMON'S KINGDOM  
1 KINGS 4:1-31**

**Introduction**

In the last chapter, we saw how early on in Solomon's reign as king of Israel he asked God for wisdom to lead the nation and judge the LORD's people.

Last week, we saw that wisdom in action when two harlots claimed to be the mother of the same baby boy. Solomon exposed who the liar was and who the real mother was by preparing to cut the real child in half with the sword. The real mother begged for the child be spared and given to the other woman. By that Solomon was able to wisely discern the identity of the real mother.

We come to Chapter 4 tonight which may first appear to be ordinary and a little mundane, but is actually quite full of some rich insights. This Chapter continues to give us details of Solomon's wisdom, his greatness, and his organizational skills.

**I. FIRST WE SEE THOSE WHO ARE CALLED THE "PRINCES" WHICH SOLOMON HAD. (4:1-6)**

(i.e. This was **Solomon's cabinet** similar somewhat to the cabinet in our own nation that helps our President lead our nation.)

So these were **the leaders of the nation of Israel that aided the King.**

**Many of these men were friends of David.** Solomon demonstrates wisdom by relying upon men that his father David had trusted.

It appears that Solomon did not make **many** mistakes when it came to choosing leaders for the nation of Israel.

Solomon would write later in *Proverbs 27:10*—*Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not;...*

Some sons do the opposite of what their father's say or teach, thinking they know more than or know better than their fathers. (e.g. *We will see this happen later in the reign of his own son, Rehoboam*)

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*An article printed in a Dutch magazine reflects the transition most of us have gone through in our assessment of our fathers:*

*4 years: My daddy can do anything.*

*7 years: My dad knows a lot, a whole lot!*

*8 years: Dad doesn't know quite everything.*

*12 years: Dad just doesn't understand.*

*14 years: Dad? He is hopelessly old-fashioned!*

*21 years: My dad is truly out-of-date. But what would you expect?*

*25 years: Dad comes up with a good idea now and then.*

*30 years: I must find out what Dad thinks about it.*

*35 years: Wait, I want to get Dad's input first.*

*50 years: What would Dad have thought about that?*

*60 years: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.*

**As the return of Christ approaches, we know that Scripture says that sons and daughters will be increasingly rebellious toward parents.** Solomon himself wrote about it in *Proverbs 30:11*—*There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.*

**The Apostle Paul prophesied to Timothy of the last days:**

*2 Timothy 3:1-2*—*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy*

**One of the very best things children can do in is to determine to be an obedient son or daughter who honors dad and mom!**

*Ephesians 6:1-3* – *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

*Proverbs 15:20*—*A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.*

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**Solomon was wise in following after the ways of his father David in some ways. But unfortunately, Solomon did not wholly follow the LORD nor even follow the LORD as well as his father.**

We will see later in his reign that *1 Kings 11:6* tells us that **Solomon drifted away from the Lord because he didn't adhere to the LORD's commandments for Israel's kings.** God had a good reason for giving kings those commands and we will see Solomon will learn this the hard way!

**II. NEXT, WE SEE THE PROVISIONS FOR THE KING!**  
*(4:7-19, 20-28)*

**To say that Solomon's reign was a high maintenance administration would be an understatement!** It took twelve officers to provide supplies for the king and his household, wives, servants, and children.

**Taxes were heavy upon the land, as each region provided one month of provisions.** Judah was not mentioned. Their exemption would create rivalry and resentment later on.

God's law in *Deuteronomy 17:16-17*—*But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.*

**Part of the need to have such high taxes was because of Solomon's disobedience to the LORD regarding commands to Israel's kings and part of it was for his opulent lifestyle!**

The more wives and concubines he accumulated, the more it took to provide for them!

The more horses he had, the more it took to provide for them!

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So we see in this passage, **some areas of disobedience in Solomon's life that hurt his reign in more ways than one!**

**Solomon was wise, but he was not perfect.** His mistakes and disobedience caught up with him later on in his life. Even though early on he loved the LORD, his disobedience affected his life and it eventually ruined him.

**Here is a principle we need to remember!: Disobedience breeds more disobedience, which brings problems and repercussions.**

**We may love the Lord, but when we violate Bible principles, we will pay a price in problems sooner or later!** We may not see the consequences for many years, but they eventually come. **We do reap what we sow!**

*Hosea 8:7—For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.*

*When Leonardo da Vinci was painting his masterpiece The Last Supper, he sought long and hard for a model for his Christ. At last, he located a chorister in one of the churches in Rome who was lovely in life and features. He was a young man named Pietro Bandinelli. Years passed, and the painting was still unfinished. All the disciples had been portrayed except one, Judas Iscariot. Leonardo started to find a man whose face was hardened and distorted by sin. At last he found a beggar on the streets of Rome with a face so villainous that he shuddered when he looked at him. He hired the man to sit for him as he painted the face of Judas on his canvas.*

*When he was about to dismiss the man, he said, "I have not yet found out your name." The man replied, "I am Pietro Bandinelli. I am the one who sat for you as a model of Christ."*

**Sin takes its toll on our life.**

III. **NEXT, WE SEE THE PROSPERITY OF SOLOMON'S KINGDOM! (4:20-21, 24-25)**

Solomon was a man of peace, not war. His desire to do what was right was blessed by God in the beginning of his reign over Israel. When we desired to please God, God blesses that desire.

*Proverbs 16:7—When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

**God prospered the nation.** The people multiplied and families grew. There was great joy and peace in Israel. **The Bible teaches that peace and prosperity are linked with obedience to God's Word and the centering of our life around the Lord.**

*1 Chronicles 22:13—Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the Lord charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.*

*Joshua 1:8—This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

*Psalm 1:1-3—Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

**God not only gives financial prosperity, but also physical, emotional, and spiritual prosperity.**

*Isaiah 26:3—Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

*Psalm 119:165—Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

IV. **LOOK AT THE ABUNDANCE OF PROVISIONS REQUIRED FOR EACH DAY! (4:22-23)**

Thirty measures of flour is equal to about 189 bushels. Sixty measures of meal is 378 bushels. Solomon had quite a cookout each day.

V. **LOOK AT THE ABUNDANCE OF WISDOM DISPERSED! (4:29-31)**

**God gave Solomon great wisdom, understanding, insight, discernment, and largeness of heart and mind.** His wisdom excelled the wisdom of men in the East and the wisdom of Egypt.

We marvel today at the construction of the Egyptian pyramids and tombs. We know the Magi of the east were devoted to the study of sciences and astronomy. But Solomon's wisdom was greater than these men.

*Ephesians 3:20—Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

Solomon was wiser than all men. He was wiser than Ethan, who was the author of **Psalm 89**. **This psalm is a song of mercy and grace.** It is about singing in dark times. It is used by those who saw the bright side in calamity.

*Psalm 89:1—Maschil of Ethan the Ezrahite. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.*

Do you have a song in the dark times?

Solomon was wiser than Heman. He wrote **Psalm 88** which was a **psalm of despair**. It is one of the saddest psalms. It was used when one was on the bottom in the circumstances of life. This psalm is about praying and crying out to God in troubled times.

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Solomon was greater in wisdom than both of these men. He was given wisdom in the basic issues of life, skill in business and government affairs, and wisdom in handling people.

**Unfortunately, the wisest man who ever lived did not live wisely toward the end of his life. Having insight into life does not guarantee one will CHOOSE to do what is right. We MUST make the right choices!** (e.g. I've known of many preachers who have preached but didn't live what they preached!)

*Joshua 24:14,15—Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

**What choices will you make? Will you choose to serve the Lord?**

*The story is told of a young dock worker who heard a preacher named Henderson preach a message on Romans 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" Although moved by the truth that a person can have peace with God only through Jesus Christ, this man did not trust the Lord as his Savior.*

*The next day the man joined the crew of the steamship London and sailed away. A short time later it met with disaster on the sea. Several months passed and a sailor came to Pastor Henderson. He said, "I have come to tell you that I talked and prayed with a young man on board the London who heard you preach on Romans 5:1.*

*He was concerned about his soul and did not quite understand the plan of salvation. I was able to finish what you started and lead him to Christ. A few minutes later, the ship wrecked. We were commanded to go to the lifeboats. He told me, "Mate, if I don't make it to shore, tell Pastor Henderson I got saved."*

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*The sailor continued to tell Pastor Henderson that somehow the convert did not make it to a lifeboat. They had to row away quickly from the ship lest they be capsized by the suction of the sinking ship. The sailor said, "The last I saw of him, he was up in the rigging of the doomed vessel, waving his hat and shouting to be heard above the noise of the waters, 'Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!'"*