

SOLOMON'S MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF WISDOM

Beside the Lord Jesus Christ, no man had more wisdom than Solomon. The Bible records: *"In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee"* (I Kings 3:5). *"In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee"* (II Chronicles 1:7). Solomon's answer was *"Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?"* (II Chronicles 1:10). Because Solomon did not ask for riches, wealth, honor, or the life of his enemies, God gave him wisdom plus riches, wealth, honor and peace in the land.

In I Kings 3:16-28 we see Solomon's first manifestation of the great wisdom of God. I think it only appropriate on this Sanctity of Life Sunday that we should talk about the important truths dealing with the saving of one baby's life. Wisdom and love make sacred a baby's life; foolishness and hatred take a baby's life. Let's talk about it:

1. The value of a child is not determined by the morals, finances or decisions of the parents.

In I Kings 3:16-18 we see two baby boys are born to two harlots living together. I think all will agree this is not the best environment for a child to be reared in. One of the arguments for pro-abortionists is that the environment should be considered in whether a baby should live or not. I would be the first to say that harlots should not have babies, but allow me to take it to a step beyond this--harlots should not be harlots! Remember, God gives life. The Bible says in Ruth 4:13, *"So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son."* God uses a man and woman to bring forth the life, but even still, God gives the life.

When God gives life, the continuation of that life is not up for discussion. Although the baby is not born, life is there and to snuff it out is murder. A mother once came to her doctor explaining that she and her husband have too many children and cannot afford any more, therefore she and her husband were desiring to terminate her pregnancy. The mother was in his office with her three-

year old. The doctor said, "I understand." He then opened his drawer pulling out a long scalpel used in surgery and said; "Now, if you will just hold that youngster still, I'll eliminate this one on your lap." The mother screamed, "How could you even think of such a thing?" He calmly replied, "I was only doing what you suggested; you said you could not afford another child. Well, it will be far less dangerous to you, and a lot less expensive, to take the life of the child that has already been born." He pointed out it was only a three year difference. The woman sobered up and expressed to the doctor that she saw what he was saying.

2. People who value the law of God value the life of a child.

"If there is no God, everything is permissible" so wrote Fyodor Dostoyevsky in *The Brothers Karamazov*. The culture in which these women were living embraced the laws of God, therefore no matter how wickedly they were living they carried their babies full term and seemingly did not consider taking the life of the child they had, even though conceived illicitly. In the most ancient book of the Bible, Job said, *"Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?"* (Job 31:15). The Psalmist said, *"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them"* (Psalm 139:13-16).

God has a blueprint for every child's life. Even before you are born, the Lord clarifies this in Jeremiah 1:5: *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."* We see God's blueprint for John included the months before his birth. Luke 1:15 says, *"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb."* Elisabeth, the mother of John told Mary, *"For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy"* (Luke 1:44). This is amazing! The unborn baby John experienced emotion in the presence of Jesus, who was yet unborn, and leaped for joy. There can be no doubt where the Bible stands on this issue--life is viable, actual and now because of advanced technology, it is visible before birth. We are setting ourselves up for judgment, should we violate the laws of

God and take life into our own hands. Listen to these words of Jesus: *"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish"* (Matthew 18:6,10,14). Solomon, the protagonist in our text never changed his mind concerning the life of babies, for he said later in life that God hated, *"...hands that shed innocent blood"* (Proverbs 6:17b).

3. Government has a right and responsibility to save the life of her people.

In I Kings 3:19-22 we see these two women took this matter to the king, which was the government in that day in that place in history. Twice we hear the words of this wise man say concerning the baby, *"...in no wise slay it..."* (I Kings 3:26b, 27b). Observe the mandate of the Word of God on governments: *"Thou shalt not kill"* Exodus 20:13. *"If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"* Prov. 24:11, 12. *"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man"* Genesis 9:6.

In Romans 13:1-4 God declares that human government is to moderate civilization for good. In Exodus 21:22-25, we see a perfect illustration of this principle. If a woman loses her child due to the misbehavior of a man who caused the injury, he shall pay for it with his own life.

4. A true loving mother will do anything to save the life of her baby.

I Kings 3:24-28 reveals to us who the real mother is. She is willing for her precious baby to be reared by a wicked woman rather than the life of her baby to be taken. The woman who encouraged the king to take the baby's life also revealed she did not have a mother's heart.

The Bible says, *"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee"* (Isaiah 49:15). God was showing us one of the most beautiful human loves in the world, the love of a mother toward her child. He points out

that although a woman may forget, He cannot and will not forget the child. There may be someone reading these words who has been forsaken by his or her mother or father. Well, I've got some good news for you! You may claim what the Psalmist claimed, "*When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up*" (Psalm 27:10). When a man or a woman knows God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, they cannot help but take on the unconditional love that God has for His children. You cannot, you will not forsake your child.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.