

# A SERIOUS AND DEDICATED KING



- Solomon is visited by God in a dream/vision
- **King Shlomo** about 20 years old
- He wondered how he would consolidate all his father had conquered
- Youthful leadership is full of idealism and enthusiasm



# PETITION FOR WHAT PURPOSE?



- Solomon's response expresses a singleness of spiritual desire
- David had little interest in administering justice
- How would we each answer God's question to Solomon?
- We ought to ask for the gift that is appropriate to our divine assignment
- The Prosperity Doctrine represents one of the **WRONG** answers!

# NO ONE CAN BE SLAVE TO 2 MASTERS



- **BECAUSE *Shlomo*** asked with the right motives, God added riches and long life to the wisdom he sought
- The OT gives us the pattern for understanding the meaning behind Jesus' statements of Matt.6:24 – 33
- This is a question to Believers; it is NOT a call to become a Believer



# WALKING IN GOD'S WAYS MEANS OBEDIENCE TO HIS TORAH

- God gives Solomon a big IF
- IF you “walk in my ways” THEN I will give you long life
- Solomon awakens, returns to Yerushalayim, and makes more sacrifices there
- “Throughout your life”
- Septuagint (LXX) left this out for some reason
- Therefore the Bible actually says that Solomon’s riches and wisdom are greatest ONLY during his lifetime as the King of Israel



# A STORY MEANT TO PROVE THAT SOLOMON RECEIVED GOD'S WISDOM

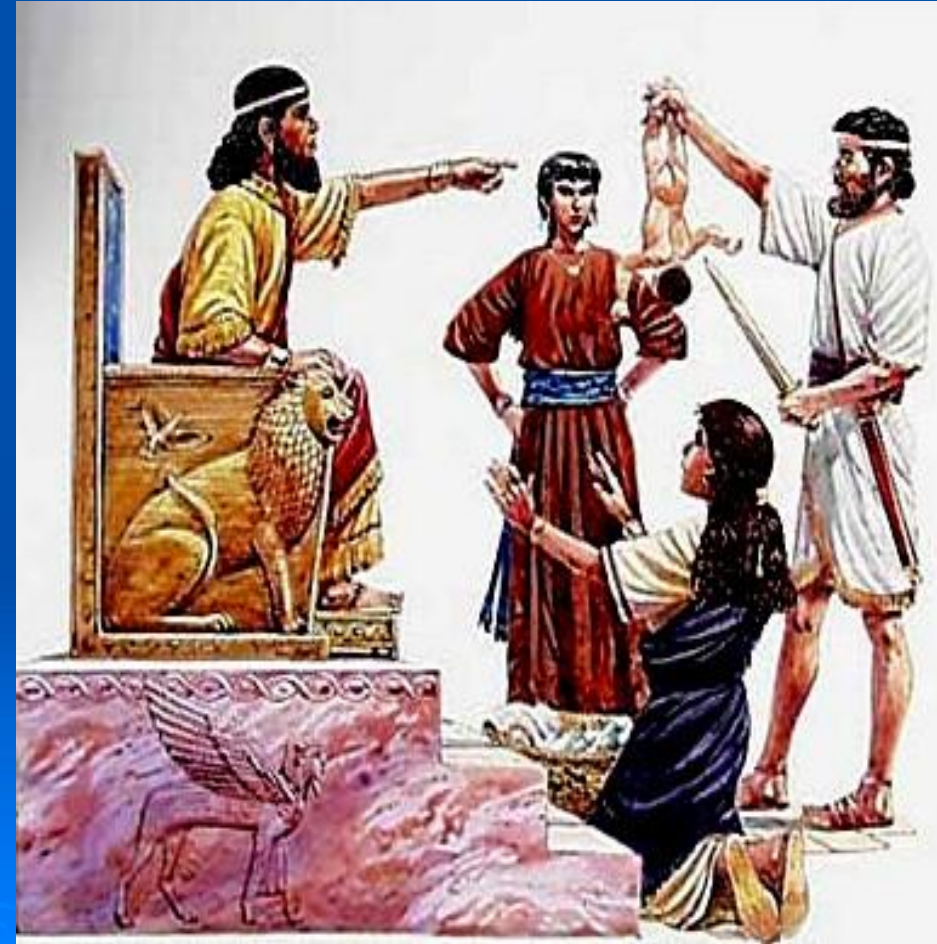
- This is the story of two prostitutes
- **Zonah** = prostitute
- **Ishah** = woman
- One woman rolled over on her infant and suffocated it
- She switched her dead baby with the live baby of the other woman
- Both claimed the live infant as hers!





# THE PROBLEM OF NO WITNESSES

- Solomon orders the baby to be divided with a sword, each woman getting half
- The bitter woman says that it is fair that NEITHER woman winds up with a live child
- The other woman loves the child so much, she's willing to give up her claim
- Case solved
- Solomon gives the baby to the woman who only wanted it to live





# 1<sup>st</sup> KINGS CHAPTER 4: SOLOMON'S ROYAL COURT



- Similar to the listing of David's royal court in 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 8
- *Shlomo* king over kol Yisra'el
- *Kol Yisra'el* = all Israel
- David ruled over all 12 tribes only in an on-again, off-again way
- But at the end of David's reign, Solomon inherited a stable political environment



# THE FIRST LIST

- 'Azaryah is the son of Tzadok the High Priest
- **Cohen** = priest, but rarely it can also mean principle officer or chief council
- 'Azaryah was Shlomo's Prime Minister
- First on David's list (and 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of Israel) was a military commander, Joab
- First on Solomon's list (and 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of Israel) was a civilian politician, 'Azaryah
- Shlomo's name means "peace"
- David's was a military government



# WHAT WAS A SCRIBE?

- 3 words used in the Bible are translated to Scribe
- *Caphor* = Hebrew word
- *Capher* = Aramaic word
- *Sophar* = uncertain origin
- The office changed and evolved over the centuries
- During Solomon's era literacy was a rare skill even in the royal court
- Had to be very loyal, so often the king couldn't read or write





# SCRIBES HIGHER UP ON THE SOCIAL LADDER



- Often the children of government officials
- Often high officials in the royal court were called Scribes because the title set them apart as literate
- Later as literacy spread, they were somewhat reduced in power to royal historians and recorders
- By Yeshua's day they were teachers or interpreters



# FORCED LABORERS



- Surprising to find *Evyatar's* name on the listing
- This Natan is NOT David's prophet
- Names tended to go in cycles just as they do in modern times
- *Adoniram* was in charge of the tribute
- *Mac* = tribute, meaning forced labor