

# Solomon Asks for Wisdom: 1 Kings 2 and 2 Chronicles 1

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**NOTE from Steve: for this week only, Catherine will be running the Zoom call. Use the link below to access the class:**

**<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/82168545979?pwd=i51uf9qqQUoNBeezW4IT9qbVoVzADy.1>**

## Context:

David has died. In the narrative, Solomon has carried out his father's wishes against those who had been traitors to his father's reign. Benaiah, one of David's inner circle of warriors, has executed Adonijah, Joab, and Shimei. Abiathar and his family have been removed from the priesthood – the last of the descendants of Eli. He has taken “firm control of the kingdom” 1 Kings 2:46 This next chapter in both books marks the beginning of his own decisions as a ruler.

Egypt is being ruled by the 21<sup>st</sup> dynasty. Psusennes II is often cited as the Pharaoh who was contemporary to Solomon. Most historians agree that this is a time of relative stability in lower Egypt.

High Places: Complicated.

## Nomenclature:

Lord: Yahweh – the iteration of the Deity that makes covenants with individuals, rulers, and nation.

God: Elohim – Majesty. Plural in form; singular in meaning. Power.

In Hebrew writings the combination is to be noted. In the Genesis story it is the Lord God who works with Adam and Eve. When the serpent tempts them,

he only uses the majesty form. The focus of the evil one is power without loving covenant. It seems that safety for Hebrew thinking is to have the committed relationship before the power. Use of Yahweh Elohim is also a way of saying their God is above all the other deities worshiped by the countries around them.

### Discussion:

The plan is to spend time talking about what acts of Solomon were indicative of a strong relationship with the beliefs of Israel and which were not.

### Questions:

1. Why do you think Solomon married Pharaoh's daughter?
2. In terms of Hebrew notions of legacy of that time, what might be some problems with that marriage?
3. In terms of Israel's mandates could there be other problems with Solomon's marriage.
4. What do you think Solomon might have told himself about the marriage?
5. Why do you think Solomon decided to offer sacrifices on the high places.
6. Why do you think the author of 1 Kings pointed out that Solomon went against David's example with sacrifices on the high places.
7. At this point in time why do you think God decided to make him the dream offer?
8. What do you think might have been some of God's goals in making this offer?
9. What do you think it means that after the dream Solomon went to Jerusalem to offer his sacrifices?

10. Why do you think the writer of this story or the Author of this particular situation had two prostitutes be the example of Solomon's wisdom?
11. What do you think are the parallels between this story and how Jesus dealt with prostitutes?
12. What do you think are the most important learning opportunities in today's text?
13. What part of the story did you like best?
14. What do you think are the most important lessons in this story for people who consider themselves Christian?

I am looking forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts.

I wish for you gentle, unexpected blessings.

*Catherine*

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