

## 1 Kings 3 shape and keywords

Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt; he took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David, until he had finished building his own **house** and the **house** of **YHWH** and the wall around Jerusalem. The people were sacrificing at the high places, however, because no **house** had yet been built for the name of **YHWH**.

Solomon loved **YHWH**, **walking** in the **statutes** of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. **The king** went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand **burnt offerings** on that altar. At Gibeon **YHWH** appeared to Solomon in **a dream** by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you."

**And Solomon said**, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your slave my father David, because he walked before your **face** in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great steadfast love, and have given him a **son** to sit on his throne today. And now, O **YHWH** my God, you have made your slave king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your slave is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your slave therefore **a listening heart** to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

**God said to him**, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, Behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you **a wise and discerning heart**; no one like you has been before your **face** and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and glory all your life; no other king shall compare with you.

If you will **walk** in my ways, keeping my **statutes** and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life." Then Solomon awoke; Behold, **a dream**! He came to Jerusalem where he stood before the **face** of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. He offered up **burnt offerings** and offerings of well-being and provided a feast for all his slaves.

Later, two women who were prostitutes came to **the king** and stood before his **face**. The one woman said, "Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same **house**; and I **gave birth** while she was in the **house**. Then on the third day after I **gave birth**, this woman also **gave birth**. We were together; there was no one else with us in the **house**, only the two of us were in the **house**. Then this woman's **son died** in the night, because she lay on him. She got up in the middle of the night and took my **son** from beside me while your slave slept. She laid him at her breast and laid her **dead son** at my breast. When I rose in the morning to nurse my **son**, Behold, he was **dead**! But when I looked at him closely in the morning and behold! it was not the **son I had borne**." But the other woman said, "No, the **living son** is mine, and the **dead son** is yours." The first said, "No, the **dead son** is yours, and the **living son** is mine." So they spoke before **the king's face**.

Then **the king** said, "The one says, 'This is my **son** that is alive, and your **son is dead**'; while the other says, 'Not so! Your **son is dead**, and my **son is the living one**.'" So **the king** said, "Bring me a sword," and they brought a sword before **the king's face**. **The king** said, "Cut the **living** boy in two; then give half to the one, and half to the other." But the woman whose **son was alive** said to **the king**--because compassion for her **son** burned within her--" Please, my lord, give her the **living** boy; certainly do not cut him!" The other said, "It shall be neither mine nor yours; cut it." Then **the king** responded: "Give the first woman the **living** boy; do not cause him **to die, yes die**. She is his mother." All Israel heard of the judgment that **the king** had rendered; and they stood in fear of **the king's face**, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to execute justice.