

Small Group Study Notes

1 Kings 4:1-34

1. Chapter 3:16-28 is a picture of Solomon applying wisdom to a court case and 4:1-34 is the picture of him applying wisdom in the administration of his kingdom. What aspects of his kingdom would motivate you to move to Israel and become a citizen of Solomon?
2. Solomon gives a very high priority to the matter of administration. Paul tells us that administration is one of the gifts that God gives (1 Cor 12:28). List examples of poor administration in the church and list examples of good administration in the church and the consequences of both.
3. During the wilderness wanderings Moses organised just where every tribe would be situated both when they were stationary and when they were moving (Num 2 & 10). What were the advantages of such intense levels of organisation? What were the disadvantages?
4. Is it going too far to say that there is something evil in chaos?
5. In verse 20 we are told that the people “ate drank and were happy” yet they also paid taxes - verse 7 speaks of where Solomon’s wealth came from – his people. So what is it that makes people happy while paying taxes?
6. There are lots of names in this chapter of people who served the kingdom. In listing their names Solomon was publically acknowledging them. So what is the balance between such public affirmation and that which Jesus spoke of in Mat 6:1?
7. The population was as “numerous as the sand on the seashore” (v20). Is there such a thing as “over population”?
8. People came from all over to listen to Solomon’s general and scientific knowledge (v34) but Micah 4:2 speaks of the nations coming to Jerusalem for a different type of knowledge. Why is it that almost anything will take our attention away from the word of God?