

I KINGS 4; May 13; Solomon's Wisdom and Prosperity

ANALYSIS:

1. What were the duties of the twelve officers which Solomon appointed over Israel? _____
2. What was the daily food provision Solomon's table required?

3. What can you find which tells about the general prosperity and state of the nation under Solomon? _____
4. How many proverbs _____ and songs _____ did Solomon produce?
5. Solomon was able to speak with knowledge about which five categories of living things? _____

Things to Things About:

Solomon, brilliant beyond all the gifted men on earth, was also unique due to "largeness of heart." He could tenderly restore a new born baby to his mother's arms after he had been stolen from her. He offered Shemei a gracious opportunity which spared him from deserved immediate execution. He penned the passionate love song bearing his name which exalts the joys and delights of married love. The speech of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the greater than Solomon, caused His hearers to wonder "at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth" (Lu 4:22; 11:31).

Let us work at enlarging our hearts to love the brethren ("Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love" Rom 12:10), meet needs ("let him labor ... that he may have to give to him that needeth" Eph 4:28), forgive one another for offences (be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving on another" Eph 4:32), and overlook the insignificant ("Charity ... beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" (I Cor 13:4-7).

HELP:

1. They were to provide victuals for the king and his household, each man for a month each year (v 7).
2. 30 measures of fine flour, 60 measures of meal, 10 fat oxen, 20 pasture fed oxen, 100 sheep, besides harts, roebucks, fallowdeer and fatted fowl (vs 22-23).
3. Judah and Israel were many in multitude (large population), they enjoyed eating, drinking and making merry (v 20), Solomon was reigning over all the nations from the Euphrates River to Egypt and they brought him presents (v 21), peace on all sides (v 24), every man dwelt under his vine and fig tree (v 26).
4. 3,000 proverbs, 1,005 songs (v 32).
5. Trees, beasts, fowl, creeping things, fishes (v 33).