

Secrets of Success

International Bible Lesson

1 Kings 3:16-28, 2 Chronicles 9:8

Sunday, July 15, 2012

“Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, to be king for the LORD thy God: because thy God loved Israel, to establish them for ever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do judgment and justice” (2 Chronicles 9:8—KJV).

“Praise the LORD your God! He has shown how pleased he is with you by making you king, to rule in his name. Because he loves his people Israel and wants to preserve them forever, he has made you their king so that you can maintain law and justice” (2 Chronicles 9:8—GNB).

“Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on his throne as king for the LORD your God. Because your God loved Israel and would establish them forever, he has made you king over them, that you may execute justice and righteousness” (2 Chronicles 9:8—NRSV).

From King Solomon’s life, we can learn the secrets of success. God made Solomon a king for Israel’s sake, because He loved Israel and wanted to establish them forever. So, we learn that God often gives someone success for the sake of others, and we can pray for God to show us who He wants us to serve.

King Solomon ruled wisely after he prayed for wisdom to serve God’s people, so we learn that God will answer our prayers for guidance and wisdom to serve God’s people successfully (2 Chronicles 1:7-13). God will bless others and us when we use our education, experience, opportunities, wisdom and strength “for the Lord” in serving others. The queen of Sheba saw King Solomon rule “as king for the LORD.” He accepted the responsibility of making decisions in God’s name, as a person sitting on God’s throne and not the throne of a worldly ruler.

God will honor the leadership of those who execute “justice and righteousness” according to God’s laws. When two mothers claimed the same son as their own, King Solomon wisely tested them and then he executed justice (1 Kings 3:16-28). King Solomon succeeded as long as he promoted the righteousness of God and led by example. A successful person serves others “for the LORD,” prays for God to show them who to serve, trusts God for wisdom, treats others justly, and lives rightly according to the revealed laws of God. — © Copyright 2012 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. What is more important, people’s deeds or their relationship with 1. What might you say to someone who said that prostitution as a profession must be okay, because in the case before King Solomon the Bible does not condemn these women for being prostitutes and King Solomon admitted them into his throne room or court?

2. What might you say to someone who asks questions that you do not know the answer to or questions that the Bible does not appear to answer?

3. Why should rulers or leaders in business, churches, government, and other organizations work to establish both righteousness and justice among the people they rule or lead?

4. Why do you think King Solomon contrived a test with a sword, and threaten to kill the living boy, when he probably knew from observation, from hearing the women speak, and from the Holy Spirit who the real mother was?

5. Why do you think Jesus declared that He was greater than King Solomon?

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