

# King Solomon – a ruler guided by wisdom and justice



## The life of King Solomon

King Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba. After David's death, Solomon became king of Israel and ruled during a period of peace, prosperity, and stability.

The Bible describes Solomon as a ruler who recognised the immense responsibility entrusted to him. He understood that governing a nation required more than power or authority. It required wisdom, sound judgment, and a commitment to justice.

## Solomon's request for wisdom

Shortly after becoming king, Solomon had a dream in which God invited him to ask for whatever he desired.

Rather than requesting wealth, military power, or a long life, Solomon answered:

**"Give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish between good and evil."** (1 Kings 3:9)

God was pleased with Solomon's request because he sought wisdom for the benefit of his people rather than personal gain.

As a result, God blessed him with exceptional wisdom and understanding.

## The judgement of Solomon

The most famous example of Solomon's wisdom concerns two women who appeared before him, both claiming to be the mother of the same child.

Unable to determine the truth through testimony alone, Solomon proposed dividing the child in two and giving half to each woman.

One woman immediately agreed, but the other begged the king to spare the child's life and give him to the other woman.

Solomon recognised that true maternal love would rather surrender a claim than allow harm to come to the child. He therefore identified the real mother and returned the child to her.

This judgement became famous because it demonstrated wisdom, discernment, and a profound understanding of human nature.

### **A ruler committed to justice**

Solomon understood that justice is more than applying laws mechanically.

True justice requires fairness, prudence, and the ability to understand the circumstances of each situation. He sought to govern in a way that protected the people and promoted peace and order throughout the kingdom.

His example reminds us that authority should always be exercised for the good of others and never for personal advantage.

### **Why is King Solomon remembered?**

King Solomon is remembered as one of the wisest rulers in history.

Throughout the centuries, Christians, Jews, and many others have looked to him as an example of prudent leadership and sound judgement.

His life demonstrates that wisdom is one of the greatest gifts a person can possess because it helps us make right decisions, especially when facing difficult choices.

### **What can we learn from King Solomon?**

King Solomon remains an important role model, especially for military personnel and leaders entrusted with responsibility.

His example reminds us that:

- Wisdom begins with humility and the willingness to learn.
- Justice requires fairness, integrity, and sound judgement.
- Leadership is a responsibility rather than a privilege.
- Decisions should be guided by truth and the common good.
- Good leaders seek what is right, not what is easiest.

Military personnel are often required to make decisions under pressure and in complex situations. Technical knowledge and experience are essential, but wisdom is equally important. Wisdom helps leaders assess consequences, weigh competing factors, and choose the right course of action.

**King Solomon teaches that true leadership is founded on wisdom, and that justice can only flourish when decisions are guided by truth, integrity, and concern for others.**

### **Commemoration**

Although King Solomon is not generally celebrated with a universal feast day in the Roman Catholic Church, he is honoured in Christian tradition as a wise ruler whose example continues to inspire those entrusted with leadership, responsibility, and the pursuit of justice.