

1 Kings 3:28 (NLT2)

When all Israel heard the king's decision, the people were in awe of the king, for they saw the wisdom God had given him for rendering justice.

Today's verse is referring to king Solomon. And we know king Solomon as the wisest man to walk the earth (next to Jesus). And today's verse is after God had given Solomon wisdom, which you can read about earlier in 1 Kings chapter 3. And if you remember the story, after God had given Solomon this wisdom, an issue came up in regard to a baby and two women, asking Solomon to determine who the real mother was. And we read of Solomon saying to cut the baby in half and give half to each woman. But the real mom said, "No, don't kill the baby", but the other woman agreed and thought that they should split the child in half. With that it was revealed who the real mother was, and today's verse is the response of Israel after they heard about this.

† ***When all Israel heard the king's decision, the people were in awe of the king, for they saw the wisdom God had given him for rendering justice.***

So, we know Solomon as having wisdom, but we tend to forget why God gave him this wisdom. You may say because he asked for it, which is true. But beyond that, what was the purpose of the wisdom God gave Solomon? The answer once again is in today's verse where it says, "***the wisdom God had given him for rendering justice.***" And if you go back and read the conversation between God and Solomon, we read the same thing.

† **1 Kings 3:11-12 (NLT2)** *So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have!"*

Solomon asked for wisdom to govern and lead the children of Israel, which is a really good thing. But we also know that king Solomon fell and had started worshipping false gods, along with supporting others in their worship of false gods. And the reason king Solomon fell was because he took God's gift of wisdom and used it for his own personal gain, to the point that it became more about him and his wants and less about Israel and their needs, which was the need to worship one GOD, and Him alone.

Solomon did so by have a bunch of stuff, including over 700 wives along with over 300 concubines, "***And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.***" 1 Kings 11:3

An abundance of horses and chariots, "***Solomon had 4,000 stalls for his chariot horses, and he had 12,000 horses.***" 1 Kings 4:26 (NLT2) (just think a bunch of exotic cars, boats, trucks etc.) Simply king Solomon took God's blessing and turned them into an idol and allowed the blessings to be more important than God who gave him the blessings.

Yet God blesses us, and when He does, we take them and use them for the Glory of His Name (GOD). But we have to be careful, because we can take these same blessings and start to use them for our own glory and for our own benefit. Case in point. I am a musician, and I have written and recorded many Christians worship songs. And I do so, not for any money, because 100% of any money made goes back to God. Not for any glory or so that people could say how great I am, but rather to point them to God and Jesus and Glorify His Name. But I could easily take God's gift of song writing and being a musician and start to use it to gain my own following of people and so people could say how great I am. I pray I would never, ever in a billion, trillion years for all eternity ever do such a thing. But it shows you how simply we can take God's blessing and start to use them for our own gain and to be seen by men.

† **Matthew 23:5** *But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments.*

So, what has God blessed you with? Are you still using it for His glory, or have you allowed His blessings to be your god, and you worship the blessing more than the giver of those blessings, or are you using them to try and bring attention to yourself instead of to God?

† **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT2)** *So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

† **2 Corinthians 1:20** *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

† **Philippians 1:11 (NLT2)** *May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.*

† **1 Peter 4:14** *If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*