

**Message #8****I Kings 3:1-15**

Nearly 44 years ago, in April of 1980, a nonprofit organization was formed in Phoenix, Arizona, called “Make-A-Wish Foundation.”

It was a foundation that was formed to help fulfill wishes for critically ill children between the ages of 2 ½ to 18 years old.

Any critically ill child becomes a potential wish kid. The foundation works closely with a child’s doctor or medical professional to determine eligibility and also the most appropriate time to grant the wish. Most of the children’s wishes fall into one of five categories:

1) I wish to go; 2) I wish to be; 3) I wish to meet; 4) I wish to have; 5) I wish to give.

Some of the things granted include pets, celebrity meetings, room makeovers and trips.

Just imagine what it would be like to have Almighty God say to you make any wish you want and I will make it happen. That actually did happen to Solomon when he was king of Israel.

What we learn from this is this:

**GOD DELIGHTS IN GRANTING HIS PEOPLE WISDOM AND BLESSINGS IF THEIR HEARTS ARE RIGHT WITH HIM.**

Now the context of when this happens is that he has eliminated certain people who could hinder the blessings of God. He was a young king and he had honored what his father King David had told him to do. As a result, God will bless him.

Now this is a fascinating passage. There are six facts that we may see:

**FACT #1 – Solomon marries Pharaoh’s daughter. 3:1**

What makes this verse so odd is that it doesn’t seem to fit the rest of the immediate context. By putting this verse first, we certainly see that God’s blessings were not negated by this marriage. In fact, Solomon has a desire to worship God and had he stayed focused on that, he would have never wandered away. Pharaoh’s daughter does present the possibility of drifting away from God into worshipping something else.

This matter of marrying Pharaoh’s daughter is mentioned multiple times in I Kings (3:1; 7:8; 9:16, 24; 11:1). By virtue of the fact that this is given at the beginning of Solomon’s reign and then mentioned multiple times in the book shows that this is a significant event.

Now a marriage between king families wasn’t so much some romantic event, but more of a political move. So it was not only about two individuals, but two nations.

Many believe the Pharaoh was Siamun (978-959 BC). It was significant because most Egyptian Pharaohs would not give their daughters to marry some Israelite foreigner.

Now in Deuteronomy 7:1-4, God gives a list of people who the Israelites were not to marry. They were not to marry the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites or Jebusites.

From a technical analysis, Solomon did not violate that in marrying this Egyptian woman.

However, he should have required her to worship the true God of Israel, which he did not do and that will be a problem.

**FACT #2** – Solomon realizes people are sacrificing in high places because there is no Temple so he goes to Gibeon to worship God. **3:2-4**

One of the problems was that there was no Temple structure up for people to worship God. They wanted to worship God so they went to various high places and offered their sacrifices to the Lord.

Most of the time when we read about worship in “high places” (bamoth) it refers to places on high ground areas where false religions worshipped false gods. Apparently, many would worship God at these places. The tabernacle had been neglected and the Temple had not been built, so people would worship God, but not at the specific location.

We learn from **verse 3** that Solomon loved the LORD and he walked in the statutes of his father David, and he also would go to a place to worship God. Now he did offer sacrifices to God and burned incense to God from these high places. His heart was right, but his place of worship was wrong.

In fact, **verse 4** says he offered 1,000 burnt offerings on that altar in Gibeon, which was a place located about seven miles northwest of Jerusalem.

**According to II Chronicles 1:3, God’s tent of meeting had been set up in Gibeon, and Solomon went there to worship God as King of Israel. This was a major national worship that Solomon promoted.**

**FACT #3** – God comes to Solomon at Gibeon and invites him to make any wish he wants and He will do it. **3:5**

God did not appear to Solomon at the high places, but He did appear to him at Gibeon, where His Tabernacle was located.

There is no question that God does speak through His word by His Spirit when God’s people gather at a true place of worship on Sunday.

When God's people gather at a true Church where God's word is carefully taught, God does speak to His people's hearts and minds. He encourages, convicts, reproveth, rebukes, instructs and directs. This is a very unusual and remarkable revelatory invitation that God gives to Solomon. It is not the norm. I am certain that behind this is the Davidic legacy. David was a mighty man of God and God is granting this to his son, Solomon.

What God does is come to Solomon and asks him to make a request for anything he wants. Gary Inrig, who has written a good commentary on this, said, "God's offer was a blank check, a remarkable act of divine generosity" (*I & II Kings*, p. 27).

This invitation to "make a wish" is not coming from a make a wish foundation; this is coming from Almighty God.

**FACT #4** – Solomon responds to God's invitation to make a wish. **3:6-9**

This is one of the most remarkable responses to an invitation of God that you will ever see. It is clear that Solomon recognizes the unique position he has because of his father, King David. Solomon realizes this Kingdom is about my dad. He is the one God used to accomplish this.

There are five responses:

**Response #1** - Solomon says God has shown great mercy and loving-kindness to his father David. **3:6a**

David had been a true servant of God and Solomon knew it. He also knew of the times when David was helpless and hopeless when God showed him great mercy. Solomon starts with this because he knows any relationship with God will be based on God's mercy.

**Response #2** - Solomon describes how David lived his life before God. **3:6b-d**

There are three ways David lived his life before God:

**(Way #1)** - David walked before God in truth. **3:6b**

**(Way #2)** - David walked before God in righteousness. **3:6c**

**(Way #3)** - David walked before God with an upright heart. **3:6d**

This is the way that David personally and privately lived his life before God. He was a man of integrity and it was no show before people. He lived life this way.

**Response #3** - Solomon describes what God had done for David. **3:6e-f**

Two sovereign works of God were in Solomon's mind:

**(Sovereign Work #1)** - God reserved for David great lovingkindness and mercy.

Solomon again mentions the mercy and lovingkindness of God. Every human needs this.

**(Sovereign Work #2)** - God gave David a son to sit on David's throne.

Solomon realized that God allowed him to sit on David's throne. Adonijah would have viewed it as his throne; Solomon views it as David's throne.

**Response #4** - Solomon describes himself before God. **3:7-8**

There are four descriptions Solomon gives of himself. Not too many politicians would have this perspective of themselves:

**(Description #1)** - Solomon states that God had made him. **3:7a**

Solomon starts by saying, God you have made me and I am your servant. God, you did this. I didn't deserve this existence or earn this, You did this.

**(Description #2)** - Solomon states that God had made him the Davidic replacement King. **3:7b**

Solomon acknowledges that God was the One who permitted him to be the next King in place of David, who had died.

**(Description #3)** - Solomon admits to God that he is young and doesn't know what he is doing. **3:7c**

The words "little child" (naar) mean Solomon is immature. What amazing humility here and honesty here. He said I am young and I need your help. He said I can't handle this job on my own. I don't know what I am doing. I don't have any experience in dealings with people and coming and going meetings.

**(Description #4)** - Solomon acknowledges that he is over God's great number of people. **3:8**

Solomon says God, these are your chosen people. They are so numerous that they cannot be all counted. Lord, I need your help.

**Response #5** - Solomon asks God to give him wisdom in regard to leading God's people. **3:9**

There are three areas of wisdom for which Solomon asks God:

**(Wisdom Area #1)** - Solomon asks God to give him an understanding heart. **3:9a**

An understanding heart is a heart that listens, learns and applies God's word in the heart. Solomon did not just want knowledge; he wanted understanding in his heart, not just his head.

**(Wisdom Area #2)** - Solomon asks God to give him the ability to judge people. **3:9b**

Solomon had to judge God's people and he needed wisdom to do that. When you are a leader, you must make judgments.

**(Wisdom Area #3)** - Solomon asks God to give him the ability to discern between good and evil.  
**3:9c**

Here is where judgments must be made when it comes to making right judgments—one must be able to discern good from evil.

**FACT #5** – God responds to Solomon's request. **3:10-15**

When we pray and our prayers please God, we are in for some exciting answers. Solomon's requests were in a straight line with the will of God.

**Response #1** - God was pleased with what Solomon requested. **3:10**

Solomon prayed something that actually pleased God. It is one thing to pray, it is another thing to pray in such a way that it truly pleases God. God found pleasure in the request of Solomon.

**Response #2** - God was pleased with what Solomon did not request. **3:11**

Solomon did not request the normal kinds of things a young person would request. There were three things that Solomon did not request:

**(No Request #1)** - Solomon did not ask for a long life for himself. **3:11a**

**(No Request #2)** - Solomon did not ask for riches for himself. **3:11b**

**(No Request #3)** - Solomon did not ask that his enemies be destroyed. **3:11c**

**Response #3** - God reminds Solomon what he did request. **3:11d**

Solomon asks that God would give him a discerning mind and heart so he could understand what was right and just and good and evil. God takes the requests literally and answers the requests literally.

**Response #4** - God informs Solomon how He would answer his wish. **3:12-14**

Three times God says, "I will give you." There are three answers God gives Solomon:

**(Answer #1)** - God would give him a wise and discerning heart more than any human on earth.  
**3:12**

One with discernment is able to distinguish not only right from wrong, but best from good.

**(Answer #2)** - God would give him riches and honor more than any other king on earth. **3:13**

**(Answer #3)** - God would grant him a long life if he walked in the ways of God. **3:14**

If one will purpose to walk in the wise ways of God, it can lead to a long life with riches and honor. But there is an “if” clause in this that makes it conditional.

**The first two promises are unconditional and guaranteed, but the last one is conditional.**

The conditional determining factor of living a long life was conditioned upon him always walking in the ways of God.

**The fact is Solomon would not live to be real old. David died at 70 and Solomon died at around age 60 (I Kings 11:41-43), so he didn't even make it to David's age.**

**FACT #6** – Solomon awoke from his dream and went to Jerusalem to worship God. **3:15**

So the first thing an understanding mind wants to do is to worship God at His place of worship.