

## THE HYSSOP THAT SPRINGETH OUT OF THE WALL

### 1 KINGS 3:6 – 4:34

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~ Contemporary world leaders confidently proclaim they have the answer to our myriad assortment of problematic social issues, such as race, hate, environmental disasters, diseases, wars, economic inequalities, community unrest and other catastrophes. They boldly profess science and education are the answers to the problems on planet earth. However, if education were the answer, we wouldn't have any problems. University churns out doctorate program graduates by the auditorium full every day. Each new scientific discovery we make compounds the unmanageable complexities we have already tasked ourselves with. Let's be reasonable: overall, man is becoming sicklier, more obese or malnourished – sometimes simultaneously; man is becoming more debauched by greed, fraud, crime and hate; man's attention span is shrinking by the moment; illiteracy is at epidemic proportions; it is increasingly becoming more difficult to feed the planet; we have turned space into a technological junkyard that isn't safe to travel through; radioactive waste in our landfills is beyond control. The sea contains more metric tons of plastic than fish. That list continues ad infinitude. Science and education are not the answers, friends.

Reasonable, thinking people know most of the problems in this world do not have a realistic, practical or scientific solution. This leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God will examine what the Lord has to say about these types of issues in relation to man's ability to govern himself righteously. If you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and have read this section of Scripture in your own Bible before you read this report, it will be much more meaningful to you.

In our previous report, King Solomon assumed the throne of Israel in succession to his father, King David; and the first thing Solomon did was marry the daughter of Pharaoh. This was a huge mistake that will ultimately lead to his undoing. We know Solomon was brought up in the women's court of the palace; so, I doubt he had the life experiences his father had. I also highly doubt Solomon had the spiritual capacity for God that David

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had. We just do not see David's level of longing for the Lord and for the things of God in the life of Solomon.

To be fair, Solomon did recognize his inferiority and, as a result, he went to God and asked for wisdom. It's too bad he didn't do that *FIRST* – before marrying Pharaoh's daughter – because everything would have been much different during his reign if he had. Remember, the Lord told Solomon to ask for whatever he desired, and God would have given it to him. Solomon requested wisdom; which was honorable but, even so, God knew Solomon had many deficiencies and was wholly inadequate for the assignment of kingship over His chosen people, the children of Israel.

Now, let's not be too hard on Solomon yet because, honestly, who *IS* adequate for these things? Which one of us is adequate to live a so-called Christian life? Well, did you know it is *IMPOSSIBLE* to live a "Christian life?" Furthermore, God never asks us to live a Christian life. See, the Lord Jesus Christ wants to live His life *THROUGH* us! It makes all the difference in the world. Solomon could have asked for whatever he desired. As the account unfolds, we'll discover Solomon only wanted wisdom in politics. He wasn't asking for spiritual wisdom, judgment and discernment.

God is not trying to clone David, but He is filling the throne of David; which was no easy task. Two of the books Solomon wrote – Ecclesiastes and Proverbs – are inspired writings that will guide both lost and saved in this secular, present, evil world – and are fine books of human wisdom on the highest order. To be completely fair, the Song of Solomon does reveal what I consider an accidental spiritual discernment. However, Solomon desires only the ability to be an accepted statesman and be given the ability to rule over the people and make wise national decisions – not to be God's man. That was mistake number two in Solomon's life....

### III

***6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept***

***for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.***

***7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.***

***8 And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.***

***9 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?***

~ Unfortunately, there are multitudes today who are attempting to serve the Lord, but they do not – or will not – recognize their complete and total inadequacy to do so. Friends, I do not care who you are – what you are – where you are – how you are; and I don't care what "talents" you think you have in this world – you are wholly incompetent and inadequate to serve the True and Living God in any capacity. I recognize it in my own life; there's no sense overstating the obvious. If you don't recognize it in *YOUR* life, you are heading for disaster in your walk with God, my beloved. I only wish I could stress this more emphatically. Only when we come to this self-realization will we find ourselves in a position where God can use us. As long as we depend on one ounce – one gram – of our own strength in our Christian service, we are going to be a total failure for the Lord. And if we don't get that confessed and straightened out in our daily lives through prayer, we'll ultimately become disillusioned and discontented with God....

***10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.***

***11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;***

~ Alright, it is admirable to desire to make wise decisions, of course. However, the clamoring for position of authority and the lustful desire to be elected to public office is something that, very candidly, is a sickening scene; and it is the status quo in contemporary government. All of these men tell me how great they are, how smart they are, and what marvelous abilities and insight they have, but I'm not impressed. Anyone with any semblance of intelligence has come to the conclusion our politicians are just kidding themselves. They don't have any wisdom and *NO* solutions to our problems. If just *ONE* would come on the scene and admit they don't know what to do – but that they are going to depend on God for leading and guiding – then I would support them. We don't hear anything close to that today and, naturally, it would be so startling that world government would be shaken to its core. Well, that's what Solomon asked for and God commends him for it - and God promises to bless him for asking this....

***12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.***

***13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.***

***14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.***

~ We previously considered the standard for the kings of Israel is the human standard of their father David; and that standard isn't very high. Even so, very few of the kings of Israel and Judah ever rose to even this low plane. In fact, *NONE* of the kings in the northern kingdom of Israel were good kings. Only eight of the twenty kings in the southern kingdom of Judah were good kings – less than half – they are: Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Azariah, Jotham, Hezekiah and Josiah! Each of the thirty-one other kings of Israel in Scripture were very, very bad king. See chart below:

**CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE KINGS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM**

JUDAH				ISRAEL				
King	Reign	Character	Prophet	King	Reign	Character	Prophet	
1. Rehoboam	931-913 BC	(17 yrs.) Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910 BC	(22 yrs.) Bad	Ahijah	
2. Abijam	913-911	(3 yrs.) Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	(2 yrs.) Bad		
3. Asa	911-870	(41 yrs.) Good		3. Baasha	909-886	(24 yrs.) Bad		
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	(25 yrs.) Good	Obadiah	4. Elah	886-885	(2 yrs.) Bad	Elijah Micaiah	
5. Jehoram	848-841*	(8 yrs.) Bad		5. Zimri	885	(7 days) Bad		
6. Ahaziah	841	(1 yr.) Bad		6. Omri	885-874	(12 yrs.) Bad		
7. Athaliah	841-835	(6 yrs.) Bad		7. Ahab	874-853	(22 yrs.) Bad		
8. Joash	835-796	(40 yrs.) Good		8. Ahaziah	853-852	(2 yrs.) Bad		
9. Amaziah	796-767	(29 yrs.) Good		9. Joram	852-841	(12 yrs.) Bad		Elisha
10. Azariah (or Uzziah)	767-740*	(52 yrs.) Good		10. Jehu	841-814	(28 yrs.) Bad		
			11. Jehoahaz	814-798	(17 yrs.) Bad			
			Isaiah	12. Jehoash	798-782*	(16 yrs.) Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea	
11. Jotham	740-732*	(16 yrs.) Good		13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	(41 yrs.) Bad		
12. Ahaz	732-716*	(16 yrs.) Bad		14. Zechariah	753-752	(6 mo.) Bad		
13. Hezekiah	716-687*	(29 yrs.) Good		15. Shallum	752	(1 mo.) Bad		
14. Manasseh	687-642*	(55 yrs.) Bad		16. Menahem	752-742*	(10 yrs.) Bad		
15. Amon	642-640	(2 yrs.) Bad		17. Pekahiah	742-740	(2 yrs.) Bad		
16. Josiah	640-608	(31 yrs.) Good		18. Pekah	740-732*	(20 yrs.) Bad		
17. Jehoahaz	608	(3 mo.) Bad		19. Hoshea	732-722	(9 yrs.) Bad		
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	(11 yrs.) Bad						
19. Jehoiachin	597	(3 mo.) Bad						
20. Zedekiah	597-586	(11 yrs.) Bad						

*(Destruction of Jerusalem and captivity of Judah)*

\*Co-regency

*(Capture of Samaria and captivity of Israel)*

**15 And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.**

~ We also considered in the Book of Leviticus how each of the five offerings speak to varying aspects of the Lord Jesus Christ as our offering for sin. We only have two of those listed in this passage. The *Burnt Offering* speaks of Who Christ is. The *Peace Offering* speaks to the fact that Christ made peace for us with the Father by His Blood shed on the cross. Only because of Who the Lord Jesus Christ is are we able to enter into a right relationship with God the Father. These sacrifices are the *ONLY* way the guilt of our sins will ever be removed. Friends, I realize this book is a little dry and boring, but this is fundamental and critical to understanding the Word of God properly, correctly and completely....

**16 Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.**

**17 And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.**

**18 And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.**

**19 And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.**

**20 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.**

**21 And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.**

**22 And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king.**

**23 Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.**

**24 And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.**

**25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.**

**26 Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.**

**27 Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.**

~ This is what is typically referred to as the “Wisdom of Solomon;” and it was certainly a clever solution to a very real problem. Our modern-day legal community constantly refers to this episode of “splitting the baby,” although legalists convolute the meaning. Either way, we must all admit this was an effective way to determine who the mother of the child was; and this is only one example of many such disputes Solomon presided over in the kingdom court during his life.

Well, that type of discernment sustains Solomon and elevates the kingdom to its zenith in chapter four. The hallmarks of Solomon’s rule were peace and prosperity. I think this is extremely interesting because those two things are what *ALL* of us desire to have today. I think it is appropriate to nickname Solomon the *Prince of Peace*. Of course, David had been a man of extreme warfare. What is fascinating – at least, to me – is that the peace Solomon enjoyed was established by David.

Most people hold a misconception of God forgiving because He is sentimental about Jesus. That type of thinking reveals a low plane of understanding and exposes the thinker as not saved unto the place of fruit bearing. See, a battle has been fought, my friend. A tremendous sacrifice has been made for our salvation. Blood has been shed for us in order that we might receive forgiveness of our sins. Peace was *ONLY* made by the Blood of His cross. The Peace Offering speaks of this....

**28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.**

## **IV**

**1 So King Solomon was king over all Israel.**

**2 And these were the princes which he had; Azariah the son of Zadok the priest,**

**3 Elihoreph and Ahiah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder.**

**4 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the host: and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests:**

**5 And Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers: and Zabud the son of Nathan was principal officer, and the king's friend:**

**6 And Ahishar was over the household: and Adoniram the son of Abda was over the tribute.**

**7 And Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, which provided victuals for the king and his household: each man his month in a year made provision.**

~ It would seem this list of officers were sons of the brothers - and sons of the sons - of David. Verse five tells us Azariah was a son of Nathan – but we don't know if that was Nathan the son of David or Nathan the prophet who guided David through the horrible aftermath of the Bathsheba and Uriah affair. At any rate, verse seven tells us twelve officers headed up the taxation of the land; indicating one from each of the twelve tribes. And with that, this is where the book of Kings becomes increasingly boring, disinteresting and highly confusing. Any serious student of Scripture is going to need to pay close attention as we move along in order to consider the Bible in an educated manner....

**8 And these are their names: The son of Hur, in mount Ephraim:**

**9 The son of Dekar, in Makaz, and in Shaalbim, and Bethshemesh, and Elonbethhanan:**

**10 The son of Hessed, in Aruboth; to him pertained Sochoh, and all the land of Hopher:**



**11 The son of Abinadab, in all the region of Dor; which had Taphath the daughter of Solomon to wife:**

**12 Baana the son of Ahilud; to him pertained Taanach and Megiddo, and all Bethshean, which is by Zartanah beneath Jezreel, from Bethshean to Abelmeholah, even unto the place that is beyond Jokneam:**

**13 The son of Geber, in Ramothgilead; to him pertained the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead; to him also pertained the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, threescore great cities with walls and brasen bars:**

**14 Ahinadab the son of Iddo had Mahanaim:**

**15 Ahimaaz was in Naphtali; he also took Basmath the daughter of Solomon to wife:**

**16 Baanah the son of Hushai was in Asher and in Aloth:**

**17 Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar:**

**18 Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin:**

**19 Geber the son of Uri was in the country of Gilead, in the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan; and he was the only officer which was in the land.**

**20 Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry.**

**21 And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.**

**22 And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour, and threescore measures of meal,**

**23 Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts, and roebucks, and fallowdeer, and fattened fowl.**

**24 For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, from Tiphshah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him.**

**25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.**

~ Obviously, this is a wonderful time of peace, plenty, prosperity, security and safety in Israel. Each man was enjoying his own possessions. The term “from Dan to Beersheba” means the *WHOLE* land of Israel. The wars are behind them now. Man does not enjoy those commodities in this world today. Why? – Because there is no peace for the wicked. Only when Christ returns will this world have peace. This section of Scripture is but one adumbration of the peace the earth will enjoy in the millennial kingdom. It’s not today, obviously. Interestingly, that passage segways badly and abruptly into a tragic verse twenty-six....

**26 And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.**

~ The horse is symbolic of war in Scripture; and, if we turn back to Deuteronomy chapter seventeen verse sixteen, we find a specific law God gave that a king was not to multiply horses or wives – well, Solomon did both. In Megiddo, there is a tiny mound overlooking the valley where the Battle of Armageddon will finally settle the last issues of Satan on this earth. We call it a battle in the valley of Esdraelon; but it will actually be an outright war. Anyway, the impressive artifacts there today are the ruins of these forty thousand stalls Solomon multiplied his horses in. It’s a whole lot of stalls. If you visit Israel it is a must see....

**27 And those officers provided victual for King Solomon, and for all that came unto King Solomon's table, every man in his month: they lacked nothing.**

***28 Barley also and straw for the horses and dromedaries brought they unto the place where the officers were, every man according to his charge.***

***29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.***

***30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.***

***31 For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.***

***32 And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.***

***33 And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.***

***34 And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.***

~ So, our safari ends this report punctuating the “Wisdom of Solomon!” Verse thirty-two indexes Solomon’s proverbs; but there are only a few hundred in the canons of Scripture. Out of one thousand five songs, we have only *ONE* in the Bible. It also seems Solomon was quite the dendrologist. I, personally, love plants and plant life. Solomon was an authority in all of these realms. This is, apparently, the dawn of science; and a lot could be said about that but won’t. What is certain is that Solomon gained a worldwide reputation for his wisdom.

The teachings the Word of God records from Solomon are helpful to any person – lost or saved – in all stages of life. There are certain principles it would do us well to teach our children, friends. It would guide them in their

youth and train them to walk with ethics in business and trade. It will also be particularly beneficial in their social life.

Learning these principles doesn't mean they will lead a Godly life; but they sure will have a tremendous advantage – one that just isn't taught in colleges or universities today. Neglecting these principles can and will lead to our physical and mental undoing. Even so, there is a far greater matter of importance *WITHIN* the topic of salvation. What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world but lose his own soul? Well, we're going to go in depth with this subject as we continue our expedition through the entire Word of God in our next report – I hope you'll stay with us....