

MAKE A WISH

TEXT: I Kings 2

INTRO.: A. Few people have been given a blank check & told to fill in whatever amount they wished. Only in fairy tales do genies appear & grant a person's wishes. But King Solomon received a "blank check" & was granted his wish & it was no fairy tale.

B. Before we examine the new King's wish & how it came true, we need a little background. Let's examine...

I. SOLOMON'S PROBLEMS: v.1-3

A. Unequal Yoke: v.1

1. Even if this woman became a proselyte to Judaism, she would violate the Lord's command to His people to remain pure & not marry the heathen.

NOTE: Political expediency & "peace at any price" is never an excuse to violate God's Word!

2. She, as Solomon's other heathen wives later, would draw his heart away to other false gods & become a snare to him & Israel.

B. Unsanctioned Worship: v.2,3

1. The "high places" were hills where the heathen sacrificed their offerings to the false gods, including the sun, moon & stars.
2. Israel had no "house built unto the name of the Lord" but they did have a Divinely designed place of worship called the Tabernacle.

II. SOLOMON'S PIETY: v.3,4

A. His Walk: v.3

B. His Worship: v.4 cf. **II Chron.1:1-6**

NOTE: One of his 1st official acts was to declare a national day of sacrifice & worship. The Tabernacle was there & even though it was erected on a "high place" God accepted Solomon's act of love & pure worship.

III. SOLOMON'S PETITION: v.5-9

NOTE: In 6 one syllable words God makes Solomon one of the greatest offers He ever made to any mere human. v.5

Jn.14:13-14 *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*

A. He Recognizes God's Goodness: v.6

B. He Recalls His Inexperience: v.7

1. Solomon is only about 20 yrs old here; David was 30 when he became King.
2. Solomon was raised in the comforts & extravagances of the royal court; David had been a shepherd, served in Saul's court, had been a military commander & experienced hardness as a fugitive.

C. He Realizes Israel's Greatness: v.8

NOTE: Sometimes in the church we get so used to each other, that instead of seeing our greatness & gifts, we focus on our weaknesses & failures.

D. He Requests Personal Wisdom: v.9

1. Solomon reveals his humility here; there is nothing of self-interest in his request.
2. Solomon desired to be good rather than great & to advance God's honor more than his own.

NOTE: Grace & godliness is greater than gold!

QUOTE: Matthew Henry: *"He that has wealth & power w/out wisdom & grace is in danger of doing hurt; he that has wisdom & grace w/out wealth & power is not capable of doing so much good w/them as he that has both."*

IV. SOLOMON'S PRESENT: v.10-15

A. God's Response: **v.10-12**

Eph.3:20 *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us*

B. God's Reward: **v.13**

1. God rewarded Solomon w/fortune. **v.13a**

- a. The way to get spiritual blessings from God is to be importunate & insistent in prayer, as Solomon did for wisdom.
- b. The way to get temporal blessings from God is to be indifferent to them.

QUOTE: Matt. Henry: *"Solomon had wisdom given him because he did ask it & wealth because he did not ask it."*

2. God rewarded Solomon w/fame. **v.13b**

C. God's Reservation: **v.14**

NOTE: Though both David & Solomon reigned 40 yrs. Solomon started much earlier & lived w/a lot less stress re: military engagements, Saul, etc. & would have been expected to live longer. But because of his sin of later years God removed him prematurely!

D. Solomon's Response: v.15

V. SOLOMON'S PERFORMANCE: V.16-28

A. The Dilemma: **v.16-22**

1. Two harlots.
2. Two babies.
3. Two claims.

B. The Difficulty: **v.23**

1. All eyes were on the new king.
2. Apparently the lower courts were incapable of rendering a decision.
3. To find the true mother, the king could not ask the infant so he must put on trial the true mother's love.

C. The Determination: **v.24-28**

1. He calls for a sword to divide the baby in half. **v.24,25**
2. The sages no doubt stood shaking their heads & saying *"Is this the craziest thing we have ever heard, or what?!"*
3. The true mother's love prevails & Solomon awards her her child. **v.26,27**
4. This one decision became legendary. **v.28**

CONCL.: Solomon had his wish granted & he used it wisely. What gift has God given you? How are you using it? How about that child? That home? That teaching ability? That ability to be a good bus captain? That call to full time service? That position of mother or father?

If you were granted any wish you desired, would it be material or spiritual?