

# Scripture\_background

## Background Notes for 1 Kings 3

### Historical Context:

1 Kings is a book in the Old Testament, telling the history of Israel from the death of King David to the reign of King Solomon and onwards. In 1 Kings 3, we focus on the early part of King Solomon's reign, who was David's son.

### Cultural Insights:

- Solomon as King: Solomon became king at a young age after his father David. He inherited a united Israel, which was an important and large kingdom at the time.
- High Places: Before the Temple in Jerusalem was built, people often worshipped God at "high places," which were altars on hills.
- Wisdom in Ancient Times: Wisdom was highly valued in ancient cultures. Kings were often expected to be not only rulers but also wise judges for their people.

### Theological Insights:

- Solomon's Dream at Gibeon: In this passage, God appears to Solomon in a dream and invites him to ask for anything he wants. Solomon asks for wisdom.
- God's Response: God is pleased with Solomon's request because he did not ask for long life, riches, or the death of his enemies. God grants Solomon wisdom, as well as promises him riches and honor.
- Solomon's Wisdom: This chapter sets up Solomon as the wisest of all kings, with the wisdom that comes from God. This wisdom helps him rule justly over Israel.

### Lessons for Students:

- God's Gift of Wisdom: Emphasize that wisdom is a valued gift from God. Solomon's story teaches that God gives generously to those who seek to serve others and God faithfully.
- Prayer and Decision-Making: Like Solomon, we can ask God for help and wisdom in making decisions in our own lives.

This passage introduces important themes of prayer, humility, and wisdom, which can be explored in classroom discussions.