

# IT'S A SWEET, SWEET LIFE

## Solomon the "Smartie"

### Lesson 1

**Scripture:** I Kings 3:16-28 (v 28) - “. . .they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.”

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 119:103 - “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth.”

**INTRODUCTION:** Most people like things that are **sweet**. The word **SWEET** means “to have a pleasant taste or flavor like that of sugar or honey; something pleasant to the mind or feelings that yields pleasure or enjoyment.” In the realm of food, **sweet** things are things that are “yummy in the tummy!” Most people serve a **sweet** cake to celebrate someone’s birthday. At special dinners, people have a hard time waiting for the regular food to be eaten so they can have some of the delicious **sweet** dessert. Many special occasions are celebrated by the serving of something **sweet** to eat. Even Nehemiah in 430 B.C. instructed the people of the nation of Israel to celebrate the walls of Jerusalem being rebuilt by telling them to “. . .go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet. . .” (Nehemiah 8:10) Enjoying the sweet things that God has given us is a wonderful part of **The Sweet, Sweet Life**.

Solomon was one of the sons of David, the king of Israel. (II Samuel 12:24) King David was told by God to make Solomon the next king of Israel. (I Chronicles 28:5) David died when he was seventy years old, and the nation of Israel crowned Solomon to be their new king. Solomon was only about sixteen years old when he became king and did not know how to rule such a large nation. (I Kings 3:5-8) It was at this time that God spoke to Solomon in a dream promising to give him any thing he wanted. . .all he had to do was ask for it, and it was his. Solomon could have asked for tons of money, or to live to be very old, or even for power over his enemies. But, instead of asking God for these things, he asked God to give him “an understanding heart to judge Thy people.” (I Kings 3:9) Solomon had asked God for wisdom, and that was exactly what God gave him. God promised to make Solomon the wisest man who would ever live. (I Kings 3:10-15) Because of the wisdom God gave to him, King Solomon became **Solomon the Smartie**.

The Bible records an amazing story of two women arguing over a baby boy as an example of the great wisdom of Solomon:

## **I THE DISPUTE OF TWO WOMEN**

I Kings 3:16-23 (v 22) - “. . .*the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. . .*”

In Israel at that time, the king represented the “*supreme court*” of the land, and anyone could come to him for a verdict in a court case.

### A. The fussing between the two women v 16-22

Two women of Israel lived in the same house together. Both women gave birth to baby boys at the same time, just three days apart. (v 16-18) One night, one of the women somehow covered up her baby boy, and he smothered and died. When she saw that her baby boy had died, she quickly took his dead body and traded it for the other woman’s living baby boy without her knowing it. The next morning, the second woman woke up to find the dead baby boy. At first, she thought it was her baby that had died, but after looking more closely, she saw that the dead baby was not hers. The women told the local police and judges, but none of them could determine which woman was the mother of the living baby boy.

### B. The problem brought before King Solomon v 23

King Solomon listened carefully to the story told by the two women. Both women claimed the living baby boy was their own. There were no witnesses who had seen the two babies to verify which was the mother of which baby. It was a case of one woman’s word against the other woman’s word. The right decision would require the wisdom of God.

## **II THE DECISION OF KING SOLOMON**

I Kings 3:24-28 (v 27) - “. . .*she is the mother thereof. . .*”

### A. Solomon relied on the wisdom of God v 24-25

Right in front of the two women, Solomon ordered one of his guards to take a sword and cut the living baby in half. That way, said he, both women can have half of the baby boy. This at first seems like a strange and harsh answer to solve the problem between these two women. However, Solomon, with his great wisdom from God, knew how the real mother and the lying mother would react to such a verdict.

### B. Solomon received the right answer v 26-28

Solomon knew that the lying mother did not love the living baby boy, so she would not object to the baby being cut in half. He also knew that the real mother would love her baby boy so much that she would rather have another woman raise her son than to see him die. When the real mother said (v 26) “. . . O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. . .”, he knew that she was the rightful mother. Solomon ordered the baby to be spared, and given to the rightful mother. When the people in the nation of Israel saw the smart way that King Solomon handled this hard situation, they “*feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him. . .*” (v 28)

**CONCLUSION:** The same God Who gave Solomon his wisdom can give each of us wisdom as well. The wisest thing that you can do is to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour today. Proverbs 4:7 - “*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding.*” The wisdom of God is an important part of *The Sweet, Sweet Life*.

NOTE: Whenever you eat the sweet candy known as “*Smarties*,” you should think about *Solomon the Smartie*.