### 1 Kings

## Chapter 3

1Well, under Solomon, the kingdom was united.  
  
Then Solomon contracted a marriage with PharaOh, the king of Egypt... He took PharaOh’s daughter and brought her to the city of David. He did this after he’d finished building his palace, the Temple of Jehovah, and after building the wall around JeruSalem.  
  
2Now, before the Temple was built, the people had been burning incense [to Jehovah] in the high places. 3And since Solomon loved Jehovah (and because he was following the orders of his father David), he also offered his sacrifices and burned incense there.  
  
4So Solomon then got up and went to offer sacrifices at GibeOn (since that was the highest place at the time). There he had 1,000 whole burnt offerings placed on the Altar.  
  
5And then the Lord appeared to Solomon while he was sleeping that night, and said to him:  
  
 ‘Solomon,  
  
 ‘Ask for whatever you wish for yourself.’  
  
6So Solomon replied:  
  
 ‘You’ve shown great mercy to your servant, my father David, and he walked with You in truth, justice, and with a pure heart... Then You guarded him and showed him great mercy by allowing his son, to sit upon his throne, which has come true today.  
  
 7‘And now, O Jehovah my God; although You have appointed Your servant in place of my father David, I’m still just a boy that doesn’t know when to enter or when to leave!  
  
 8‘Yet Your servant [now rules] in the midst of this mighty [nation] that You’ve chosen, which has [so many people] that they can’t be counted... 9Therefore, please give your servant a heart to listen so as to make [wise] decisions for Your people in justice, and to recognize the difference between what’s good and what’s bad.  
  
 ‘For, who could possibly bear the weight of such judgments?’  
  
10Well, this thing that Solomon asked of Jehovah was pleasing to Him, 11so He replied:  
  
 ‘Because you’ve asked this thing from Me and you didn’t ask for a long life, or for wealth, or for the lives of your enemies, and all you asked for yourself is the understanding to judge righteously... 12{Look!} I’ve done what you asked!  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’m giving you an intelligent and wise heart… There has never been anyone before you, nor will there ever be anyone who shall arise after you who’ll be like you!  
  
 13‘And I’m also giving you the things that you didn’t ask for… Including wealth and glory; for there’s never been a king like you.  
  
 14‘And if you’ll do things My way and obey My Commandments and instructions as did your father David, I’ll also grant you a long life.’  
  
15Well, after Solomon awoke, he remembered the dream.  
  
So he got up and returned to JeruSalem; and there he went and stood before the Altar that was in front of the Chest of the Sacred Agreement of Jehovah in Zion. Then he sacrificed whole burnt offerings and peace offerings, and he held a great banquet for himself and for all his servants.  
  
  
16It was sometime later that two women who were prostitutes came to stand before the king for a [judgment].  
  
17One of the women said:  
  
 ‘Hear me, my lord!  
  
 ‘This woman and I both live in the same house and we both gave birth to [sons] there... 18It was three days after I gave birth that this woman also gave birth in the same place while no one else was around… There was just the two of us in the house.  
  
 19‘Then this woman’s son died during the night when she rolled over on top of him! 20So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my arms and put him to her breasts; then she took her son who’d died and laid him at my breasts!  
  
 21‘Well, when I got up in the morning to nurse my son, I saw the one who had died... But I studied him, and then I realized that this wasn’t my son to whom I’d given birth.’  
  
22But then the other woman shouted:  
  
 ‘That isn’t true!  
  
 ‘The living one is my son, and the dead one is hers!’  
  
23Then the king said to her:  
  
 ‘So you’re saying that the living son is yours, and the dead one is hers... And she’s saying that isn’t true; hers is the living son, and yours is the one who’s dead.’  
  
24Then the king said:  
  
 ‘Now, bring me a sword!’  
  
And they brought him a sword.  
  
25Then he said:  
  
 ‘Cut this living, nursing child in halves, and give half to this one and the other half to that one.’  
  
26Well, the real mother of the living son spoke to the king, because she was disturbed to the womb about what was going to happen to her son!  
  
So she said:  
  
 ‘Hear me, O lord!  
  
 ‘Give the child to her… Don’t kill him!’  
  
But the other [woman] said:  
  
 ‘May he be neither mine nor hers…  
  
 ‘Cut him in two!’  
  
27Then the king said:  
  
 ‘I’m giving the child to the woman who said, ‘Give it to her, don’t kill him,’ because she’s his mother.’  
  
28Well, all IsraEl soon came to hear of this decision of the king, and they were in fear whenever they were in his presence! For they knew that the intelligence of God was in him, and that justice would prevail.