

# Solomon Prays for Wisdom and Understanding, Part 2

## I Kings 3:1-28

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had prayed in this humble and earnest fashion. God heard Solomon's prayer and said to him, "Because you have asked this thing, and have not ask for long life for yourself, or asked for riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for understanding to discern between good and bad, behold, I will do according to your words: lo, I will give you a wise and understanding heart, so that there will have been none like you and there shall arise none like you after you.

Very soon King Solomon had a very special opportunity to make use of the wisdom and understanding God had promised him. Two women came before the king, each the mother of a newborn baby, and asked the king to judge their case.

One of the women told this story. She said, "This woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child when she was living there. Three days later this woman also bore a child, and we were alone in the house. And this woman's child died in the night, because she lay on it. And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me while I was asleep, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I arose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, it was dead; but when I examined it closely in the morning, behold, it was not my son that I had borne."

But the other woman told a different story. She said to the first woman, "No, the living child is my son and the dead child is your son."

Then the king said to the disputing women, "one of you says, 'This is my son that lives and your son is dead'; and the other says, 'No; but your son is dead, and my son is the one that is alive.'" And the king said to one of his servants, "Bring me a sword." And a sword was brought before the king. And Solomon said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the other."

But the deceitful woman whose child was dead said, "Let it be neither mine nor yours; divide it."

Then wise King Solomon answered and said, "Give the living child to the first woman and in no way harm it; she is the child's mother."

### Bible Verse to Learn

"Behold, I have done according to thy words." (I Kings 3:12).