

## The parable of the two whores and two sons

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

Then **the king** said, "The one says, 'This is my **son/monarchy** that is alive, and your **son/monarchy** is **dead!**'; while the other says, 'Not so! Your **son/monarchy** is **dead**, and my **son/monarchy** 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 monarchy in two; then give half to the one, and half to the other.**" But the **nation, Judah**, whose **son David/Solomon was alive** said to **the king**--because compassion for her **son, David/Solomon** burned within her--" Please, my lord, give her the **living** monarchy; certainly do not cut it!" The **other nation, Israel** said, "It shall be neither mine nor yours; cut it." Then **the king** responded: "**Give Judah the living** monarchy; 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.