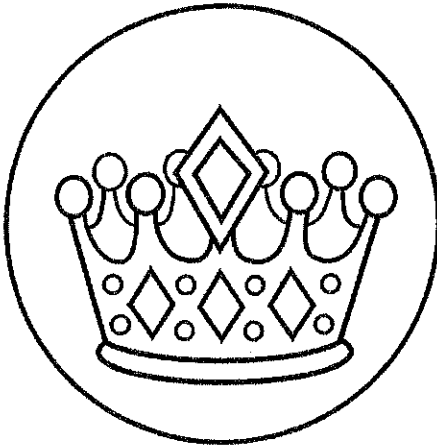


December 14: King Solomon



King Solomon was the second child of King David and Bathsheba. He had a dream one night that God told him to ask for whatever he wanted and God would give it to him. Solomon asked for wisdom to discern between good and bad in order to judge the people correctly. God was pleased with his prayer and gave him great wisdom. Unfortunately when Solomon grew older he took wives who worshipped false gods and was led astray by them even though the Lord appeared to him twice to warn him. Solomon disobeyed God and broke the covenant with him.

Because of this God said that he would tear apart the kingdom of Israel and leave only one tribe to his son for the sake of David his father and for the sake of Jerusalem.



"Dream of Solomon - God promises Solomon Wisdom", Luca Giordano, 1693



1 Kings 3:5-14. ⁵In Gibeon, Yahweh appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask for what I should give you."

⁶Solomon said, "You have shown to your servant David my father great loving kindness, because he walked before you in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with you. You have kept for him this great loving kindness, that you have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today.

⁷Now, Yahweh my God, you have made your servant king instead of David my father. I am just a little child. I don't know how to go out or come in. ⁸Your servant is among your people which you have chosen, a great people, that can't be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding heart to judge your people, that I may

discern between good and evil; for who is able to judge this great people of yours?"

¹⁰This request pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have you asked for riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice; ¹²behold, I have done according to your word. Behold, I have given you a wise and understanding heart; so that there has been no one like you before you, and after you none will arise like you. ¹³I have also given you that which you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you for all your days.

¹⁴If you will walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

1 Kings 11:4, 9-13. ⁴When Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Yahweh his God, as the heart of David his father was.... ⁹Yahweh was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned away from Yahweh, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, ¹⁰and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he didn't keep that which Yahweh commanded. ¹¹Therefore Yahweh said to Solomon, "Because this is done by you, and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. ¹²Nevertheless, I will not do it in your days, for David your father's sake; but I will tear it out of your son's hand. ¹³However I will not tear away all the kingdom; but I will give one tribe to your son, for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen."