

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

April 2

### MONDAY

The wisdom God poured into Solomon made him the wisest man alive: wiser than the “wisemen” from the east, or from Egypt; and wiser than the sons of Mahol, all three, apparently, well-known, in their day, for their wisdom.

**READ: I Kings 4:29-31**

Back in chapter 3, verse 12, God promised to make Solomon the wisest man who ever lived. Here is the fulfillment of that promise. God always keeps his promises and every time we come across that theme in a Bible story, we do well to notice it, and re-enforce that truth in our own minds, that God will keep every promise He makes to you and me, (thru the Bible) as well.

### TUESDAY

Solomon’s wisdom included botany and biology (that is, plant and animal life). People traveled to Jerusalem to meet Solomon and hear his wisdom.

**READ: I Kings 4:32-34**

What we read here is that God uniquely equipped Solomon to be the king of Israel. He gave to him wisdom that was widely admired by Jew and foreigner alike. All believers are equipped in a similar fashion, for God equips us to do every good work, we read, to be useful to Him. And when we live out our lives in a manner which is useful to the Master - dependent upon the Lord and using the abilities He has given us - it will be noticed. How could it not be? The life of a child of God reflects the nature of his Father.

### WEDNESDAY

Hiram, the king of Tyre to the north, contacted Solomon early in his reign, when he first heard about David’s death, for he had been a friend of David’s. Solomon explained to him why David had never built a Temple.

**READ: I Kings 5:1-3**

Don’t you love Solomon’s explanation? It centers around the Lord from beginning to end. Solomon looked at life that way, and explained it that way. Oh that we would look at the events of our lives from God’s perspective and then speak of them that way, as well. “God has brought it to pass that my branch is closing and I will soon be unemployed. He has lessons to teach me, I’m sure. He has something else for me, I know. I trust Him.” Solomon reminds us that we must see our lives this way.

### THURSDAY

Solomon tells Hiram that because there is peace in the land now, he plans to build the Temple. He asks Hiram to provide him with cedar trees for the project, and

he promises to pay for them.

**READ: I Kings 5:4-6**

We see a good example of a believer (Solomon) in a business dealing with a non-believer (Hiram). Notice that Solomon is direct: I would like you to do this for me; and conciliatory: of course, I will pay for all that’s done; and complimentary: no one can do a better job than your workers. Dale Carnegie used these same principles in his classic book on relationships: How to Win Friends and Influence People. We could also call them “God’s Way to Deal with the Unsaved World Around Us”. When you and I deal with people according to the principles in God’s Word, we influence them for God!

### FRIDAY

King Hiram responds by acknowledging Solomon’s wisdom, and by agreeing to provide whatever he needs. He tells Solomon that his own workers will cut down the trees and he even offers to be responsible for getting the cedar trees to wherever Solomon wants. In exchange, King Hiram adds, he’d like food.

**READ: I Kings 5:7-9**

Solomon must be stunned to hear Hiram’s answer. There’s no bargaining. No beating around the bush. Instead, there’s a strong, “You can have the wood,” and then a clear, “I’ll do more than that,” added on: “I’ll gladly deliver it for you free!” The wood itself will cost Solomon some food. But growing food (and therefore providing whatever food it is Hiram is requesting) seems to have been no problem. God often surprises us like this: He does for us more than we ask or even dream! That is surely the story of Heaven! Whatever we think it will be like, it will be better. Much better! No wonder we are told to lift up our eyes and see what God has for us!

### SATURDAY

So the two kings struck an agreement: Hiram gave Solomon all the wood he needed and Solomon supplied Hiram with wheat and oil on an annual basis, apparently, until the wood was paid off. And there was peace.

**READ: I Kings 5:10-12**

God’s ideal plan for man is peace between nations. And it’s a wise man who seeks for such peace. Solomon’s efforts attest to that! War and rumors of war are so commonplace in our world today, it’s hard to grasp the full significance of the phrase “and there was peace in the land.” But we can proclaim with thanksgiving that there is peace in my life today, and that, too, is a wondrous thing! May we rejoice in the peace we have with God! And as much as lies in us, may we live at peace with all around us.

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