
1-2 Kings

Study Notes

Lesson 3 - 1 Kings 3:1-4:34

Review

- Thus far we have discovered the historical realities of the nation of Israel as a monarchy (under the rule of a king).
- In chapters 1 and 2 we have the “passing of the torch” from David to Solomon.

List two things you learned from the previous study;

1)

2)

Study

This week we learn about Solomon’s new role as the king of Israel and specifically his desire for wisdom. As you go through the questions consider not only what you learn about this great king but also that which is revealed about the character of our great God.

1. How would define wisdom?
2. Why might Solomon have made a marriage alliance with Egypt? What do you think the consequences might be?
3. In chapter 3, what is revealed about God’s character in what he relates to Solomon and the manner in which he does it? See verses 5, 10-14.
4. According to 3:7-9, why does Solomon ask for wisdom? What do you think is going on in Solomon’s heart as he makes this request?
5. It pleases the Lord that Solomon asks for wisdom (3:10). What does God commend Solomon for *not* asking for (e.g, in 3:11,13)? Why do you think wisdom is superior to these things?
6. In 1 Kings 3:16-28 we have an example of Solomon’s wisdom on display. Why do you think this is included in the account of Solomon’s wisdom?

7. In 4:1-28 we are given a descriptive display of Solomons administration of Israel. What does this say about his new-found wisdom?
8. How do Solomon's accomplishments in 4:33 reflect a fulfillment of God's purpose for humankind as stated in Genesis 1:28 ?
9. What conclusions would you make in this chapters concerning Solomon's life?

Theological Perspective ¹

God's Sovereignty in Bestowing Gifts. Throughout 1 Kings 1-4 God sovereignly bestows good gifts to Solomon, including vast wealth and wisdom and even the promise to prolong his years (3:14). In these chapters we are reminded that all good gifts are distributed ultimately by God, including the very length of our life. As James 1:17 puts it, "Every good gift and every perfect gift" whether organizational skill (1 Kings 4:1-19) or the knowledge of trees and animals (4:33) - "is from above".

Personal Reflection

- In light of what we have studied, would you say this kind of wisdom is important to have? What is the way to gaining this wisdom?
- Reflect on the following New Testament texts and consider what each one adds to your understanding of wisdom;
 - Luke 2:40
 - Ephesians 1:17
 - Colossians 1:9
 - James 1:5; 3:13-17
- In what ways can these lessons be applied to everyday life?

Next time . . . Solomon and his grand-scale building enterprises! Read ahead - 1 Kings 5:1-9:9.

¹ Gavin Ortlund "Knowing the Bible 1-2 Kings" pg 17