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Second Sunday of Christmas  
Sermons  
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## 1 KINGS 3:3-15 - "THE SON OF DAVID"

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Both the New Testament and the Christian Church refer to Jesus as the Son of David. But according to both Matthew and Luke Jesus has no earthly father who seeded Him, instead Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. So in what way is Jesus the Son of David and what are the Scriptures and the Church confessing when we say that Jesus is the Son of David?

For the Jews, Son of David, was a royal title that designated one as the rightful heir to David's reign as King. This is much like the titles: Dauphin of France; and Prince of Wales; these titles designate the crown prince, the heir apparent who shall one day assume the throne. In Matthew 1:20 the angel of the Lord addresses Joseph as "Son of David" when he revealed the child in Mary's womb was the Son of God who would save His people from their sins; and in Luke 2:4 we are told that Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for the census that Caesar Augustus ordered because, "Joseph was from the house and family of David." Joseph was the Son of David and so was his adopted son and heir after him, Jesus.

Though Joseph was the Son of David, he did not exercise the power and authority that were due his grand title. Joseph did not reign as a king in Israel, but worked with his hands as a carpenter and craftsman. The Romans exercised the real power and authority in Israel and under them, the puppet King Herod and his family after him. The Son of David had not reigned over God's people as king since the reign of the wicked King Zedekiah, whom Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, deposed and carried off in chains to Babylon after destroying the Temple of Solomon and all Jerusalem in 587 BC. Oh how the Son of David had fallen into ruin and humility; the days of glory, the golden age of Israel under King David and the first Son of David, King Solomon were long since passed!

The House of David had been humbled by God, because too many of the Sons of David after King Solomon did not walk in the ways the Lord God but turned against His Word, statutes, and commandments. The Son of David was to reign over Israel in accordance with God's Word; he was to establish peace, justice, righteousness for all the people; he was to lead the people in pious and holy devotion to the God of Israel; he was to gather the nations to worship Yahweh who created the heavens and the earth. But Zedekiah and most of the kings before him followed the nations into idolatry, led the people into unholy acts, and perverted righteousness and justice; they were unworthy of the title, Son of David; they lacked the wisdom of Solomon to discern between good and evil.

## 1 Kings 3:3-15 tells us of Solomon the first Son of David:

3 Now Solomon loved Yahweh for he walked in the statutes of his father David, only he sacrificed and made offerings in the high places. 4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there for it is a very high place. Solomon used to go up to offer a thousand burnt offerings upon that altar. 5 In Gibeon Yahweh appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask for whatever and I will give it to you." 6 And Solomon said, "You, You have done great steadfast love with Your servant David my father just as he walked before You in truth and in righteousness and in uprightness of heart with You. And You kept for him this great steadfast love and gave to him a son who is sitting upon his throne this day. And now Yahweh my God, You have caused Your servant to reign in place of David my father. But I am a young lad, I do not know going out and coming in. 8 And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You chose; a numerous people who can not be numbered and can not be counted because it is a multitude. 9 But give to Your servant a heart of hearing to judge Your people to discern between good and evil; for who is able to judge this Your great people." 10 And the matter was good in the eyes of the Lord, that Solomon asked this matter. 11 And God said to him, "Because that which you asked, this matter and you did not ask for yourself many days and you did not ask for yourself riches and you did not ask for the lives of your enemies, but you asked for discernment to hear judgment. 12 Behold, I will do according to your word, behold I will give to you a heart of wisdom and discernment which like you there was not before you and after you there will not rise like you. 13 And also that which you did not ask I shall give to you; also riches, also glory; so that no other kings will be like you all your days. 14 And if you walk in My ways to keep My statutes and My commandments just as David your father walked and I will lengthen your days." 15 Then Solomon awakened and behold it was a dream; and he went to Jerusalem and he stood before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord and he went up and Solomon offered up burnt offerings and he made a feast for all of his servants.

Solomon was the son of Bathsheba conceived and born after David had repented of his adulterous affair, cover up, and murder of Uriah the Hittite. In his old age David chose Solomon to be King after him saying, <sup>2</sup> *"I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, <sup>3</sup> and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, <sup>4</sup> that the Lord may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"* (1Kings 2:2-4).

Solomon took his father David's words to heart, at least at first. Solomon loved Yahweh and walked in the statutes of his father David. Solomon desired to be a good and just king over Israel, thus when God said that he could ask Him for anything, Solomon confessed weakness and limitations for such a high calling as King over Israel; he asked God not for long life, riches, or revenge over his enemies, but for a heart of hearing to judge God's people and to discern between good and evil; he asked God for wisdom.

Solomon's request pleased God and He honored it. God gave Solomon a heart of hearing to judge His people and to discern between good and evil; God gave Solomon wisdom like He had never given to anyone else. But God gave Solomon so much more. God gave him riches, made him more glorious than other kings, and promised him long life if he continued to walk in the His ways and kept the Commandments.

Solomon's wisdom and riches became legendary; he wrote most of the Wisdom literature found in the Bible, Proverbs (except for those attributed to other authors), Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. Kings and queens from other nations came to Jerusalem to seek his counsel. Solomon had so many riches that he filled the vast palace he constructed for himself with gold and jewels then he went on to build the great Temple for Yahweh the God of Israel, where Yahweh put His name and filled it with His presence and glory. God truly blessed the reign of Solomon the Son of David!

But as rich, glorious, powerful, and wise as Solomon was and as great as his reign over Israel was the great downfall of David's House began with the Solomon the first Son of David. In his later days, King Solomon neglected to use the wisdom that God had given him, a wisdom grounded in the Word of the Lord. Solomon himself turned away from the ways of Yahweh and broke God's statutes and Commandments by marrying many foreign women and falling into the worship of their pagan gods and goddesses. Because of this God sent word to Solomon that the Kingdom of Israel would be divided and that the Son of David after him would reign over only one tribe in Israel, the tribe of Judah.

The reign of King Solomon the Son of David was glorious, because God was rich in grace and mercy to Solomon on account of His promises to David. All the nations looked to Solomon for wisdom; they gathered to Jerusalem to hear his judgments; and some from the nations even directed their prayers to Yahweh in His Temple. None of the Sons of David after Solomon had the same glory, riches, and wisdom as Solomon did; he was the Son of David par excellence and yet Solomon was only the type of the greater antitype to come. Solomon at his best pointed forward to the Son of David to come, the Son of David who was without sin; who kept the statutes of David His father; who walked in the ways of Yahweh and kept His statutes and Commandments in full. Solomon was the type, but Jesus is the antitype, the fulfillment; Jesus is the true Son of David.

Jesus' wisdom is beyond that of Solomon's; Luke's Gospel reveals Jesus at the age of twelve studying the Scriptures in the Temple with the teachers of the Law, and records that all were amazed by Jesus' understanding and questions of God's Word. Jesus had a heart of hearing to judge the people of Israel and to discern between good and evil far surpassing Solomon; Jesus perceived the inner hearts and minds of men. Jesus knew exactly what word to speak to people, to call them to repentance and to forgive and restore them.

Jesus' glory far exceeded the glory of Solomon, though His glory was hidden in the shame of His cross. The cross is Jesus' glory. The cross is where Jesus the Son of David took up the reign of His father David. The cross is Jesus' glory because that is where He bore the guilt and shame of Israel, the guilt and shame of the nations, even your guilt and shame. This was the will of God, the heavenly Father, that the Son of David should die as the sacrifice to cover the world's guilt. Our shame is His glory! Unlike King Solomon, there is no end to the reign of Jesus. He defeated death in His

resurrection and ascended on high to His heavenly throne from which He reigns this very day and comes to draw all the nations to Himself.

Jesus is reigning for your benefit to the glory of God the Father; He discerns your heart and mind. Jesus has sent His servant to proclaim His Word and judgments, to call you away from sin and unbelief to faith in His Word and promises. Jesus the Son of David, Himself, has come, the glory of His body and blood hidden in bread and wine for the forgiveness of your sins. All this Jesus the Son of David has done to give you peace, to establish justice and righteousness that has no end. On the Last Day the Son of David shall return in the fullness of his resurrection glory; He shall raise all the dead and separate the righteous from the unrighteous. To those trusting in His Word and promises He shall give the long awaited inheritance of a new earth to be enjoyed with our new bodies, to the unrighteous He shall give their just eternal punishment. The Son of David has come and is coming and of His reign there shall be no end, amen.