Solomon

David d'Lima - FamilyVoice Australia, June 2020

King Solomon is regarded as a man of tremendous wisdom as he led the united monarchy of Israel and Judah, and as he built the temple of God. Solomon was born in about 990 BC as the most famous son (and successor) of King David.

He built the temple of God in Jerusalem, but is most famous as the author of three books of Scripture: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs.

Solomon commenced his reign by the remarkable adjudication of a dispute between two women who both claimed one baby (1 Kings 3) as he applied a remarkable appreciation of human psychology.

Scripture then goes on to provide the following detail about Solomon. According to 1 Kings 4:29-34:

> *God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man ... and his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.*

He greatly impressed the Queen of Sheba (Ethiopia) on her visit to Israel, according to 1 Kings 10:1-9:

> *When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan - with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones - she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed.*
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> *She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness."*

Sadly, King Solomon's involvement with foreign women undermined his devotion to the God of Israel (1 Kings 11:3) and after his death (in about 932 BC) the people of Israel said that King Solomon had *"put a heavy yoke on us"* (1 Kings 12: 4).

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