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Practical Applications from First Kings 3:1 to 4:34



Solomon's promise from **ADONAI** illustrates how important each individual's relationship is to **God**. Certainly, the TaNaKh teaches that **YHVH** has made covenants with **Isra'el** in which Gentiles may participate when they make the Jewish **Messiah Lord** of their lives (see the commentary on **Jeremiah, to see link click Eo – The Days are Coming, declares the LORD, When I Will Make a New Covenant with the People of Isra'el**). But it specifically teaches that **the LORD** also desires communion with individuals. Those who seek **God's** presence and help can indeed receive the wisdom they need to do **God's** will and serve **God's** people.

The fact that several promises are fulfilled in First Kings 3:1 to **4:34** demonstrates the importance of hope in human life. **Abraham**, **Moshe**, and **David** could die in peace because they trusted in the hope of **God's** promises (see the commentary on **Hebrews CI – The Hall of Faith**). They learned to live as if promise and possession were the same. **Solomon**, on the other hand, enjoyed daily hope as **he** lived out the wisdom **ADONAI** gave **him**. **He** could also know that **God's** ongoing blessings would benefit **his** kingdom. Likewise, Scripture offers past, present, and future promises to believers that fit their individual circumstances.

Obviously, leadership is a major issue in the former prophets. The beginning of

Solomon's career (see **Bk – Solomon's Prayer**) stands as a basically positive model for leaders who desire to honor **God** as their source of their ability to lead and who want to help others through their gift of leadership. Prayer and worship appear here as essential components of political, economic, and administrative ability, not as barriers to success in these areas. Still, the Bible's previous warnings about leadership's potential excesses warn against thinking that prayer is some magic charm that wards off rebellious or sinful behavior. Faithfulness and righteousness alone please **YHVH**, and only **He** decides whether these traits will necessarily bring material wealth or personal recognition.[108]