

## Solomon Pt-1

In 1 Kings 3:9, young King Solomon asked the Lord for a discerning heart, to govern the people and to distinguish between right and wrong. The Lord honoured Solomon's request, and it wasn't long before 'men from all nations came to listen to him.' Ultimately, King Solomon 'was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth' (1 Kings 10:23)



### Lesson 1#

Solomon's discerning request for wisdom enabled him to be a better leader. His power and authority could have corrupted him (as they did his sons) if he had relied on human thinking alone. He discovered that wisdom from above is the best way to inspire a people and a nation.

As the Lord honoured Solomon, Solomon returned the glory to God by building the Temple his father David had designed. The preparations, organisational logistics and detailed descriptions of how the temple was built are revealed in 1 Kings chapters 5-6. Tucked into those chapters is a fascinating verse describing the reverence during the building, '...no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built' 1 Kings 6:7).

The temple was constructed in seven years, culminating in the Ark of the Covenant being brought to be placed in the inner sanctuary in the Holy Place. With Jerusalem full of Israel's elders, heads of tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families ('a vast assembly' 1 Kings 8:65), worship and celebrations lasted 28 days.

I can only imagine the atmosphere and joy surrounding this accomplishment. Finally, all of Israel could come to worship their God in a tangible way. Even more importantly, the temple was a place where God's people could come to pray (1 Kings 8:29).

### Lesson 2#

Great reverence is required when we build for God. Our joy comes from serving and using our gifts to honour His great Name. True unity always results in worship.

Leading the way, at the inauguration of the temple, 'Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward the heaven and said:

“Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.”

(1 Kings 8:23)



### **Lesson 3#**

Solomon's leadership in prayer that day is inspiring. For seven years he had coordinated an extraordinary construction with details extending to Solomon's personal crafting of the temple's furnishings. He had bragging rights; instead, he led in prayer. He did not ask the priests or the prophets to lead the nation on this solemn occasion. It was his position as King to set the tone and to lead the great worship time. Commentator Matthew Henry said this: 'In the crowd of his philosophical transactions, his proverbs, and songs, he did not forget his devotions.'

I like Matthew Henry's observation. Solomon was intelligent and, in today's world, would have held more PhDs than any other person, but all his education was nothing compared to intimately talking with the God of all wisdom.

With hands spread wide as if to funnel his words towards heaven, he gives glory to God, consecrates himself and entrusts the people to God's care. It's a long prayer, one of the longest recorded in Scripture, but it comes from a heart of wisdom.

### **Lesson 4#**

This is a precedent for all leaders. Leading the people you love in prayer is not just a duty; it is an essential requirement. All Church leaders should be challenged by Solomon's example of praying in public, 'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven', are words the family of God should hear regularly. Christians should hear the voices of their leaders, honouring, praising, worshipping and acknowledging the greatness of God as they learn to walk in His ways. Our prayers should not be about what we have done; they should be a cry for what God will do.

1 Kings 8:54 is a revelation. Solomon began his prayer standing before all the people (8:22), and he ended his prayer on his knees.



### **Lesson 5#**

When we stand to serve, we move forward on our knees.

Humility is the best position for all people who pray.

Prayer enables us to be less of ourselves and to have more of Him.

Prayer is a place of submission and soul-seeking.

Prayer brings us to a place of praise that is beyond ourselves.

Prayer is walking in His presence.

Prayer allows us to share what He cares about.

Prayer gives us the right light to live in a dark world.

Whatever you develop or construct for God this year, may the Lord's good hand be upon your work. As you lead others with your humility and wisdom, may more and more people come to praise their heavenly Father. The world remains restless, but we are confident that, 'Not one word has failed of all the promises He gave' (1 Kings 8:56).