

2 SAMUEL 22-1 KINGS 3

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

We're nearing the end of 2 Samuel and the incredible journey of David's life. David experienced great success, but his story is also marked by trials, failures, and hardship. In 2 Samuel 22, David reflects on all God has brought him through by singing a powerful song of thanksgiving—a song that is also found in Psalm 18. Even with enemies pressing in and challenges all around, David boldly declares the faithfulness of God. He writes: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer." David praises a God who is not far off, but near, protective, and personal. His words remind us that even in our hardest moments, we can trust in the goodness of God. David speaks his last words stating that godly leaders are ones who rule with justice and a **fear of the Lord**. To fear the Lord is not to be scared of him, but to respect, trust, and obey Him because He is powerful, loving, and good. David also declares the covenant that the Lord made with him that points to a Savior that would one day come from the line of David.

We then head to the book of 1 Kings! 1 Kings is marked by division in the kingdom of Israel. The book starts under the leadership of Solomon with a kingdom that is united, and ends with a divided kingdom that has turned from God despite the teachings of a prophet named Elijah. Before David passed away, there was once again conflict in his family. This time it was over who would have the right to rule when David died. One of David's sons named Adonijah believed that he had the right to rule, because he likely was the oldest out of David's living sons. He decided to declare himself to be the king. However, God is the one who would choose the kings and Solomon would be next in line.

In 1 Kings 3, the Lord appears to Solomon and offers to give him anything that he requested. Solomon could have asked for more wealth, power, or success, but instead he asks for something different. Solomon says, "Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" Solomon asks God for **wisdom** to rule the people, since he was young and inexperienced. Wisdom is finding out what you should do and doing it. God granted Solomon wisdom, but so much more! He gave him riches, honor, and a kingship that would be unrivaled. Like Solomon, we can ask God for wisdom too! James 1:5 tells us, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." When we choose wisdom, we show that we trust God to lead us in every part of our lives. Solomon did not always follow the wisdom that he received from the Lord and shared with others. His wisdom without his obedience led to his downfall.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solomon's one request from God was wisdom
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● David's Song of Deliverance ● David's Final Words & Census ● Fight for the Throne ● Solomon Given Wisdom
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 Samuel 22:50-51 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name. He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever." ● 1 Kings 1:30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place." ● 1 Kings 3:9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fear the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To fear the Lord is not to be scared of him, but to respect, trust, and obey God because He is powerful, loving, and good. ● Wisdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finding out what you should do and doing it

Reflection Questions

1.	What is something that you have learned from the life of David? How did he view God in the midst of his challenges?
2.	Who took over as king after David?
3.	When God asked Solomon what he wished to be granted, what was his request? If God offered to give you anything you wanted, what would be your one wish?
4.	What is wisdom? What does it show when we ask God for wisdom?