

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 19, 2023

THEME: "Solomon"

KING

Sunday Read I Kings 1:28-35

"And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save King Solomon." The will of God for Solomon's life was to be the king of Israel. David had other sons, even older than Solomon and seemingly more in line to be his replacement as the king. God, however, is not limited to the ways of man. We are told that in Isaiah 55:9: *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."* David had promised Bathsheba that her son would be his successor. We read that promise in I Kings 1:29-30: *"The king then took an oath: "As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place."* When David died, Solomon became the king.

HIS WISH

Monday Read I Kings 3:7-10

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" We read that God was pleased with Solomon's prayer for wisdom as opposed with request for material wealth and possessions. The primary desire of Solomon's heart was to be a fair and just ruler of the people. Solomon was not looking for personal gain. Obviously, God's primary interest is in our interpersonal relationships with other people. He has promised to meet our needs. We read of that assurance in Philippians 4:19: *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* Our prayers should focus on our relationships with others. That would be our efforts to edify the saints and evangelize the lost. That is the instruction in Ephesians 4:12 and James 5:20: *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ... Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."*

WISDOM

Tuesday Read I Kings 4:29-30

"And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt." God gives a positive response to those prayers that are consistent with His plans. If God were to deny any of our requests, we can be sure that is was a wise decision by God. Our loving Father in heaven is always looking out for our best interests! We sometimes pray for things that are of no eternal value and perhaps would be detrimental to our spiritual well being. God should and will deny us those things. Solomon's request was for the best interests of those people on whom he was

called to serve, and God provided him the wisdom to serve them well in a way consistent with the will of God! All of us need wisdom in our walk in life. We can be assured that God will provide what we need to do His will.

WRITINGS

Wednesday Read Proverbs 1:1-2

"The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding." God has included some of Solomon's writings in His Holy Word so we can be the beneficiaries of His God-given wisdom with which he had ruled in Israel in the days of old. The book of Proverbs is actually a great handbook for us to follow in our pilgrim journey on planet earth. There is no better practical advice for decision-making. With the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit to help us apply the writings of Solomon, our quality of life is greatly enhanced. They are the epitome of the truth of II Timothy 3:16-17: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

EDUCATION

Thursday Read Proverbs 1:7-8

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." True knowledge begins with a knowledge of God and His doings. It is the only way to know how things began and why they exist. Only God can reveal that accurately because it is by Him that all things came into being. Man can speculate and indeed has; but we know that man was not around when the world came into being. As a result the speculation of man is at best only a guess and subject to error. What Solomon is telling us in the Bible reading is that those who place man's conjecture above God's truth are fools. The psalmist is quite blunt in making that declaration in Psalm 14:1: *"The fool hath said in his heart, [There is] no God"*

FRIENDSHIPS

Friday Read Proverbs 13:20-21

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." One of the key decisions a Christian young person makes is in the choosing of friends. The best choice is to have Christian friends who have like interests and will not be prone to be attracted by the devil to the things of the world. The best way to have Christian friends is to be a loyal attender at a church which preaches and teaches the truth of Holy Scriptures, the Word of God. To make friends with people who are trying to honor their savior and live for the glory of God is a wise choice, Not to do so will leave a person wide open to the temptations of the devil to embark on a worldly lifestyle. It has probably been well said that a person's life is determined by the friends he chooses.

TREASURE

Saturday Read Proverbs 15:16-19

"Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith." Jesus is teaching about real wealth, and it is not material wealth. The truth is that the love of money is the root of all evil according to what we read in I Timothy 6:10: *"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* The abundant life is not determined by material abundance. Jesus clarified the abundant life in Luke 12:15: *"And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."* Jesus said this in John 10:10: *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I*

am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” Real wealth is spiritual wealth, and that comes only by faith in Christ as Savior. The decision to receive Christ as personal Savior gives a person spiritual life, and the opportunity to lay up treasures in heaven as pointed out in Matthew 6:20. "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”