



# Solomon: The Wise King

Enthroned: Israel's First Kings, Part 3 of 3

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## #1: A Full Mind Doesn't Guarantee A Full Life

### 1 Kings 3:10–13 (ESV)

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days."

### Proverbs 4:5–8 (NLT)

Get wisdom; develop good judgment. Don't forget my words or turn away from them. Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you. Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment. If you prize wisdom, she will make you great. Embrace her, and she will honor you.

### 1 Kings 3:12 & 14 (ESV)

"Behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you... And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

### Ed Friedman:

*"This great myth of our data-gathering era that affects leaders, parents, and healers alike is this: 'If only we knew enough, we could do (or fix) anything.' Despite its anxiety-provoking effects, the proliferation of data also has an addictive quality. The pursuit of data, in almost any field, has come to resemble a form of substance abuse. One would be hard-pressed to show that members of the mental health professions—who presumably have far more data and knowledge of child-rearing techniques at their fingertips than the average 'lay' parent—are doing a better job of raising their children. There is absolutely no evidence that the most successful parents are those who are most 'knowledgeable.'"*

**Ecclesiastes 1:18 (NLT)**

The greater my wisdom, the greater my grief. To increase knowledge only increases sorrow.

**#2: There is nothing more practical than following God's "impractical" commands****Deuteronomy 17:17a (NLT)**

The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the Lord.

**Exodus 34:12, 15 (NLT)**

"Be very careful never to make a treaty with the people who live in the land where you are going. If you do, you will follow their evil ways and be trapped... You must not make a treaty of any kind with the people living in the land. They lust after their gods, offering sacrifices to them. They will invite you to join them in their sacrificial meals, and you will go with them."

**1 Kings 11:1–3a (ESV)**

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines.

**1 Kings 11:4–8, 11 (NLT)**

In Solomon's old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God, as his father, David, had been. Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. In this way, Solomon did what was evil in the Lord's sight; he refused to follow the Lord completely, as his father, David, had done. On the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, he even built a pagan shrine for Chemosh, the detestable god of Moab, and another for Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. Solomon built such shrines for all his foreign wives to use for burning incense and sacrificing to their gods. So now the Lord said to him, "Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my decrees, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants."

**Proverbs 3:5, 7 (ESV)**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding... Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

**1 Samuel 8:7 (ESV)**

And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.”

**Deuteronomy 17:14–15a (ESV)**

“When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,’ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose...”

**Isaiah 9:6–7a (ESV)**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.