

## GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Lesson Twenty-Three

#### GOD CALLED SOLOMON

(1 Chron. 28:1-5; 29:1, 20; 1 Kings 3:3-14; 4:29-34; 10:1-9)

#### Burden to Impart:

*In this lesson we see how God called King David's son, Solomon, as a young and tender boy to inherit his father's throne and to become one of the greatest kings of Israel. When God asked him what was his desire, he requested an "understanding heart." Because of his unselfish request God gave him wisdom and also riches and honor besides. With this wisdom he built the greatest temple ever constructed on the earth for God's habitation and glory.*

**Memory Verse:** "Now, O Lord my God...I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in...therefore give to your servant an understanding heart to judge your people" (1 Kings 3:7, 9).

#### Facts to Teach:

1. When the great King David became very old and knew that he would soon die he gathered together all of the princes and rulers of Israel, the captains, mighty men of war, and officers. He told them that God had chosen his son Solomon to rule over Israel and to build the Lord's house (1 Chron. 28:1-5).

2. Before King David died, he gave Solomon his throne, the plans and pattern for the temple, and enormous amounts of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone to build the temple with. He charged him to build the Lord's house, saying, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not nor be dismayed; for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; He will not forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord" (1 Chron. 29:20).

3. Solomon, however, was still "young and tender" and "the work was a very great task, for the palace was not for man, but for the Lord God" (1 Chron. 29:1) and "must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all countries" (1 Chron. 22:5).

4. When Solomon became king, he loved the Lord and right away worshipped the Lord by offering burnt offerings to Him. That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him to ask whatever he desired the Lord to give him (1 Kings 3:3-5).

a. Solomon prayed for an understanding heart saying, "Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or

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## GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Lesson Twenty-Three (Continued)

counted. Therefore give to your servant an understanding heart to judge your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?" (1 Kings 3:7-9).

b. The Lord was very pleased with Solomon's request. Be cause he did not ask selfishly for a long life or for riches, the Lord gave him even more than what he asked. He gave him a wise and an understanding heart like no one has ever had before him or after him. He also gave him riches and honor and promised him a long life if he would walk in the Lord's ways (1 Kings 3:10-14).

c. We are told that "God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. This Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt...and his fame was in all the surrounding nations" (1 Kings 4:29-34).

1) He spoke three thousand proverbs and one thousand and five songs. (He wrote three books of the Bible: Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and most of the book of Proverbs.)

2) He spoke of every kind of tree and plant, of birds, animals, creeping things, and fish.

d. "Men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon" (1 Kings 4:34). One person who came to see Solomon was the Queen of Sheba. She came to test Solomon with many hard questions. After every question in her heart was answered and she saw all of Solomon's wisdom she was overwhelmed with awe and said, "It was the true report I heard in my own land of thy acts and thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and thy prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard" (1 Kings 10:1-9).

5. During his reign the greatest achievement King Solomon accomplished was the construction of the Lord's house, which was later called "Solomon's temple." He supervised over 183,000 men in this great task (1 Kings 5:13-18) over a period of seven years (1 Kings 6:38).

6. When the temple was completed and all the furnishings were brought in, the Lord was so pleased that He came in all of His glory and filled it; to such an extent that the priests could not even stand to minister (1 Kings 8:10-11).

7. The dwelling place that God had longed for and had spoken of to Moses 500 years earlier (Deut. 12:5), had finally been built. God could now live among His people and speak to them from the oracle in His house.

[Note to the teachers: Although Solomon's heart later turned away from the Lord and he sinned, we hope his positive points will serve as an inspiration to the children for this time. The negative points may serve as a warning in later years.]