

1 KINGS CHAPTER 3

¹ And Solomon had forty thousand brood mares for his chariots, and twelve thousand horses. And he reigned over all the kings from the river and to the land of the Philistines, and to the borders of Egypt: so Solomon the son of David reigned over Israel and Judah in Jerusalem. ² Nevertheless the people burnt incense on the high places, because a house had not yet been built to the Lord.

³ And Solomon loved the Lord, and he walked in the ordinances of David his father; except that he sacrificed and burnt incense on the high places.

⁴ And he arose and went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that *was the* highest place, and great. Solomon offered a whole burnt offering of a thousand *victims* on the altar in Gibeon. ⁵ And the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and the Lord said to Solomon, "Ask some petition for yourself." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have dealt very mercifully with Your servant David my father according as he walked before You in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You, and You have kept for him this great mercy, to set his son upon his throne, as *it is* this day. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, You have appointed Your servant in the place of David my father; and I am a little child, and know not my going out and my coming in. ⁸ But Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, which cannot be numbered. ⁹ Give therefore to Your servant a heart to hear and to judge Your people justly, and to discern between good and evil: for who will be able to judge this Your great people?"

¹⁰ And it was pleasing before the Lord, that Solomon asked this thing. ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Because you have asked this thing of Me, and have not asked for yourself long life, and have not asked for wealth, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but *rather* have asked for yourself understanding to hear judgment; ¹² behold, I have done according to your word: behold, I have given you an understanding and wise heart: there has not been *anyone* like you before you, and after you there shall not arise one like you. ¹³ And I have *also* given to you what you have not asked—wealth and glory, so that there has not been anyone like you among kings. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in My ways, to keep My commandments and My ordinances, as David your father walked, then will I multiply your days." ¹⁵ And Solomon awoke, and behold, *it was* a dream. And he arose and came to Jerusalem, and stood before the altar that was in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord in Zion. And he offered whole burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings, and made a great banquet for himself and all his servants.

¹⁶ Then two harlots appeared before the king, and they stood before him. ¹⁷ And the one woman said, "Hear me, *my lord*: I and this woman dwelt in one house, and we *both* delivered *a child* in the house. ¹⁸ And it came to pass on the third day after I was delivered, this woman also was delivered. And we *were* together; and there was no one with us besides our two selves in the house. ¹⁹ And this woman's child died in the night because she laid on him. ²⁰ And she arose in the middle of the night, and took my son from my arms, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom. ²¹ And I arose in the morning to suckle my son, and he was dead. And behold, I looked at him in the morning,

and behold, it was not my son whom I bore." ²² And the other woman said, "No, but the living *one is* my son, and the dead *one is* your son." So they spoke before the king.

²³ And the king said to them, "You say, 'This *is* my son, the living *one*, and this woman's son *is* the dead one.' And you say, 'No, but the living *one is* my son, and the dead *one is* your son.'" ²⁴ And the king said, "Bring me a sword." And they brought a sword before the king. ²⁵ And the king said, "Divide the live child, *this* infant, in two; and give half to one, and half to the other." ²⁶ And the woman whose the living child was answered and said to the king (for her heart yearned over her son), "I beseech you, *my* lord, give her the child, and by no means kill him." But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor hers; *but* divide *him*." ²⁷ Then the king answered and said, "Give the child to her that said, 'Give it to her, and by no means kill him': she *is his* mother." ²⁸ And all Israel heard this judgment which the king had rendered, and they feared before the king; because they saw that the wisdom of God *was* in him, to execute judgment.