

1 Kings 3

King James Version (KJV)

3 And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about. (affinity - means attachment by marriage)

NOTES: (Maybe she was of the Israelites that were shepherds in Egypt in their south kingdom – they were called Hicksos)

(Egyptians were not sheep herders. They brought in Israelites <called Hicksos> to be their shepherds)

²Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days. (This was illegal, even if they were sacrificing to God. They were supposed to sacrifice to God in the tabernacle) Deuteronomy- 12:11-27

(The Ark of the Covenant was in Shiloh that was approved by God. Would that have been the right place to offer sacrifices to Him?)

³And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. (He wasn't an idolater in his younger days)

NOTE: (This continued in Judah, even though Hezekiah and Asa tried to stop the practice. Finally, Josiah stopped it by desecrating the high places with the bones of idolatrous priests)

⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. (Gibeon is where Zadok was located. Apparently they had moved the tabernacle to Gibeon)

⁵In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. (This happened 20 times in the Bible; twice for Solomon)

⁶And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit

on his throne, as it is this day. (David fell short many times; like we all do. But he never turned away from God into idol worship)

1Samuel-7 (God promised David that He would build his house. This was finalized with the birth of Jesus Christ – God with us. Jesus came to us through the seed line of Nathan, David's son)

⁷And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. (Solomon was about 19 years old then. Go out and come in = an expression – it means day to day living; and in this case, day to day ruling the nation of Israel)

(Solomon was still humble before God at this stage of his life. Unfortunately, he didn't stay that way)

⁸And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. (God blessed Israel – as He promised to Abraham)

⁹Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? (understanding = shama <Hebrew> = to hear with understanding; and to discern wisely)

(Solomon is asking for God's wisdom to rule justly and righteously)

¹⁰And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. (He asked God's help for the people, not for himself. This is the mark of a good and compassionate leader)

(God is a good and compassionate leader. HE always has been and He always will be)

¹¹And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; (Solomon asked unselfishly. God was proud of him for that)

¹²Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. (No man

or woman before or after Solomon was given such great gifts to rule Israel)

(Only Jesus Christ <God in the flesh> had greater wisdom than Solomon)

¹³ And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. (God rewarded Solomon for his unselfishness)

¹⁴ And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days. (If - is the condition for long life)

(Solomon did what God wanted at first, but later in his life, he went totally off the tracks. He died at 59, with 700 foreign wives, 300 concubines. He turned away from God and brought in idolatry <worship of false gods>, Egyptian allies, Egyptian horses and all sorts of other corruption)

(Solomon didn't get a long life because he didn't stay true to God. His ego got the best of him in the end) see Matthew-6:33

¹⁵ And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants. (Peace Offerings were a sacrificial meal to be eaten in God's presence. They were a forerunner to Holy Communion) (Never forget to thank God for all that He gives us)

¹⁶ Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

¹⁷ And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

¹⁸ And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house. (They both had a new born child)

¹⁹ And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it. (She accidentally rolled over the baby in her sleep and suffocated it)

²⁰ And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. (She swapped the babies)

²¹ And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear. (A mother knows her baby. She can't be fooled)

²² And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king. (A very difficult thing to prove because there were no other witnesses)

²³ Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.

²⁴ And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

²⁵ And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. (Solomon is calling out both women to determine their state of mind. He had no intention of killing the baby)

²⁶ Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it. (The true mother would never allow the king to kill her baby. She preferred giving it up, rather than killing it)

²⁷ Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

²⁸ And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment. (feared = revered – both are the same word in the Hebrew. They revered Solomon for his divine wisdom. A wise and just leader is usually a good leader, where the people are concerned)

See James-1:5 (If we lack wisdom, we should ask God, and He will give it liberally)

