

/Let us begin with the fourth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Today we will begin with 1 Kings chapter 3. / First main point, / verses 1-3. / Solomon's marriage and faith.

/In verse 1, / Solomon married the daughter of Pharaoh king of Egypt. / He took her as his wife. / This means that Solomon established diplomatic relations with Egypt. / Pharaoh at this time was the twenty-first king, the last king.

/This was a remarkable change considering the history of Israel. /The Israelites were slaves in Egypt /during the time of Moses around 1500 B.C.

/However, during the time of King Solomon, / around 960 B.C., / Israel was on friendly terms with Egypt, and Israel was on an equal level with Egypt. / Egypt was the number one country in Moses' time. / We can see in Genesis 12:15/ that there was a palace in Egypt during the time of Abraham.

/Abraham lived around 2000 B.C. / Egypt was so great that they had a palace even around 2000 B.C. / Building a friendly relation with such country tells us how Israel grew as a nation.

/Proverbs 16:7/ says that anyone who is upright before God can have peace with his enemies. / God blessed Solomon because he lived with faith. / Let us consider the marriage between Solomon and the daughter of Pharaoh.

/Marriage between the king of Israel and the daughter of Pharaoh was not a sin. / God forbid marriage with foreign women. / This specifically meant that they were not to marry women who worshiped idols.

/Deuteronomy chapter 11 says,/ it was okay to marry a woman who was brought captive, who was not a Canaanite. / Of course, even if she was not a Canaanite woman, / it was not right to marry someone who did not worship God.

/In Genesis 41:45, / Joseph married Asenath, the daughter of the priest of On. / God approved of this. / It seems that Joseph married her because she converted to Joseph's religion. / He was allowed to marry a foreign woman.

/Abraham married Hagar. / Esther became the queen of Xerxes of Basa. / God did not stop them. / Through many instances/ we can see that Israelites were allowed to marry Egyptians.

/In the New Testament times, we can marry someone from a different country, as long as he or she is a believer. / International marriage is not a sin. / We must marry believers.

/The second thing to consider is the sacrifices offered on the high places. / Before Solomon built the temple, both the people and the king offered sacrifices on the high places. / High places were houses in the mountains. / It is not right by the law to offer sacrifices on the high places.

/Deuteronomy 12:11/ and 12:14/ say that they were to offer sacrifices at the place God chose. / At the time, there was a tabernacle at Shiloh. / God abandoned it because of the Israelites' sin.

/The construction of the temple was not finished. / This was most likely the middle period. / The tabernacle at Shiloh was abandoned, / the temple was not finished, / and thus, God allowed the sacrifices to be offered on the high places.

/In 2 Samuel 9:11, / Samuel also offered sacrifices on the high places. / It was not wrong to offer sacrifices on the high places. / This was the middle period, /the time when the tabernacle period was over and before the temple period.

/God is very pleased with those who offer sacrifices to him. / He is pleased with those who offer sacrifices. / He is pleased with those who worship him. / When it comes to worship, locations or rites are not important.

/There are family churches in China. / In Ezekiel 11:16/ the nations became a sanctuary. / God does not only accept offerings in Jerusalem. / Today, the spiritual temple that we cannot see with our eyes is most important.

/The Lord comes and meets us there. /The Lord watches over us and receives worship there. /In John 4:20, /it says that it is not important to worship on mountains. /God accepts our worship when we worship in spirit and in truth.

/The location is not important. /Big and luxurious sanctuaries are not important. /God accepts worship, /whether it is at a river, /a desert, /an attic, /or the mountains.

/In verse 3 /is Solomon's faith. /First, /Solomon's faith /loved the LORD. /First, Solomon loved

the LORD with faith. /The Law of Moses emphasized this greatly.

/Deuteronomy 6:4-5. /Love the LORD your God /with all your heart, /with all your soul, /and with all your strength. /Solomon kept the first commandment of God. /God was Solomon's first priority.

/Deuteronomy 33:16 says, /whoever loves the LORD receives blessings. /The most important part of Solomon's faith was that he loved God. /We can keep God's laws and decrees when we love God.

/In Matthew 22:37 /is the code of the law. /It is to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds. /In 2 Samuel 12:25, /God changed Solomon's name. /Jedidiah.

/It means, clothed with the love of the LORD. /Solomon lived as Jedidiah. /Second, Solomon had faith /to live according to the instructions of his father David. /He walked down his father's path of faith.

/David walked the path of eternal blessings. /However, the path of Jeroboam was the path of eternal curses. /Solomon acted according to David's instructions, / which means that he kept the laws as David did.

/Verse 6 talks about David's faith. / David was faithful, righteous, and upright in heart/ before the Lord. / In 1 Kings 2:2/ David told Solomon to show himself a man. / Keeping God's commandments was the path of David.

/Third, Solomon had faith / to offer sacrifices on the high places. / He was sacrifice-centered. / He was worship-centered. / He was devoted. / This was Solomon's faith. / This is the life God is pleased with.

/In verse 4, Solomon went to the high place in Gibeon and offered a thousand burnt offerings. / We must love the LORD, / walk down the path David walked, / and serve and worship God.

/Second main point, / verses 4-15. / Solomon's example.

/In verse 4, / as soon as Solomon became king, he offered sacrifices at the high place in Gibeon. /

God was very pleased with this. /Abraham, the father of faith, left his father's household and went to Canaan, and the first thing he did was build an altar.

/Gibeon was located about 10 kilometers northwest of Jerusalem. / In the high place was a bronze altar that Bezalel made. / There was a tabernacle in Gibeon that Moses made. /The ark of the covenant was in Jerusalem.

/Solomon went to Gibeon and offered a thousand animals to God. / He gave a lot of sacrifices to God. / As written in 2 Chronicles 1:1, / he was able to offer a thousand burnt offerings to God because God was with him and made him great.

/Solomon did not go alone to the high place to offer sacrifices. / He went there with the judges over thousands and hundreds, and with judges, and all the officials of Israel.

/Solomon, the leaders, officials, and the people gave offerings to God. / It probably took seven or eight days. / It was very worthy that they offered sacrifices.

/In Matthew 6:33,/ it says that we should seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. / We will be blessed when we have such faith. / Abraham lived this way. / Revelation 1:1/ tells us, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers."

/God takes care of those who observe the temple, who offer sacrifices, and who worship him. / When Solomon offered sacrifices in Gibeon, he did not do it however he wanted. / He offered sacrifices by following the historical and traditional truth.

/Solomon offered sacrifices in the tabernacle Moses made, /and on the bronze altar that Bezalel made. / Solomon did his best before God. /Then in verse 5, God appeared before Solomon.

/God asked Solomon what he wanted. / This meant that God was pleased with the sacrifices. / God appeared before Solomon at night.

/The nighttime is tranquil. / It is secretive. / It is a good time to pray. / It is a good time to meditate. / The nighttime is the best time to hear small voices. /God accepted Solomon's sacrifices and prayers, and he asked Solomon what he wanted.

/Solomon's precious faith is seen in verses 6 and 9. /First, /Solomon admired and wanted to take after his father's faith. /He admired his father's faith.

/Solomon was able to say this because he had good faith. /God showed great kindness to David, / God continued his kindness, /and gave him a son to sit on his throne. /David was a man of faith in his son's eyes.

/David was a man of faith in the eyes of his son Solomon. / It was a blessing that Solomon remembered the good things about his father and wanted to be like his father. / 1 Corinthians 13:5 / tells us that love keeps no record of wrongs.

/As is written in verse 6, / David's faith was one that was with God. / David acted before God. / David feared God. / His faith was shown through faithfulness, righteousness, and his upright heart.

/Their faith was shown in their relationships with people. / It was shown in the way they worked. /It was shown through their lives. /It was shown through the way they treated their parents. /It was shown through many happenings.

/Second, we can see in verse 7/ that Solomon was humble. / A humble person is a good person. / Solomon called himself a servant. / Solomon did not say this only once but three times. / He confessed that he did not become king because he was capable.

/He confessed that he did not become king because he was qualified to be one. / He became king because God showed him compassion. / He also called himself a little child. / He was a child. / He was young.

/It is said that Solomon was about 20 years old when he became king. / He considered himself inexperienced, / full of mistakes, / and unknowledgeable in handling things. / He had a good heart. / Proverbs 18:12/ tells us that humility comes before honor.

/Third, Solomon asked for grace to rule the nation. / Verses 8-9. /He did not ask for worldly wisdom. / He did not ask for scientific knowledge. / This is faith that God is pleased with.

/Solomon asked for wisdom to justly govern the people. / This is crucial in ruling a nation. / He also asked for / the discerning heart to distinguish right from wrong.

/What is wrong? / What is right? / What is the right way? / Solomon asked for the discerning heart to govern people and to discern right from wrong.

/Verse 10/ says that God was pleased with what he asked for. / God was pleased with his words and it was good. / Solomon's prayer was one that God was pleased with and wanted to hear. / Solomon was a man after God's heart.

/Acts 13:22/ says that David was also a man after God's heart. /David was a man after God's heart, / and Solomon was also a man after God's heart.

/God is God who fulfills his will through people after his own heart. / Solomon first wanted to take after this father's faith. /Second, Solomon was humble. /He called himself a child. /He called himself a servant.

/Third, he asked for a discerning heart to govern people and to distinguish right from wrong. / These are the three aspects of Solomon's faith. / God answered his prayer in verse 12. / God said that he would give him wisdom and discernment.

/He gave the greatest wisdom to Solomon. / No one was and will be wise as Solomon. / No one was wise as Solomon was.

/He properly discerned things. / He distinguished right from wrong. / He understood everything and judged justly.

/There is something else God gave Solomon, which is mentioned in verse 13. / God said that he would give him both wealth and honor that no one will equal him in his lifetime. / Solomon did not consider a silver vessel a vessel at all.

/He ate everything from golden vessels. / God gave him wealth and honor his entire life, which Solomon did not ask for. / Through this chapter/ we learn that we receive two things when our priority is set right with faith. / We receive wealth and honor.

/But without proper priorities of faith, we lose everything. / Having faith is about priority. / It is about setting priorities straight. / What is dominant in our hearts? This is important.

/What is important to us? / People do important things first. / If our priorities are straight, we will gain everything. / If not, we will lose everything.

/Verse 14 talks about the way to living a long life. / We must be like David /and walk down God's path /and keep God's decrees and commands. /This is God's command. / God's words are decrees and commands.

/We must walk down God's path instead of turning left or right. /Disobedience to God's decrees and commands will lead to destruction. /This applies to everyone.

/If we forsake God's commands, our families and businesses will be ruined. / Keeping God's decrees and commands is the way to being well.

/Verse 15/ tells us what Solomon did after he returned to Jerusalem. /He stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. / This was Solomon's faith. / A burnt offering is completely burning the sacrifice.

/A fellowship offering is a kind of peace offering. / A peace offering is offered to God as thanksgiving. / Solomon sacrificed offerings at the high place in Gibeon as soon as he became king. / He sacrificed burnt offerings and fellow offerings even after he returned to Jerusalem.

/Solomon had faith to begin with offerings and end with offerings. /He did right by offerings burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to God. /He did right by holding a feast for his court.

/Third main point, / verses 16-28. / Solomon's wise ruling. / Solomon ruled wisely. / God gave him such wisdom.

/The case was difficult to discern / and judge, / but because of the wisdom God gave him, he judged justly. / With God's wisdom, we can discern right from wrong. / This is why God allowed this incident to happen.

/God allowed this to happen / to show the people /and prove Solomon's wisdom to them. / This incident displayed Solomon's wisdom not only to the two prostitutes, but to others as well.

/It taught the Israelites /and all the people /what the truth was /and what lies were. / It was taught what was just /and what was unjust.

/This incident was difficult to judge and rule. / “The dead son is yours; / the living one is mine.” / The two prostitutes fought and when they could not come to a conclusion, they came before the king.

/It was difficult to judge who was right or wrong /and what was true and false. /In the passage, /Solomon brought a sword /and ordered the the baby was to be cut in half. / We can consider several things in today’s chapter.

/First, / we can see the wickedness of humans. / We can see how wicked someone can be. /We can see the true nature of humans. / We can see the true nature. / They were prostitutes. / They sold their bodies.

/Their consciences were numb. / There was nothing they wouldn’t do for money. /They did not have goals for their lives. / They did not know why they lived. / They were like drunkards and drug addicts today.

/Humans are foolish to the point where they lay on their children and kill them. / They care careless. / The guilty woman did not want to be accountable for killing her son. / She did not have true love. / She also stole another woman’s child.

/It did not matter whether others lived or died, as long as she was alive. / Humans can be this evil. / She did not believe in God. / She had no conscience. / She had no loyalty. / She had no ethics.

/This prostitute killed her baby, / robbed another woman’s child, / stepped over another woman, / and fought with another woman. /It was the same in the time of Noah. /People did not believe even when Noah evangelized. /The Israelites died during their 40 years in the wilderness.

/Yet, they were still wicked. / They refused. / They disobeyed. / They complained. / Eventually the Israelites died in the wilderness. / They all failed to enter Canaan except Joshua and Caleb. / The world is wicked and corrupted.

/Second, / we can know that the truth and lies are different. / In this world, good and evil coexist. / Lies and the truth coexist. / Wheats and weeds growing together. / Yet, they are



different.

/Third, / those who save lives and yield to others end up well. / What did the real mother try to do? / She tried to save the baby. / What did the other mother try to do? / She wanted to cut the baby, so that neither of them would have a child.

/She wanted the baby to die, so the other would not have the baby either. / Whoever tries to kill cannot receive blessings. / Whoever robs others cannot be well. / Whoever takes away other's properties by force cannot be well. / Stingy people cannot be well.

/What would have happened if the baby was cut, just as the lying mother said? / The baby would have died. / Then how could she receive blessings? / It was important to save the child.

/Whether she raised the baby or not, / it was important to save the baby, regardless of who raised him. / We must always stand on the side that saves lives. / We must always stand on the side that cooperates with/ and helps others.

/We must learn to let go even if something we want cannot be ours. / The real mother told the king to give the child to the lying mother. / Fourth, / we can see that nothing can be hidden before God.

/We are fooling ourselves if we believe that we can hide anything from God. / Heaven knows and the earth knows. / We must know that everything will be exposed. / We must always live honestly.

/We must live with a clear conscience. / God rewards the good and punishes the wicked. / 2 Peter 3:10/ tells us that everything will be exposed. / Everyone will be judged according to what they have done.

/Hebrews 9:27/ says that man is destined to die once, /and after that will face judgment.

/What was the point of recording this incident? / It was to teach us to fear God / and fear the king, and be truthful. / God had this incident recorded to make us fear the Lord.

/With this we will conclude the fourth lecture on the Books of Kings. /Thank you.

