

## Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August

### Recall

1. When God appeared to Solomon in his dream, what did Solomon ask for?  
Hint: Solomon did not ask for wealth and honour.
2. Two women came to Solomon, seeking his wisdom. What were they quarrelling about?  
Hint: Each woman had given birth to a child. Hint 2: One child died.
3. How did Solomon know which woman was the real mother?  
Hint: The real mother wished for the welfare of her child, even if it meant that she lost it.
4. What was housed in the inner sanctum of the great temple that Solomon built for God?  
Hint: It was made in the time of Moses. Hint 2: It holds the ten commandments of God.

### Summary

One night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him that whatever he asked for would be granted. Solomon asked God for an understanding mind, so that he would be able to discriminate between good and evil and rule his people justly. God was pleased with his request and not only granted it, but blessed Solomon with riches and honour.

Once, two women came to Solomon. One of the women told Solomon that they lived together. She had given birth to a child and three days later, the other woman also had a child. While they were alone in the house, the other woman's child had died, because her mother had accidentally laid upon it. The other woman then took the living child in the night and replaced it with her own dead child. When the woman awoke, instead of finding her own child, she found the other woman's dead child. The two women quarrelled, for the other woman insisted that the story was the other way around.

Finally, Solomon stopped the quarrelling and asked for a sword to be brought. Solomon said, "Divide the living child in two and give half to the one and half to the other." At that moment, the real mother of the living child stepped forward and begged Solomon not to kill the child, but give it to the other woman. But the other woman cried out, "It shall be neither mine nor yours! Divide it!" Solomon proclaimed that the true mother would never insist on killing the child and would rather give it away and so the rightful mother was discovered.

When people heard of Solomon's judgement, he earned much respect for they saw that he had divine wisdom to decide questions justly.

In the fourth year of Solomon's rule, he built a temple of God. It was a grand temple, made from cypress wood with an inner sanctum made from cedar which was built to house the Ark of the Covenant. This inner room was guarded by two winged bulls, which were covered in gold. When the temple was completed, Solomon stood before the altar of God in the presence of all the people of Israel and cried out his praises. And though he had built such a grand temple, he said, "But will God actually dwell on earth? Indeed, heaven and the highest heaven cannot hold thee; how much less this temple that I have built!"

## Draw

Draw a picture from yesterday's story in your main lesson book or your English practice book if you have run out of pages. I have drawn Solomon giving his judgement to the two mothers.



## Recap

David placed the command of his men under Joab, Abishai and Ittai and told his people that he would surely join them in battle as well. But the people responded that he was equal to ten thousand of them and insisted that he remained in the city. So, David obliged and stood by the city gate as all the troops marched out by hundreds and by thousands. David commanded the three leaders that Absalom should be dealt with gently for his sake and this command was heard by all. The troops went into battle and those who fought for David triumphed, but the loss was great and twenty thousand men died that day.

Absalom happened to meet David's soldiers while riding upon his mule. The mule went under a great oak tree and as it did, Absalom became caught in the branches so that he hung in the air as though he was suspended between heaven and earth. Joab took three spears in his hand and drove them into Absalom's heart while he was still hanging from the tree. Joab turned to a slave and commanded him to take the news to David. When David heard the news, he wept bitterly and though the people had been victorious in battle, their happiness soon turned to sorrow when they saw that David was in mourning.

David's younger son, Adonijah gathered support and made preparations to become the next ruler by offering many sacrifices. Then Nathan the prophet said to Bathsheba, David's wife and mother of Solomon. "Have you not heard that Adonijah has been made ruler without David even knowing it?" Nathan reminded Bathsheba of the promise that David had made to make Solomon the next king. Bathsheba went to David, who was now very old and reminded him of this promise.

David gave his own mule to Solomon to ride upon and instructed his priests to make Solomon ruler over Israel. Trumpets were blown and it was announced to all that Solomon was the true ruler. While this was

happening, Adonijah was finishing his own celebrations and he became very fearful when all his terrified guests left him. He went to an altar and held onto the horns of the altar, for fear of Solomon. Adonijah would not let go unless Solomon promised that he would not kill him. Solomon declared that if Adonijah was innocent, not one hair on his head would be touched, but if he was not, he would be killed. Adonijah bowed down before Solomon and was sent to his home.

After Solomon was made ruler over Israel, David died and was buried in the City of David. He had reigned over his people for forty years.

### **Writing Dictation**

Listen to the audio and write what you hear in your English practice book. When you have finished you can look at my writing and correct your work.

When Absalom met David's soldiers, he was riding upon a mule and became caught in an oak tree. He was killed while he was still hanging from the tree. When David heard of his son's death, he wept bitterly.

