

**ONCE UPON A THRONE**  
**“Solomon, the Third King: Wise and Worldly”**

As we continue in the sermon series, *Once Upon a Throne*, we have already been exposed to Israel’s desire for a king, then we learned about Saul and David. Solomon, the third king petitions God for wisdom while he rules and God is pleased with Solomon’s request so God give him what he did not ask for, wealth and fame. From humble and God-seeking roots, we find that this king does not know when enough it enough. Throughout this week you are invited to read scriptures sequentially in 1 Kings to better understand the rise and fall of Solomon, “the wise king.” - Pastor Rebecca Goltry Mohr

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: “David, the Second King: Gifted, Godly and Greedy.”

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**Daily Prayer**

O Wisdom on High, by you the meek are guided in judgment,  
and light rises up in darkness for the godly.  
Grant us, in all doubts and uncertainties,  
the grace to ask what you would have us do,  
that we may be saved from all false choices,  
and that in your light we may see light,  
and in your straight path may not stumble;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

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This week’s sermon may be viewed at <https://boxcast.tv/channel/f9yfyjzko2esfwfc5vkn>

**STUDY GUIDE**

**Monday, June 28, 2021 1 Kings 3:1-28**

The son of Bathsheba and David, Solomon sat on the throne of his father, David. Young and not equipped to be a king, he reaches out to God at a sacred site with the expectation that God would meet him there and God does! Solomon is granted a single wish and he asks God for wisdom. Then in a display of this women, we see how Solomon executes justice through the two women and their babies. From humble roots and a lot of great possibility Solomon arises. He becomes known as the wise king, do you think that is because he asked for wisdom or for other things that he did? Do you think Solomon is truly wise? What does wisdom look like to you and what attributes are needed for a person to be wise today?

**Tuesday June 29, 2021 1 Kings 4:1-31**

Solomon has a great and worldly administration. This would have been quite a culture shift from Israelite culture. Solomon lived in an opulent way and sought to expand his kingdom, he did this through trade and the women he took as wives. When Solomon begins to build the temple, it is interesting to think about how different this would have been from Israelite customs. They were used to worshiping out of tents, it was David who made a permanent spot for the ark of the covenant. What clues are you picking up on that Solomon might be straying from his God-given wisdom? Do you think that building is correlated with worship?

**Wednesday, June 30, 2021 1 Kings 8:17-30 Dedication of the Temple**

Sometimes enough is enough! Solomon chose not to expand the borders of his father's empire but decided rather to build and consolidate. Solomon never stopped developing new building projects. His greatest achievement was the temple. This building fixed God to a certain place, no longer could the ark be placed from tent to tent and shared between the various tribes. Solomon fixed the ark closest to him at the expense of those who were needy, Israelites who were enslaved and supervised by Baal worshiping Phoenicians. Solomon, in his dedication prayer was sure to contain all the appropriate words of thanksgiving and gratefulness for this great that that God has done yet who was this building designed and purposed for? When have you experienced God limited to one place? How have churches or houses of worship constrained God? When has the church turned its back on those on the margins?

**Thursday, July 1, 2021 1 Kings 10:1-29 The Queen of Sheba and Solomon's Wealth**

Again, Solomon is building relationships not with his own people but with those around the world who have status and wealth. The Queen of Sheba is impressed with Solomon's wisdom, so impressed that she gifts him with gold, spices and precious stones. Solomon's wisdom that is rewarded with wealth is what we would today call prosperity theology of prosperity gospel. This breaks down when people are devoted God-followers and are left poor and in the margins. We worship a God that cares for all of us, and the wealthy are not given wealth because of their relationship with God, that is a myth. The wealthy prosper because of who they know and taking advantage of those without power and wealth. When have you experienced God's goodness and blessing in your life? How can you use what blessing you have in your life to share with others? Do you think Solomon was a good ruler? Did he have the Israelites desires first in his heart?

**Friday, July 2, 2021 1 Kings 11: 1-13 Solomon Meets with God a Third Time**

Solomon married MANY foreign women to secure his place as a global leader. God had warned Solomon from intermarrying and God had become saddened by Solomon's worship of other gods and idolatry. Finally, God calls out Solomon. Now, God says he will no tear the empire from Solomon's hands but his son's hands and God will divide the kingdom. All that Solomon had done to strengthen and establish great power in Israel, the kingdom united will soon be torn apart because of Solomon's negligence. Do you think God should have intervened sooner? Can divisions be a good thing? How do you imagine Solomon felt after God reprimanded him?