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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

### **A1519 ~ Solomon's Wisdom in Settling a Court Case.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

Once King Solomon took firm control of the nation of Israel the Lord blessed him and made him very powerful. His territory of control extended from the top of the Gulf of Aquaba, from the Red Sea close to Sinai in the south, to the Euphrates River in the north. This area was around ten times larger than what King Saul had controlled.

Solomon encouraged the people to worship the Lord at one of the many places around Israel, as the Temple had not yet been built. On one occasion, he had his officials, army officers, heads of families and the people travel about 15 kilometres to Gibeon to worship the Lord there. While the Ark of the Covenant was in Jerusalem in a tent prepared by David, the Tabernacle (also known as the Tent of the Lord's presence) which Moses had built was still at Gibeon.

That night while Solomon was at Gibeon, God appeared to him and asked him what God should give to him. By now, Solomon had realized the great responsibility he had in being king over so many people. So he humbly asked God for the wisdom and knowledge he needed to rule over the people. God was very pleased with Solomon's request. Because he had not asked for long life, great riches, fame or the death of Israel's enemies, God gave Solomon great wisdom and knowledge, plus all the things he had not asked for.

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The story was told many years ago of a king who heard about the wisdom of one of his magistrates deciding court cases. The king disguised himself and rode to that city. On the way he saw a crippled beggar asking for a lift into the city. So the king helped him up. But when they arrived there, the beggar claimed the horse was his. They came before the magistrate and he ordered the horse be put in the stables. Both the king and the beggar were instructed to come to the stables the next morning.

In the morning, the horse was rightfully returned to the king. The king asked the magistrate how he had made this decision. The magistrate explained that when the king had walked into the stables, the horse had pricked up its ears. It had identified him as its master.

In Solomon's situation, however, he did not have the advantage of the baby being old enough to identify its own mother, so instead, he tested each woman's love for the child.

A survey was done of mothers and their newborn babies. Without any prior warning, mothers were asked to identify their own baby out of a group of babies. Around 70% of the mothers correctly picked their own child. A mother knowing and loving her own baby proved true in Solomon's case of the two prostitutes. He decreed the baby be halved and one part given to each woman. But the real mother was filled with distress and pleaded the life of her son, telling Solomon to let him live and give him to the other woman. From this woman's response, Solomon had found the baby's rightful mother. When the people of Israel heard of Solomon's decision and how he had made it, they all were filled with deep respect for him. They knew then that God had given Solomon the wisdom to settle disputes fairly.

What is wisdom and how can we get it? Wisdom is good sense and judgment, as well as accumulated knowledge and discernment.

Psalm 111 says: “The way to become wise is to honour the Lord; He gives sound judgment to all who obey His commands.”

Proverbs 2 says: “It is the Lord who gives wisdom; from Him come knowledge and understanding.”

The New Testament book of James, Chapter 3, says: “The wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle, and friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds; it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy.”

Living wisely includes guarding what we say. Unwise people usually think they are always right and can be quick to tell this to everyone. But wise people stop and listen to advice. When disputes arise, a wise person will even endure a personal rebuke to stop the argument. To be wise, we must not speak the first words that come into our minds. If we reflect on what could be a possible bad reaction to our words, we realise we need to keep our mouths closed while praying for God’s guidance in how to respond. He will often bring a Scripture to mind just as we need it. You too can use the Scriptures you have learned already to pass along God’s message to those who want to argue.

In 1917, the town of Aquaba was under Turkish control. The Turks anticipated British attacks from ships in the Red Sea and placed huge naval guns near the port to attack back. But they never defended the desert side of the town, unwisely thinking it to be unnecessary. Yet with the help of local people, a British invasion arrived on horses and camels and swept across the desert to take over Aquaba. The Turkish hold on Palestine was thus broken and replaced by British forces. This takeover eventually led to the State of Israel being proclaimed.

The Turks failed to understand how their enemy operated and did not have the right weapons. Believers in the Lord Jesus need to be wise about their enemies. In Ephesians, Chapter 6, it says: “For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and universal powers of this dark age.”

In recent years, some airline companies have been offering mystery flights. People come to the airport early in the morning and buy a ticket. Then they find out where they will be travelling to that day. One man was so unhappy about his surprise destination that he went through the crowd calling out the name of the city and offering to trade for a ticket to anywhere else.

When we come to the end of our lives, and no one knows exactly when this will be, the least helpful thing would be a mystery journey into the future. We need to know without a shadow of a doubt that we are going to heaven. Can we be that sure? The New Testament book of Romans, Chapter 10, says: “If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from death, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved.” The Scripture also says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.”

If you haven't been totally sure of this before now, make your peace with God today.

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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