

Sermon Follow-up | December 15, 2019 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

12 Books of History — Waiting for the King: Solomon to Asaph

Focus Passage: 1 Kings 3:1–15; Matthew 1:6–7

Additional Context: 1 Kings 1:1–3:28

Corollary Scripture: 1 Kings 11:1-9 (Solomon turns from God), 1 Kings 12:16-24 (God's people divide)

Other Passages Referenced: 1 King 3:28; 4:34; 10:8–10; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:5;

Solomon requests “a discerning heart.” This phrase literally means “a listening heart” or “an obedient heart.”¹

Sermon Recap: We all want wisdom. We all want a wise king. A wise king brings peace. Our source of wisdom becomes whatever/whomever we have placed in authority over us. Human track records demonstrate that we are not wise when it comes to selecting our own kings. Whatever we make king in our lives is the source of the wisdom by which we live. Although Solomon received unparalleled wisdom from the LORD, he did not consistently apply that wisdom to his own life. He married foreign women who worshiped other gods and facilitated their idol worship in Israel. Solomon, himself, was unfaithful to the LORD and was drawn into idolatry. We acquire wisdom by reading God's word, by asking God for wisdom, and by surrendering to Jesus as King of our lives. By the end of Solomon's life, he seems to have learned from his errors and returned to the LORD saying, “Fear God and keep His commands, for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecc 12:13). Jesus offers Himself as our wise King who brings peace.

Contextual Notes:

- Matthew 1:7 in the ESV reads, “Abijah, the father of Asaph.” Several other translations read, “Abijah, the father of Asa.” We don't have record of a king in Israel named “Asaph,” but it seems Asaph was possibly a variant form of “Asa.”
- Adonijah was David's fourth son, born to one of David's wives named Haggith (2 Samuel 3:2–5).
- It was briefly mentioned in the sermon, but we don't have clear biblical evidence from an earlier time showing that David had declared Solomon would be his successor as king. Therefore, we don't know for sure if David had said that, or if Nathan and Bathsheba conspired to convince David that was the case. In any event, the LORD saw fit to allow Solomon to reign in place of Adonijah and the LORD blessed Solomon and brought the birth of Jesus through his lineage.

Connect: Making Honest Connections with One Another

- *How did God speak to you through the sermon or your Bible reading this week?*
- *In follow-up to last week, did you welcome another person to speak truth into your life? ... If yes, were you able to listen and receive what they shared?*
- *Are you facing a decision for which you need wisdom?*

¹ Paul R. House, [1, 2 Kings](#), vol. 8, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 110.

Grow: *Listening to and Learning from God's Word* – READ 1 Kings 3:1–28; Matthew 1:6–7 (1 Kings 1:1–27 provides background on Solomon's rival brother Adonijah and how Solomon ended up as king.)

1. What does Solomon express as his motivation for requesting wisdom from the LORD (1 Kings 3:6)?
2. What significance do you find in seeing the first recorded example of Solomon's supernatural wisdom was given to two prostitutes of lowly socio-economic status?
3. Solomon does not have his rival brother, Adonijah, killed for setting himself up as king. In fact, Solomon sends Adonijah to his home in peace (1 Kings 1:53). Why was Adonijah later killed? (1 Kings 2:13–25; see also 2 Sam 16:21–22).*
4. What brought about the divided kingdom in Israel? (Read 1 Kings 11:9–13)

Serve: *Serving King Jesus and Others, By Living Out and Letting Others Know God's Word*

1. The sermon stated, "Our source of wisdom becomes whatever/whomever we have placed in authority over us." Can you identify any substitute kings in your own life?
2. What source of wisdom most directly impacts your thoughts and actions? ... God's word? ... If not, what?
3. When we get to this time of year, we hear a multitude of clichés concerning what Christmas is about: "It's about being with family" ... "It's about giving" ... "It's about helping those less fortunate" None of these make mention of Jesus and even "Jesus is the reason for the season" doesn't get to the core of why His birth was universe-changing. In the incarnation, the infinite God, who created the universe, took on the limitations of a defenseless, dependent human baby because there was no other way to save His creation that had rebelled against Him. The fact that God would pursue His creation with such love is astounding in itself, that He would later die for us takes the awe factor to a completely different level. As we're being reminded in our advent sermon series, the baby Jesus in the manger was the promised Messiah Savior King from the lineage of Abraham through the lineage of King David. He came to deliver and forgive, but even more importantly He came to reestablish His own Kingship and Kingdom. Over the next week or so, you will likely encounter many people who see this season only in terms of family, giving, helping, or being forgiven. Will you help them connect the dots from the E100 and our sermon series to understand that Christmas is about God entering into our broken world that rebelled against His Kingly love and authority so that He might reestablish His rightful rule and restore the brokenness to His original design. Tell them about God's promise to Abraham. Tell them about King David and God's promise to have one of his descendants on the throne forever. Help them see that Jesus is the promised King who deserves both allegiance and worship.

Further Resources

- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

*To have control over the king's herem was essentially to usurp his power. Abishag was King David's concubine, so Adonijah was trying an end around power play.