

Bible Stories for Adults

Solomon's Wisdom

2 Samuel 19 - 1 Kings 4

Opening

Gathering: How do you know if you are following God's wisdom or your own?

Today's Focus: David followed God's wisdom to name a successor and God filled Solomon with His wisdom.

Key Verses: *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*
Proverbs 1:7

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, ...and it will be given him. James 1:5

Opening Prayer

Lesson

David's Would-Be Successors (2 Samuel 1-18)

Who were David's first six sons and *heirs apparent* to the throne?

2 Samuel 3:2-5 = Names on board - Amnon oldest, Kileab thought dead

What other sons did David have after he moved to Jerusalem?

2 Samuel 5:13-16 = Names on board in order, no comment now

Were these many wives and concubines blessing from God for the king?

Deuteronomy 17:16-17 (14-20) = No, God commanded the king to have one wife

What happened to Amnon, the oldest?

2 Samuel 13:28-29,32 = Absalom had Amnon murdered for raping his sister

What happened to Absalom, the next in line (assuming Kileab had died)?

2 Samuel 18:9, 14-15 = Hung with head caught in tree, Joab killed him after coup attempt

Take Me Back (2 Samuel 19)

Why didn't David return to Jerusalem immediately after Absalom died?

2 Samuel 19:9-10 = The nation couldn't decide whether to invite him back or not

How did David help make something happen? = Put Amasa (Absalom's general) in charge of his army

2 Samuel 19:11, 14 = He appealed to his own tribe of Judah to take the initiative

Did this help restore peace to the nation?

2 Samuel 19:41, 43 = No, the other tribes got jealous and angry at being excluded

King Sheba? (2 Samuel 20)

How did this argument escalate?

2 Samuel 20:1-2 = Sheba turned the northern tribes away from David

How did David respond to this in a way that would win over Absalom's supporters?

2 Samuel 20:4, 6 (4-7) = Sent Amasa, Absalom's commander, to recruit troops to pursue Sheba

What happened when Amasa and the troops he recruited joined up with David's permanent army?

2 Samuel 20:9-10 (8-14) = Joab killed him because he was in line for Joab's job

Was Joab and the army able to catch up with Sheba? = ABM was far north, past Dan

2 Samuel 20:15 = Yes, they besieged a city where Sheba and his recruits sought refuge

What happened?

2 Samuel 20:16, 19-22 (16-26) = A woman stopped destruction of city by having Sheba killed

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The Rest of David (2 Samuel 19-24)

- 2 Samuel 19 - David returns to Jerusalem, Reacts to Shimei, Mephibosheth & Barzillai = All gracious
- 2 Samuel 20 - Joab kills Amasa, Sheba rebels against David and is killed
- 2 Samuel 21 - David turns 2 sons and 5 grandsons of Saul to Gibeonites for their revenge
- 2 Samuel 22 - Psalm 18
- 2 Samuel 23 - David's Mighty Men = The Three and The Thirty
- 2 Samuel 24 - David orders a military census and causes a 3-day plague = Didn't trust God

Will The Real King Please Stand Up (1 Kings 1:1-10)

- Who decided it was time to become king when David grew old? = Next in line, see list
 - 1 Kings 1:1, 5 (1-5) = Adonijah - Got a chariot with 50 runners, around 35 yrs old (David ~70)
- Who had taken this same approach to present himself as the king?
 - 2 Samuel 15:1 = Absalom
- Did David stop Adonijah before things got out of hand?
 - 1 Kings 1:6 = No, David never interfered - Poor job of disciplining his sons
- What support did Adonijah acquire for his kingship?
 - 1 Kings 1:7-10 = Joab, army, high priest, brothers, officials; Not 2nd priest or guard
- Where did Adonijah get the idea to gather VIPs and offer a sacrifice to begin his kingship?
 - 2 Samuel 15:11-12 = Absalom (Adonijah not real creative)

David's God-Appointed Successor (1 Kings 1:11-53)

- Who had God appointed to be David's successor? = Note lineage on board
 - 1 Chronicles 22:7-10 = Solomon (*Shelomoh* means *peaceable* in Hebrew)
- Who remembered God's appointment and devised a plan to make Solomon king?
 - 1 Kings 1:11, 13-14 (11-27) = Nathan the prophet; Instructed Bathsheba
- Did David remember God's appointment and his promise to Bathsheba?
 - 1 Kings 1:29-30, 33-35, 39 (28-40) = Yes, transferred his reign the same day
- How did Adonijah respond to what had happened?
 - 1 Kings 1:41-43, 49-51 (41-51) = Took hold of altar's horns for God's protection
- How did Solomon respond to Adonijah's plea?
 - 1 Kings 1:52-53 = Said Adonijah's actions will determine his fate

Solomon's Throne is Established (1 Kings 2)

- What request did Adonijah make that showed his intentions?
 - 1 Kings 2:10, 13, 17 (10-18) = Asked to marry Abishag the Shunammite
- Who was Abishag?
 - 1 Kings 1:1-4 = Virgin attendant to David in last years
- What was evil about Adonijah's request?
 - 2 Samuel 16:20-22 = Taking David's concubine lays claim to kingdom
- How did Solomon respond to the request?
 - 1 Kings 2:22, 25 (19-25) = He had Adonijah killed
- How did Solomon treat Abiathar, the priest who had sided with Adonijah?
 - 1 Kings 2:26-27 = Removed him from priesthood, but didn't kill him
- What did Joab do when he heard what happened to Adonijah?
 - 1 Kings 2:28 = Took hold of altar's horns for God's protection
- How did Solomon respond to Joab's action?
 - 1 Kings 2:31-35 (29-35) = Had him killed and replaced him with Benaiah

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Shim Shimei (1 Kings 2:36-46)

What other left-over business had David left with Solomon?

1 Kings 2:5-9 (see 2 Samuel 16:5-13; 19:18-23) = Deal with Joab & Shimei (had cursed David)

Did Solomon call for Shimei's death?

1 Kings 2:36-38 = No, he allowed him to live in peace in Jerusalem

How did Shimei change his own situation?

1 Kings 2:39-42 (39-45) = Left Jerusalem in violation of Solomon's order & his own agreement

How did Solomon handle this, and what was the result of Solomon's actions in 1 Kings 2?

1 Kings 2:46 = Had Shimei killed; *The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon's hands*

Solomon's Faithfulness (1 Kings 3:3-4)

What were David's last words to Solomon before he died?

1 Kings 2:1-4 = Follow the Lord & He will bless you & descendants

How did Solomon attempt to follow David's guidance and example?

1 Kings 3:3-4 = Walked in David's statutes, offered many sacrifices

What was wrong about Solomon offering sacrifices on the high places?

Numbers 33:51-52 = They were sites where Canaanites worshipped Baal

Why was Gibeon the most important high place?

1 Chronicles 21:29 = Tabernacle & altar from Moses were kept there

Solomon's Dream (1 Kings 3:5-15)

What did Solomon dream about at Gibeon? = Solomon probably around 20 years old

1 Kings 3:5, 7-9 = God gave him one request, he asked for wisdom

Did God grant his wish? = Write on board - Solomon left high place and worshipped in Jerusalem

1 Kings 3:10-15 = Gave him wisdom, fame, wealth, peace & long life

Solomon Uses His Gift (1 Kings 3:16-28)

What was Solomon's first occasion to use his wisdom?

1 Kings 3:16-22 = Two mothers argued over whose was the living baby

How did Solomon resolve this impossible dilemma?

1 Kings 3:24-27 = Offered to cut baby in half to get women's responses

What did people think about Solomon's unorthodox action?

1 Kings 3:28 = *They held the king in awe...he had wisdom from God*

Solomon's Wisdom (1 Kings 4)

How extensive was the wisdom with which God blessed Solomon?

1 Kings 4:29-30 = Wiser than all others, *understanding...as sand on the seashore*

What were some examples of Solomon's great wisdom?

1 Kings 4:32-34 = 3000 proverbs, 1005 songs, described science

According to Solomon, how valuable is wisdom? = List on board

Proverbs 3:13-18 = Wisdom: profitable, precious, long life, honor, peaceful, invigorating, blessed

Where do wisdom and knowledge come from?

Proverbs 9:10 = Fear the Lord

What should you do if you feel you are lacking wisdom?

James 1:5 = Ask God for wisdom and He will give generously

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Solomon's Fame (1 Kings 10)

How far did word of Solomon's wisdom spread?

1 Kings 10:1 = Queen of Sheba heard (Sheba at southern tip of Arabia, 1200 mi. away)

Was Solomon able to answer the queen's hard questions?

1 Kings 10:3, 6-7 = He proved to be wiser than she expected

How did Solomon's wisdom & fame help his call of *Blessed to be a Blessing*?

1 Kings 10:8-9 = Made others happy; Brought praise to God from other nations

Solomon's Wealth (1 Kings 10)

What gifts did the Queen of Sheba give to Solomon?

1 Kings 10:10 = 4.5 tons of gold, jewels & more spices than ever imported

What was Solomon's annual gold income (besides import taxes & tributes)?

1 Kings 10:14-15 = 25 tons

How extravagant did things become for Solomon?

1 Kings 10:21, 27 (16-29) = Goblets & household articles were gold, silver was commonplace

How much of a trader and merchant was Solomon?

1 Kings 9:26-28 = Fleet of ships on Red Sea sailed to Ophir (southern end of Red Sea)

1 Kings 10:22 = Fleet of ships in Mediterranean Sea sailed to Tarshish (Spain)

1 Kings 10:28-29 = Land-based trade in Asia, Egypt & Arabia

How else did Solomon accumulate wealth?

1 Kings 10:23-25 = Received many visitors to hear his wisdom, each brought a gift

Solomon's Peace (1 Kings 4:20-28)

How peaceful was life during Solomon's reign?

1 Kings 4:24-25 = All happy & safe under his own vine & fig tree (*chicken in every pot*)

What promises Abraham receive from God after spending most of his life childless and as a nomad?

Genesis 22:17-18 = Descendants like sand on the seashore, extensive land, blessings

Did God tell Abraham how much land He would give to his descendants?

Genesis 15:18 = From river (wadi) of Egypt to the great Euphrates River

How much of these promises were fulfilled under Solomon?

1 Kings 4:20-21 = All of them - many descendants, blessed, full territory

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I become jealous for not being part of something good done by someone else?
(2 Samuel 19:41-43; John 21:18-23, Romans 11:11-14; 1 Corinthians 3:3; 13:4; Galatians 5:26)
2. Do I imitate the wise & righteous, or do I follow the foolish & wicked?
(1 Kings 1:5-10; 2:13-25; Matthew 23:3; John 13:1-17; Hebrews 13:7)
3. When have I shown mercy to someone who didn't deserve it?
(2 Samuel 19:16-23; 1 Kings 2:8-9, 26; Matthew 5:7; 18:21-35; Luke 6:27-36)
4. When has God shown mercy to me when I didn't deserve it?
(1 Kings 3:5-15; Lamentations 3:22-23; Daniel 9:9; Luke 1:50)
5. How has God's wisdom worked in me?
(1 Kings 3:16-28; 4:29-34; Proverbs 1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16; Ephesians 3:7-11)