

Solomon, Foolish Wise King

I. Announce:

A. Slide1 - JM6

B. Prayer: *Lord, **may** we be christians that train, equip, & disciple. **May** we be single-minded, tough-skinned, & unencumbered soldier. **May** we be a winning athletes, that play by the rules & are pursuing a wreath that won't perish. **May** we be a hard working, diligent farmers...who will 1 day enjoy our fruit.*

II. Slide2 Intro: Solomon, Foolish Wise King

A. Ch's 3-11 will start to focus in on Solomon's **building projects**.

B. What do you put at the **very tip top** of the list, of a request of God? Ask.

1. Moses said, **to know You and find grace your site**. Ex.33:13. Or, Paul said, **that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings**. Phil.3:10

III. Slide3 FOOLISH WISE KING (1-15) Asking for Wisdom

A. (1) In the ancient Near East, the practice of **marrying the daughters of neighboring rulers** served as **a peace treaty**.

1. While Solomon's reign represented a period of peace, foreign marriage alliances eventually caused the kingdom to **crumble from within**.
2. This is the only historical record of the pharaoh of Egypt alone his daughter to marry foreigner and then go to live in husbands home country.
 - a) Slide4 This is most probably **Siamun** 978-959bc [6th Pharaoh of Egypt]. This note then is testimony to the **worldwide power and influence of Israel** in the days of Solomon, **as well as to the relative weakness of Egypt** during this time.

B. (3-5) During the period of the Judges, the Israelites adopted the **Canaanite** custom of offering sacrifices at...high places.

1. These were on hilltops and other elevations. The **pagan Canaanites** felt that the closer they got to heaven the more likely was the possibility that their prayers and offerings would reach their gods.

2. Offering sacrifices at places other than the tabernacle was **prohibited** in the Law (Lev. 17:3–4). **Nevertheless** this practice was commonly observed in Israel at this time, even by **Solomon**.
- C. **Slide5** **Great high place** meaning the most popular or largest. (*gadol bamah*, Canaanite origin)
1. **Eg.** In Istanbul, we visited the famous **Hagia Sophia** (Gk Ortho, Mosque, Museum)
 2. **Gibeon** was about 5 miles north of Jerusalem in the territory of Benjamin.
 3. **What I see is God showing up in Pagan-ville. (5 at Gibeon...)**
 - a) I hear some Christians say, *that place was so spiritually dark*, it just felt creepy. **Now**, I've been in places where I've felt darkness. And maybe I just don't have the spiritual discernment as some, **but** I guess what I look for now is for just *a little ray of light seeping through the darkness, in places like that. (or bringing a lil light to it)*
 - b) Here God showed up in *a dark place. A prohibited place. A forbidden place.* verboden
 - c) **God doesn't seem scared to going into these "dark" places.** Actually if I understand Him correctly, Jesus was sent from **heavens light** into **earths darkness**.
 - (1) **Is.9:1b,2 In Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.**
 - (2) **Eg.** North of Davao (Pat & Sh). LTL. Rohingyas.
- D. **Slide6** There are times *I think I get God figured out...and then...* (mind blown).
- E. **I understand** receiving *brownie points* for doing good. **I understand** if I am good and the result is God blesses me for it. **But** I still don't fully understand Him being *faithful...* even when I'm not.
1. I also know, I can't *do wrong* then expect God to react with blessings toward me. *Shall I sin that grace might abound...no.*
- F. **Slide7,8** **Read 2 Tim.2:11-13 - If we are faithless, He remains faithful.**
1. Christ's faithfulness to Christians is **not** contingent on their faithfulness to Him.
- G. Possibly an early Christian Hymn, or confession of faith, or a Creed of the day.
1. It emphasizes the believer's oneness with Christ.
- H. **Note the 4 conditional statements: If...each statement is an *action* of the believer.**
1. His main point...**the faithfulness of God.**

2. In the 4th Stanza - *Faithfulness*. The final stanza comes as a surprise a magnificent reversal.
- I. *He remains faithful* - We are often unfaithful...God is never unfaithful.
 1. We can always trust **God** to act according to His character & promises.
 2. *What a promise to end on*. Especially to those of us saints, like Peter, who fall into *unfaithfulness* at times.
 - a) Samuel Rutherford, who spent years in Aberdeen prison, wrote, *Often & often, I have in my folly torn up my copy of God's covenant with me; but, blessed be His name, He keeps it in heaven safe; & he stands by it always.*
 - J. *He cannot deny/disown Himself* – No man is *always* himself, but God is **always** Himself.
 - K. (5) *Ask! which I gave you?* - the only limitations are those imposed by our faith or are capacity to receive. *Happy are we if we seek not our own, but Christ's! Seek Ist the kingdom of God...*
 - L. (7b) Inexperience & humility.
 - M. (9) *Understanding heart* - literally means *hearing heart*. *Shomea* means *hearing* or sometimes *observant*. [what a great prayer for us]
 - N. Slide9 (15) *He came to Jerusalem* - This is in *contrast* to the great high place at Gibeon, where Solomon had the dream and offered sacrifices.
 1. Solomon's newfound wisdom affected his decision regarding **where** to worship.
 2. 2 Chron.1:5 adds that Solomon offered these sacrifices on the **bronze altar** that *Bezalel* built in the desert **and** David installed before the ark of the cov.
 3. *As is often the case, a blessing from God drew the person blessed into a closer relationship with Himself*. Inspired by this revelation Solomon turned from the high place **and** proceeded to *the divinely appointed place of worship*, the tabernacle.

IV. Slide10 **JUSTICE MATTERS (16-28)** *Showing Wisdom*

- A. (16) The social position of these women (very low in social standing) demonstrates that Solomon believed **justice** and **sound judgment** should be applied to **all cases** **and** made available to **all subjects**, **regardless** of **gender** or **social status**.

1. Solomon was concerned with these 2 women **because God** was concerned about them.
 2. **Strikes against them societally:** 2 women. **Forced into Harlotry by trade** (it's my opinion, on good sources, that **no** lil girl dreams of growing up to be raped, beaten & abused by men, multiple x's a night, every night). **Have to live together to afford rent. Plus, both pregnant now, so less money in household.**
- B. **And stood before him** - by making himself available to the public, Solomon addresses the criticism Absalom raised against David when he accused him of not holding proper hearings. *Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy/listerner of the king to hear you.* 2 Sam.15:3
- C. (17-21) **The Tragic Story of a co-sleeping death.**
1. Between 1990 and 1997, **515 infants** died while sleeping in adult beds, according to the **Consumer Product Safety Commission**. [or 64 a year]
 - a) **121** of which were specifically *Co-sleeping deaths* (rolling on top of or against a baby while sleeping).
- D. **Slide11** (23) Solomon's recap **& most likely** quick prayer for wisdom.
- E. (26) **For she yearned with compassion for her son** - 1 way this is translated is...*her womb grew warm over her son.*
1. I like that the bible portrays, this poor women, caught up in harlotry, and terrible life circumstances, unleashes a **true parents motherly instinct.**
- F. (28) **The wisdom of God was in him** - God's promise to grant Solomon wisdom is fulfilled right before the eyes of his subjects.
- G. **God has answerers for todays moms also.** God has wisdom to spare for parenting today.
- H. **Daises** - Ladies please pick up a **Daisy** on the way out if you didn't receive one.
1. **He loves you...**and He **never loves you not.**