**The Wisdom of God Name**

**A picture containing text

Description automatically generatedI Kings 2:28 – 3:28 (Lesson #3)**

In the first 19 verses of chapter 4 we are provided a listing of the officials in Solomon’s court and some specific details about their assignments.

***“1 King Solomon was king over all Israel, 2 and these were his high officials: Azariah the son of Zadok was the priest; 3 Elihoreph and Ahijah the sons of Shisha were secretaries;*** ***Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; 4 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in command of the army; Zadok and Abiathar were priests; 5 Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers; Zabud the son of Nathan was priest and king’s friend; 6 Ahishar was in charge of the palace; and Adoniram the son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor. 7 Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household. Each man had to make provision for one month in the year. 8 These were their names: Ben-hur, in the hill country of Ephraim; 9 Ben-deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth-shemesh, and Elonbeth-hanan; 10 Ben-hesed, in Arubboth (to him belonged Socoh and all the land of Hepher); 11 Ben-abinadab, in all Naphath-dor (he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as his wife); 12 Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth-shean that is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, and from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah, as far as the other side of Jokmeam; 13 Ben-geber, in Ramoth-gilead (he had the villages of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, and he had the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, sixty great cities with walls and bronze bars); 14 Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim; 15 Ahimaaz, in Naphtali (he had taken Basemath the daughter of Solomon as his wife); 16 Baana the son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth; 17 Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar; 18 Shimei the son of Ela, in Benjamin; 19 Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the country of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan. And there was one governor who was over the land.***

**Vs 4b - *Zadok and Abiathar were priests.*** Scholars are divided here. Some believe that Solomon reestablished Abiathar as a priest, others point out that although Solomon had removed him from serving (he was still technically priest), while others would say that this just indicates that at some time Abiathar did serve as a priest in Solomon’s kingdom. I belief that is how we should understand his name here. You will see this point in greater clarity in a moment.

Among Solomon’s ***“high officials”*** were priests, spiritual advisors if you will. This is a good lesson for those who would serve in positions of authority; they too need **“spiritual advisors.”**

**Vs 5 -** Here we see that Azariah is the son of that faithful prophet, Nathan, and Solomon has appointed him over the officers. This is likely some type of executive position, maybe something like the **Chief of Staff**, who seems to be over all the officers of Solomon’s cabinet.

**Vs 5b -** Here we see a second son of Nathan, Zabud and he serves as priest and **“the King’s friend.”**

Solomon surrounded himself with wise and godly people.

This reminds us that we need wise counselors in our lives. Truth Seekers, need other Truth Seekers in their life to give good and godly counsel.

*“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.” (Pr 11:14 ESV)*

**Vs 6 -** Adoniram was in charge of the **“forced labor.”** So, the king made people go and labor as part of being in the kingdom. If you remember, when the nation was clamoring for a king, this was one of the things that Samuel the prophet warned them about:

*“****10*** *So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him.* ***11*** *He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots.* ***12*** *And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.* ***13*** *He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.* ***14*** *He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants.* ***15*** *He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants.* ***16*** *He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work.* ***17*** *He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves.* ***18*** *And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."” (1Sa 8:10-18 ESV)*

This idea of forced labor and its impact on the nation, will indeed come back around. So tuck this away. Right now, it appears to be done in wisdom.

**Our takeaway is that Solomon organized a working government. And… At least at this point, it appears that he did so in and with great wisdom.**

**Vs 7** - As the kingdom was expanding, Solomon looked at ways to order and manage the nation, and he used wisdom to understand how to organize this new expanding kingdom. Solomon appointed twelve officers who provided food for the king’s household and palace staff.

Each man oversaw food collection and provision for a month out of the year.

In the list there are interesting people, including a couple of sons-in-law. This lets us know this is a synopsis of Solomon’s government, not what it looked like on a particular day. Because three or four years into being king, Solomon did not did not have any sons-in-law.

Another one of Solomon’s proverbs is appropriate here:

*“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” (Pr 13:20 ESV)*

**We might say that wisdom is not just taught, it is often caught from the people we surround ourselves with.**

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***20 Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy. 21 Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life. 22 Solomon’s provision for one day was thirty cors of fine flour and sixty cors of meal, 23 ten fat oxen, and twenty pasture-fed cattle, a hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fattened fowl. 24 For he had dominion over all the region west of the Euphrates from Tiphsah to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates. And he had peace on all sides around him. 25 And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon. 26 Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen. 27 And those officers supplied provisions for King Solomon, and for all who came to King Solomon’s table, each one in his month. They let nothing be lacking. 28 Barley also and straw for the horses and swift steeds they brought to the place where it was required, each according to his duty.***

**Vs 20 -** We see the people of the kingdom were **both innumerable** and they **were happy**. Life was good.

**This reminds us that God is fulfilling what he had promised to Abraham:**

*“15 And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."” (Ge 22:15-18 ESV)*

God is fulfilling his promises, in the Kingdom of Solomon. Yet, this is only a faint picture of the final kingdom, innumerable citizens of heaven, eating, drinking, and being filled with joy!

There is another truth, we need to grab for just a second. The place of prominence and the material advantages the nation are enjoying, are not principally due to Solomon, but it is due to King David, and David’s walk of faith with Yahweh.

**Vs 21 –** We see the expanse of the Kingdom. **T**his was also a peaceful time, a prosperous time, a time of great plenty and no warfare. A promised time of rest!

We are reminded that God had even promised Solomon a “long life” if he would obey his laws and follow after Yahweh**!**

*“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."” (1Ki 3:14 ESV)*

**Vs 22-23 -** This is what was brought into the palace, each day to feed the people in the palace.

We are not positive on the exact measurement of a cor. The estimates range 45 gallons all the way to 87 gallons. We will use a reasonable estimate of 55 gallons, this will help you lay hold of how much we are talking about. So picture these as 55 gallon drums.

As well as 10 fatted oxen, 20 cows, 100 sheep and deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fowl.

This was an amazing time for the Kingdom of Israel. This would have been amazing to behold! At this point, we should not see this as drudgery, but instead a prosperous, joyful kingdom! This was Israel enjoying all the rich blessings of God.

**Vs 24-25 –** Here the expanse of Solomon’s kingdom is highlighted. Notice, Solomon had peace on every side all around him. This is true, all the days of Solomon’s life.

Often, when a new king comes into power, the surrounding nations would rebel. There is no evidence that this happened with Solomon.

I would remind us that this peace came of the price of great bloodshed by David. Under Solomon it enjoyed great peace, but that peace came at a price, a price which David had to pay.

As much as we often yearn for justice in an injustice world, as believers we also long for peace. We long for all the promises about the Kingdom of peace being fulfilled:

*“6 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. 7 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. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.” (Isa 9:6-7 ESV)*

Or, what the angles heralded at his birth:

*“13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"” (Lu 2:13-14 ESV)*

Here under Solomon, we have a picture, albeit dim of that promised king and a kingdom of peace!

**Vs 25 –** The extent of peace: Every man, every one of God’s people, living in peace!

This peace was foreign and domestic. It was internal and external.

**“Every man under his vine and under his fig tree”** is a metaphor of living in peace. A place of shade from the sun and a place of plenty. What a beautiful picture of our final place.

**Vs 26-28 - The palace of Solomon was breathtaking.** 40,000 stalls for horses for his chariots and 12,000 horsemen.

Flooding into the palace each day was massive provisions to keep everything running.

**According to the law of Moses:**

*“15 you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. 16 Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’ 17 And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.” (De 17:15-17 ESV)*

So is this impressive? Yes, is it equally concerning? The reason:

*“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.” (Ps 20:7 ESV)*

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***29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, 30 so that Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. 32 He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. 33 He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. 34 And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.”***

**Vs 29-31 -** WOW! God had promised:

*“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.” (1Ki 3:12 ESV)*

God gave Solomon **wisdom and understanding beyond measure**, and **breadth of mind** like the sand on the seashore!

God **“over promises”** and then **“over delivers”** on the over promise.

**Vs 30 –** Here we see the superiority of God’s wisdom! God had promised there would be no king like him and God has delivered on his word.

**Vs 31 -** Ethan and Heman were wise and godly men, they had even written Psalms. Solomon, with wisdom granted from above, is wiser than all men!

Here is what the Psalmist said in Psalm 119:

*“****98*** *¶ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.* ***99*** *I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.* ***100*** *I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.” (Ps 119:98-100 ESV)*

**Vs 32** - He spoke 3,000 proverbs. The book of proverbs has 952 verses, some proverbs are only one verse, but many proverbs span multiple verses. The best estimates are less than 400.

If you consider the book of proverbs, and Solomon speaking 3,000 proverbs, this means that the book of Proverbs contains maybe 1/8 of the Proverbs that Solomon **“spoke.”**

There are two Psalms that are accredited to Solomon, Psalms 72 and 127. Here we are told he composed 1,005 songs.

**Vs 33 -** He spoke of various flora and fauna. Modern vernacular, from the redwoods of California, to the scrub plants that grow in crack of your driveway. Solomon spoke of various beasts, birds, reptiles, and various fish.

Wisdom sees wisdom in all that God has done and all that He has created for us to enjoy!

**Vs 34 -** Solomon was a genius and people came from everywhere just to hear him, this include kings.

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***5:1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram always loved David. 2 And Solomon sent word to Hiram, 3 "You know that David my father could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. 4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side. There is neither adversary nor misfortune. 5 And so I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD said to David my father, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.’ 6 Now therefore command that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. And my servants will join your servants, and I will pay you for your servants such wages as you set, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians."***

**Vs 1 –** Hiram sent word to Solomon, no doubt congratulating him and praising God and his father David. We see that Hiram always loved David. They had a special relationship and so he sends to Solomon, because of David.

**Vs 2-4 -** Solomon receives these servants, and this is the genesis for him to move to **fulfill the promise God made with David.**

Listen to what Solomon says:

1. You know David waned to build a house for Yahweh, but he could not because of all the warfare.
2. But now, Yahweh has given rest on every side. This was a promise from God, a promise made to David that he would give the nation rest from his enemies:

*“****10*** *And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,* ***11*** *from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.” (2Sa 7:10-11 ESV)*

Think about Israel, since coming out of Egypt, the time of the judges, the warfare under Saul, and the warfare under David.

**Now am amazing period of peace.**

Now, we understand, this is just a picture of the ultimate final rest and peace in heaven. This is just a picture, a snap-shot, or a portrait of the ultimate peace we will find throughout eternity.

**Vs 5 –** 3) I intend to build a house for Yahweh, to fulfill the word that God said to my father. I am going to step-out to fulfill **God’s promise** of building a house for Yahweh.

Now, keep in mind, God has met with the people in the tabernacle, but never in a permanent building. **This really is a BIG deal.**

**Here is what we learn, the real foundation of the temple are not the stones that Hiram and Solomon’s servants will quarry, but instead the promise of God.**

**You see, as Solomon built this temple of rocks and sticks on the promises of God. We must build our lives upon the promises of God for not a single one has ever fallen to the ground!**

**Vs 6 –** Since I am going to build God’s house…

Command that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My servants will work with your servants. I will pay for your servants as you request. Everyone knows the Sidonians, know how to cut timber.

Solomon sends this message to Hiram. Tyre is 100 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

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***7 As soon as Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, "Blessed be the LORD this day, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people." 8 And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, "I have heard the message that you have sent to me. I am ready to do all you desire in the matter of cedar and cypress timber. 9 My servants shall bring it down to the sea from Lebanon, and I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you direct. And I will have them broken up there, and you shall receive it. And you shall meet my wishes by providing food for my household." 10 ¶ So Hiram supplied Solomon with all the timber of cedar and cypress that he desired, 11 while Solomon gave Hiram 20,000 cors of wheat as food for his household, and 20,000 cors of beaten oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year. 12 And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him. And there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.***

**Vs 7–8 -** So the servants return to Hiram, and as soon as he hears these words of Solomon, he rejoices.

Hiram the praises Yahweh for the wise son of David who he has placed on the throne.

Now Hiram, seems to be a worshipper of Yahweh, and his language definitely fits the language of a worshipper of Yahweh. But we do not know for sure.

Here is what we do know. God keeps in promises, and sometimes he even conscripts his enemies to do it!

Tyre in times past have been the enemies of God’s people. They are listed in Psalm 83 as part of the combined enemies of God.

But Hiram, had a special relationship with David, and now Solomon hires out the Sidonians to assist in doing the work of God. This reminds me of the construction of the ark, when Noah, no doubt hired out people who did not believe in His God to help do the work.

**Vs 9 –** Here, Hiram explains what his men will do. His servants will cut the trees, fall the trees, bring them down to the sea, make rafts of logs, and direct them down to Solomon (the place he dictates).

**Vs 9b –** You shall fulfill my request for food for my household.

**Vs 10 –** Hiram started providing the timber Solomon needed, the cedar and cypress as he desired.

**Vs 11 –** Solomon gave Hiram in accord with their agreement - 20,000 cors of what and 20,000 cors of beaten olive oil.

If we use the estimate of a cor = 55 gallons, this would be **1,100,000 gallons of wheat** and **1,100,000 gallons of olive oil** each year. **This is staggering!**

**Vs 12 –** Did you see this. The writer of Kings, wants us to see the thread going through these chapters. Solomon cried out to God for wisdom.

The writer has labored to show us how God marvelously fulfilled that promise and gave Solomon wisdom:

1. In the ordering of Justice and judgment with the two harlots and the living baby.
2. In the establishment of his kingdom and his cabinet.
3. We saw it was wisdom that pervaded every area of flora and fauna.
4. People and kings came from far and wide to hear the wisdom of Solomon.
5. In the agreement and subsequent peace treaty with Hiram for the most significant thing the nation has attempted. The building of a temple for Yahweh, a place of worship, and a house of prayer.

Hiram and Solomon entered into a peace treaty, that was brought about by the great work of building a temple to Yahweh!

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***13 King Solomon drafted forced labor out of all Israel, and the draft numbered 30,000 men. 14 And he sent them to Lebanon, 10,000 a month in shifts. They would be a month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the draft. 15 Solomon also had 70,000 burden-bearers and 80,000 stonecutters in the hill country, 16 besides Solomon’s 3,300 chief officers who were over the work, who had charge of the people who carried on the work. 17 At the king’s command they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones. 18 So Solomon’s builders and Hiram’s builders and the men of Gebal did the cutting and prepared the timber and the stone to build the house.***

**Vs 13-14 –** Solomon, coordinates his people to work at this massive project. **Solomon uses wisdom to accomplish this massive task!**

As you might imagine, the work Solomon is planning will take a massive workforce. So he drafts **“forced labor”** out of the nation. **Please keep this in mind when we come to discuss his son Rheoboam when he comes into power.**

**Vs 14 –** He sends them to Lebanon, in rotating shifts of 10,000 each month.

**Vs 15-16 –** Solomon also hires or conscribes **70,000** “burden-bearers” and **80,000** stone cutters! The grunt labor force! He also has **3,300** chief officers (foreman) who are overseeing the work and who had charge over the people of the work.

**I hope you sense this is a massive undertaking! That is only possible because God has given Solomon wisdom**

**Vs 17 –** They quarried out great and costly stones, think about the temple mount if you have ever been there. They did this to: ***lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones.***

**Vs 18 –** Thus Solomon’s workforce and Hirma’s workforce as well as men of Gebal, these are additional workers that it appears Hiram hired.

These are men who are the inhabitants of Gebal or as the Greek name Byblos. So Hiram hired out men from the city of Gabal (Byblos) to help with the work.

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**Application and Pictures of Jesus or the gospel**

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