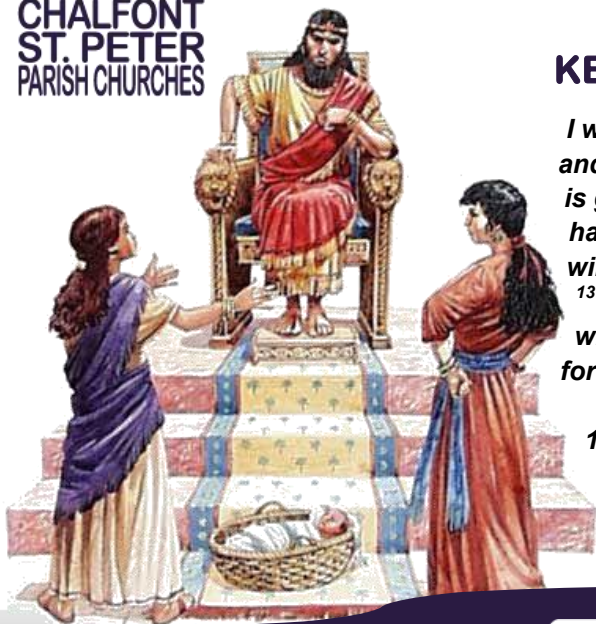




**CHALFONT
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PARISH CHURCHES**



KEY VERSE:

*I will give you wisdom
and understanding that
is greater than anyone
has had in the past or
will have in the future.
¹³ I will also give you
what you did not ask
for: riches and honour.*

12 Kings 3: 12 & 13



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FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

15th November, 2015

Wise Leaders 5: Solomon's Wisdom



KNOW WHAT:

- Today we continue our theme of 'Wise Leaders'.
- Last week we found out that when Solomon became king at a young age, he dreamt that God told him he could ask for whatever he wanted. Solomon asked for wisdom, which pleased God. God promised him wealth and a long life as well as the wisdom he asked for.
- Today we see Solomon's wisdom in action.
- Two mothers come to Solomon both claiming that a baby is hers.
- Solomon tests them both by threatening to kill the child.
- The true mother is willing for her baby to be given away, rather than killed.
- Solomon gives the baby to the true mother.

SO WHAT:

- Sometimes conflicting views seem impossible to resolve.
- We need wisdom to ask the right questions and to see what are the most important issues.
- The Bible teaches that we should seek wisdom from God (James 1:5).

NOW WHAT:

- Let's make sure we make time to pray this week – and ask for wisdom in all we do.

JIM'S JOTTINGS: Hard Choices

I wonder what the hardest choice you ever had to make was. As I look back I can think of many, very tough decisions Sheila and I have had to take and I cannot decide which was the hardest. There have been many times we agonised about what to do or not to do, and it wasn't much fun.

I know that many of you face tough choices too. There are difficult decisions about family life, how to discipline children, which schools to choose. When marriages face hard times – and they all do – making wise decisions and sticking to them is not easy. For many of you work choices are hard to make. When is it good for both parents to work? What about child care? Should I seek promotion, if that means more stress and longer hours? How do we manage with limited incomes? And there are choices about caring for elderly relatives.

None of these is easy. Nor was it easy for Solomon who succeeded his father, David, as King of Israel. He inherited a large kingdom but with warring factions and plenty of threats. So his starting point was not to build a bigger army or construct huge defences. Rather, he got on his knees and asked God for wisdom. And God gave it to him. History tells us that Solomon was renowned through the known world as a wise king above all.

We would be wise to follow Solomon's example. In all our decisions, large and small, may we seek wisdom from God who is the source of true wisdom. He can lead us the right way even when we cannot see the end from the beginning.