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A Wise Choice

1 Kings 1-4

Solomon was a king who rose to greater heights than any of us ever will. He was wise, kind, fair, and wealthy, a king who worshipped his God passionately and built one of the most beautiful structures the ancient world has ever known. And yet he was a king who ended his life in disgrace, who's final recorded moments show him resisting God's chastening. A king who sunk so low that he introduced the worship of foreign gods into Israel that would persist for 300 years. In this lesson, we will examine the strong start of Solomon, while also seeing several small steps that will eventually lead to a big fall.

I. A Strong Start (1:1-3:4)

Solomon's request for wisdom was truly impressive, especially considering how smooth things began for him.

A. Solomon is given the kingdom (1:1-48).

B. Solomon deals wisely with political adversaries (1:49-2:46).

1. Adonijah the Prince (2:13-25)
2. Abiathar the Priest (2:26-27)
3. Joab the General (2:28-35)
4. Shimei the Rebel (2:36-46)

C. Solomon begins his reign with two small compromises (3:1-3).

1. Solomon married a foreign wife.
2. Solomon sacrificed at high places.

D. Solomon begins his reign by worshipping God passionately (3:1-5).

II. A Humble Request (3:5-9)

One of the most famous chapters from Solomon's life, there is much to be learned from his response to the blank check God offered him.

A. Solomon showed gratitude for what God had done (3:6-7a).

B. Solomon showed humility for who he was (3:7b-8).

C. Solomon requested wisdom for ruling the people (3:9).

III. A Granted Petition (3:10-4:34)

God was so pleased with Solomon's prayer that he promised not only to answer it, but also to go above and beyond in rewarding Solomon.

A. God answered Solomon's request.

1. Wisdom in his judgment (3:16-28).
2. Wisdom in his administration (4:1-18).
3. Wisdom in his writing (1 Kings 4:32-34).

B. God rewarded Solomon's request (4:20-31).