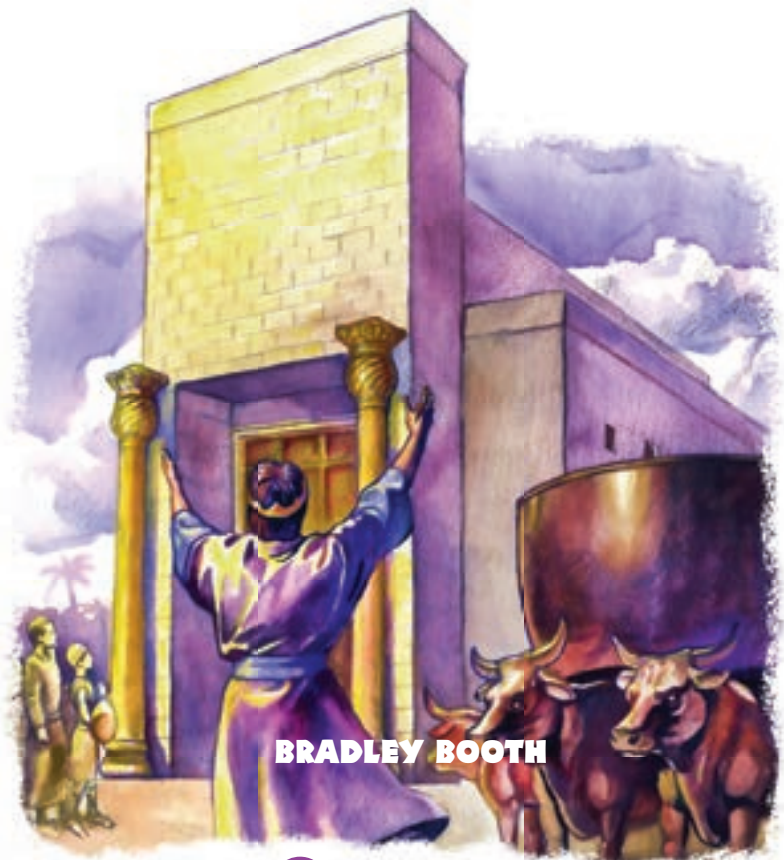


GOD SAID IT

OLD TESTAMENT HEROES—3



BRADLEY BOOTH



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SOLOMON: THE WISEST MAN ON EARTH

THIS STORY IS FOUND IN 1 KINGS 3-10





What would you say if God came to you in a dream one night and said you could have anything you wanted? Neat, huh? Well, it actually happened to a young man named Solomon. He was one of the most interesting characters in the Bible. For one thing, he became the richest king ever to reign in that part of the world. For another, he was very smart, and that always helps.

He came to the throne when he was young, and he felt he wasn't wise enough for the job. So he asked God for wisdom, and God gave it to him—plus a few more things. He was blessed with fame and fortune: silver and gold, a nice palace with lots of servants, peace with nations all around, and a chance to build the most magnificent temple for God the world has ever seen.

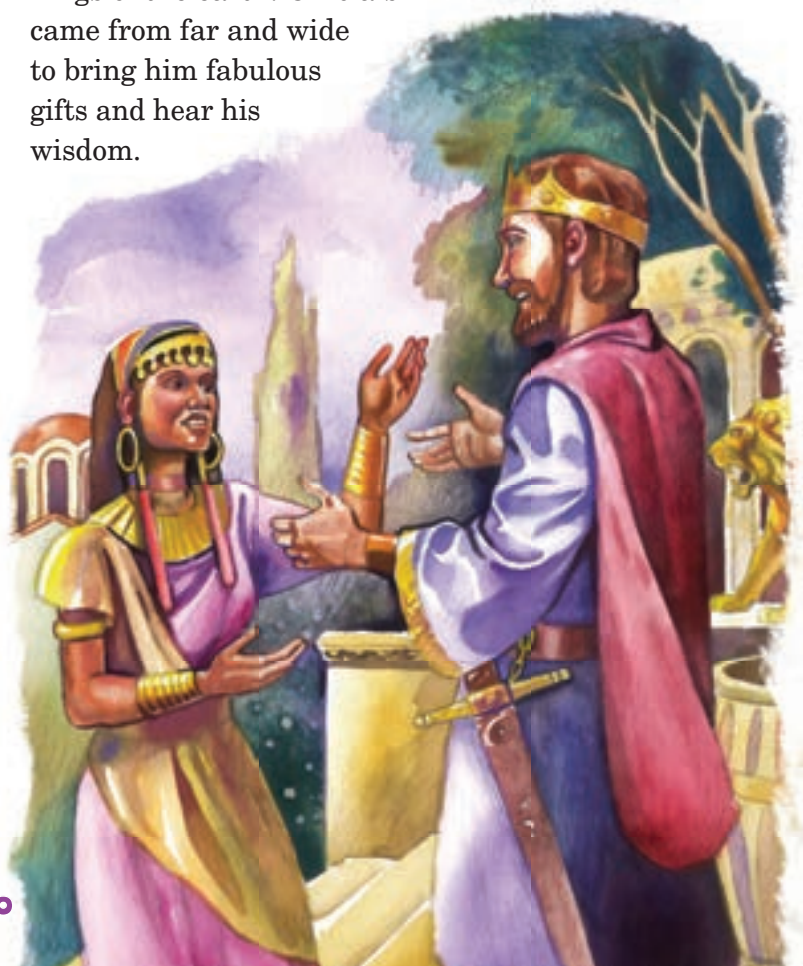
The temple walls, floor, and ceiling were made of fine cedar wood covered over with pure gold. There were giant shiny pillars of bronze near the front door that stood more than thirty feet tall. But most incredible of all were the ten-foot golden angels guarding the sacred ark of God's covenant inside the Most Holy Place.

Solomon built himself palaces, banquet halls, and a gorgeous throne room. Marble floors and pillars of fine stone were everywhere. He made a royal ivory throne with twelve ivory lions on the steps to his throne, all covered over with pure gold. He also made five hundred shields of gold to decorate his royal palaces.



Every day King Solomon became more powerful and wealthy. He strengthened his army with military cities, hundreds of chariots, and thousands of horses. He sent a fleet of ships on the seas to bring back gold, ivory, and monkeys. Soon, silver was as common as the stones in the streets of Jerusalem.

By now, Solomon was richer and wiser than all the kings of the earth. Officials came from far and wide to bring him fabulous gifts and hear his wisdom.





The Queen of Sheba was one of those foreign rulers. She was astonished at the king's palace gardens and water fountains as well as the food he served on his royal table. She was amazed at the number of servants and waiters and cupbearers serving him and the clothes they wore. She saw the splendor and beauty of God's temple, and it took her breath away.

Not surprisingly, she wanted to find out what made King Solomon so great. She wanted to learn about his

God to find out why he was so rich and why he was so smart. Solomon told her about Jehovah, the God of heaven. He answered all her questions, and nothing she asked was too difficult for him to explain.

“Your wisdom and prosperity are even greater than I heard,” she said. “Blessed be the Lord your God, who made you a wise, fair, and righteous king.”

It was true. Solomon was blessed by God, but he did not truly appreciate it. He let all these blessings go to his head and forgot that it was God who had given him his wealth and fame and power.

And he had another big weakness. He had a thousand wives, and in the end, they were his downfall. These women loved to worship idols. Some even worshiped gods that required children to be burned as sacrifices.

God was very angry with Solomon for turning away from the worship of Jehovah, the God of all creation. For this, He allowed Solomon’s enemies to attack Israel.

At the end of Solomon’s life, the king repented with great sadness for all the wicked things he had done. He could not undo the evil he had brought to Israel, but he did try. He wrote many proverbs to warn people not to make the mistakes he had made.

One day soon, Jesus will come again and raise Solomon to eternal life. When that happens, you will get to meet the wisest man who ever lived. In the meantime, let’s be wise and not make the mistakes he did.