

SOLOMON ASKED FOR A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING HEART  
1 KINGS 3:5-14

**Introduction**

We're looking at some of King Solomon's *CHOICES* here pretty early on in his reign. Some of his *CHOICES* were **not so good** and wound up **costing him later**. Some of his *CHOICES* were **excellent** and had a **very positive influence on his life, his nation, and others around him!**

I. *BAD CHOICES—HIS ALLIANCE WITH EGYPT AND MARRIAGE TO THE DAUGHTER OF PHARAOH—3:1*

*But we will see that THIS CHOICE of his, as well as his other CHOICES regarding other STRANGE WOMEN ultimately caused his heart to turn from the LORD to idolatry!  
(Cf. 1 Kings 11:1-4)*

II. *GOOD CHOICE—HIS LOVE OF THE LORD—3:2-4  
LOVING GOD IS A COMMAND, A CHOICE, A CONSTRAINT, and  
A CALLING!*

III. *BAD CHOICE—FURTHER OPENING OF THE DOOR TO  
IDOLATRY! (3:2-4)*

IV. **GOOD CHOICE—CHOOSING WISDOM! (3:4-8)**  
A. **SOLOMON SACRIFICED TO THE LORD!  
(VS 4; Cf. 2 CHRONICLES 1:1-6)**

Understand that Gibeon is where the Tabernacle of the LORD was located at this time with the exception of the Ark of the Covenant. Gibeon was a town about six miles northwest of Jerusalem.

However, David had brought the Ark of the Covenant, the symbol of God's presence, to Jerusalem where he pitched a tent for it.

We see that, a thousand burnt offerings were offered by Solomon here at the Tabernacle according to the Scripture!

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B. **THE LORD APPEARED TO SOLOMON IN DREAM BY NIGHT. (VS 5-14; Cf. 2 CHRONICLES 1:7-12)**

Here we see The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream and offered him a "*carte blanche*," a blank check, if you will.

The LORD said here, "*Ask what I shall give thee.*"

Can you imagine that? He must have thought he was dreaming! Well, he was dreaming, but this dream was for real!

Remember the cartoons we grew up with where someone would find a bottle not knowing that it had a *genie* in it? They would release the *genie* from the bottle and for having done that they would most always be granted three wishes.

Now understand that this was a better offer than that because that was make believe and this was real!

If the Lord said to you, "*Ask what I shall give thee*" what would you ask for?

Would you ask for wealth, power, fame, long life, or the destruction of your enemies? Think about it.

Did you know that we can receive some wonderful things from the LORD if we will just ask of Him in His name and according to His will?

*Matthew 7:7—Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

*John 14:13—And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

*1 John 5:14-15 “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

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*15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”*

Listen, **God's question was actually a test for Solomon.** The Bible records several methods for testing a believer's maturity, integrity, loyalty, sincerity, and stability.

- 1. Sometimes The LORD Tested His Servants By A Demand For Sacrifice!** (e.g. Abraham)  
*Genesis 22:1-2—“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”*
- 2. Sometimes The LORD Tested His Servants By A Difficult Path!** (e.g. Israel)  
Deuteronomy 8:2—And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.
- 3. Sometimes The LORD Tested His Servants By A Distress in Duty.** (e.g. Paul and Silas)  
*Acts 16:23-24—And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*
- 4. Sometimes The LORD Tested His Servants By Allowing Distractions From Temptations.**

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*James 1:2-3—My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

**5. Sometimes The LORD Tests His Servants By The Decisions They Make! (e.g. Solomon)**

This is what is happening here.

Let me ask you this: **Is the Lord testing your life right now in some way?**

Well, whatever you do, be sure to put Him first and trust Him!

In his dream, Solomon expressed his true heart. Solomon's heart was filled with gratitude for God's mercy. It was filled with humility. He was conscious of his youth, his ignorance, and his inadequacy. **God has a way, however, of using folks who are dependent upon Him.**

**Solomon wasn't the first to feel inadequate** for the task the LORD gave him...we know that **Moses felt inadequate....**  
*Exodus 4:10,13—“And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.”*

We know also that **Jeremiah felt inadequate** for what the LORD was calling Him to do.... *Jeremiah 1:6—“Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.”*

We know that **Paul also felt inadequate...1 Corinthians 15:9—“For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”**

## BOOK OF 1 KINGS

### CHOICES – PART 4

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These were all humble men whom God used mightily!  
The humble man looks to the LORD for strength and ability!  
He gives God the glory for his accomplishments! That is what  
the LORD wants us to do too! Our LORD can equip us for the  
task He wants us to accomplish. Without Him, we will fail.  
Jesus said in *John 15:5*— “*I am the vine, ye are the branches:  
He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth  
much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*”

The LORD can help us with ANY area of our life we need Him  
to!

#### Conclusion

Now lastly, understand something...There was a time that God, at times,  
would speak to a person in dreams. We know from Scripture that He spoke in  
dreams to others such as Joseph, Nebuchadnezzar, the Apostle John, and  
Joseph, the husband of Mary.

But listen, don't be confused about this! God DOES NOT speak to us through  
dreams and visions today because He doesn't need to do this! (And it doesn't  
matter how real the dream may seem at the time or even what came to you in a  
dream...what you need to know is that God does not speak to us through  
dreams or visions!)

We have all of what God wants us to know now contained in the Word of  
God! God's revelation of truth is complete! We have His Book—The Word of  
God— and the author of the Book—His The Holy Spirit— to give us direction  
and guidance in our decisions!

Those who claim doctrinal revelation from God are both deceived and  
deceivers! We are to judge everything by the Word of God...PERIOD!  
Many cults have been started by men or women who claimed revelations from  
God in dreams and visions. These dreams contradict Scripture. The dreams of  
Joseph Smith led to the start of Mormonism. The visions of Mary Baker Eddy  
lead to the founding of the Christian Science movement. Beloved listen, God  
NEVER leads us to contradict His Word! NEVER!!!