



By Mrs. Bessie Wilbon

INTRODUCTION

David, the father of Solomon, had become king of Israel only after years of struggle. When we first learn of him, he was a simple shepherd, of humble parentage. Later

David was to receive the ridicule of his eldest brother when he manifested an interest in the warfare between the Philistines and Israel. In spite of this, he entered into the conflict, killed Goliath, and attained many other notable victories for Israel. But even his successes caused him great difficulty, for King Saul became insanely jealous of this popular young hero and sought to kill him. For years David was a fugitive and had to sustain himself as best he could. Thus was his path to the throne fraught with danger every step of the way. Solomon, on the other hand, although confronted by a degree of opposition, actually received the kingdom from the hand of his father with little effort on his own part.

In mentality, Solomon seems to have been well qualified, even before the special gift of wisdom given to him when he prayed for God's guidance. The extent of his religious heritage we cannot adequately measure. We know that he did look to God for help when he became king, and other incidents in his life indicate that he was devout by nature. But his life was never subjected to the tempering processes that had tested and strengthened the character of David. Perhaps the way of Solomon was a bit too easy. It could well be that the absence of a period of great adversity and testing was the greatest handicap of King Solomon's life.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In the declining years of David, peace prevailed between Israel and her neighbors. All of the nations bordering upon the kingdom had either become subject nations, or else had negotiated treaties of peace. A high degree of security was realized. However, the strife within his own family continued until his death and even afterward.

Amnon, the oldest son of David, had been killed by his brother Absalom. The latter, because of his rebellion against David, was slain by Joab. Chileab, David's second-born son, seems to have died before his father. This left Adonijah as the oldest surviving son, (2 Samuel 3:2-4). It was David's intention that Solomon, the son of Bethsheba, should become the next king, (1 Kings 1:13). However, in David's old age Adonijah attempted to seize the throne. Perhaps he thought that the crown ought to be his as heir apparent. However, in Israel, neither law nor custom required this.

The rapidly weakening David made arrangements for Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet to anoint Solomon king, thus thwarting Adonijah's plan. Solomon promised that Adonijah would not be harmed if he proved worthy of trust. But when Adonijah made a second attempt to deprive Solomon of the throne, Solomon had him put to death, (1 Kings 1:28-53; 2:13-25). Thus was Solomon established as king. In the years that followed, Solomon's wisdom, fame and wealth increased so that he became the dominant figure in the Middle East. It was during this time that he undertook his tremendous building projects, especially the temple.

"But if you or your descendants stop following me, disobey the laws and commands I have given you, and worship other gods, then I will remove my people Israel from the land that I have given them. I will also abandon this Temple which I have consecrated as the place where I am to be worshipped," (1 Kings 9:6-7). "And the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel," (1 Kings 11:9).

What about our attitudes today? True, we do not worship the same deities in the same way as then, but we can make idols of our houses, our cars, our "things." In a sense we count as supreme worth what we spend a great deal of money for and a great deal of the time with.

Just as the results of Solomon's folly were not fully seen until after his death, so the effects of our worship of false deities may be more obvious after a while than at first. We can run on the momentum from past faithfulness for a time, but the thrust will eventually wear off and cease. We need to pray to be delivered from every false god and to be led to the worship of the God who inhabits eternity and who calls us to purity of life and fixity of faith.



Terrence Carothers and Asha Hood have just begun to know what it feels like to be treated as royalty. They were recently crowned King and Queen of the E.C. Cannon Day Care Center. Although both winners had to raise the highest amount of money, they seem to be accepting their roles graciously. (Photo By Divine Reflections)

Super Sunday II Extended

There was "Jaws II," "Star Wars," "Return of the Jedi," and "Superman II." All great events and programs have their sequels. Therefore, Super Sunday II.

The Afro-American Cultural Center announced this week that it would extend the successful Super Sunday idea to include July 1 and July 8. The first Super Sunday held last week was a special promotion to give local churches an opportunity to pledge or contribute to the campaign to restore the old historic Little Rock AME Zion Church to house the Afro-American Cultural Center. Campaign officials say they were pleased with the results of Super Sunday which generated a lot of

momentum for the project as it closes in on its original ending date of June 30.

Officials say there are still other churches that did not have enough time to prepare for their participation in the first Super Sunday. Hopefully, their efforts will boost church donations considerably higher. As of this week, campaign leaders report that local churches had contributed a combined \$58,258. They add that churches are a great resource of pledges and contributions.

Any churches that have not made pledges or contributed already are urged to be part of the upcoming Super Sundays. For more details, call the Afro-American Cultural Center at 374-1565.



By the way..

By Joe Black

An underlying reason for a lack of unity among Black people is the fact that envy, or a lack of understanding, still has some Black people labeling Blacks in the private sector who exercise their prerogative of saying "no" to a request from a Black organization, or person. I say that is the wrong attitude to take. No, not because I am one of those "labeled" individuals, but rather because the Black man is caught "between a rock and a hard place." On the one side he is being called a "Tom" or "window dressing," while on the other side he is attempting to use the mind that God gave to him and proving that he does have a job with defined duties and responsibilities.

It is our belief that we must show the private sector and Black America that our educational preparation makes us as professional and efficient as any other executive regardless of color. Our successes will motivate Black youths to dig in and learn, baby, learn so that they can compete for a job that is real and rewarding because they are prepared and qualified. This can only happen when Black Americans accept and respect the Black executive's right to reject proposals submitted by Black or white groups. Let's face it, soon there will be only a few jobs available because it has been mandated by a law.

Joe Black

Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation



ADVERTISED ITEM POLICY

Each of these advertised items is required to be readily available for sale at or below the advertised price in each A&P Store, except as specifically noted in this ad.

PRICES EFFECTIVE THRU SAT., JUNE 30, AT A&P IN CHARLOTTE. ITEMS OFFERED FOR SALE NOT AVAILABLE TO OTHER RETAIL DEALERS OR WHOLESALERS

DOUBLE COUPONS

SEE YOUR LOCAL A&P IN CHARLOTTE FOR DETAILS

3 Beautiful Patterns Hand Painted Baroque
STONEWARE
This Week's Feature: Saucer **49¢** each
WITH EVERY 3.00 PURCHASE
SEE COUPON BELOW ON COMPLETE PIECE

The Butcher Shop with supermarket prices
FRESH LEAN COUNTRY FARM **P** Meat Specials WESTERN GRAIN FED BEEF
Pork Chops **Bottom Round**
Combo Family Pkg. lb. **128** Save (WITH EYE) Whole or Half lb. **148** Save

COUNTRY PRIDE **Whole Fryers** **59¢** Save
WESTERN GRAIN FED BEEF **Round Roast** or Round Steak Boneless Bottom lb. **198** Save

THE FARM Fresh With Quality
CALIFORNIA RED OR WHITE **Seedless Grapes** **99¢** Save

RED RIPE **Watermelon** **129** Save
SWEET FLORIDA **Yellow Corn** 10 ears only **189** Save
1/2 melon only

Great Grocery Savings
HUNT'S **Tomato Ketchup** 32 oz. btl. **79¢** Save
MRS. FILBERT'S GOLDEN **Margarine Quarters** 1 lb. pkg. **59¢** Save

JANE PARKER **Hamburger Rolls** OR HOT DOG 3 8 ct. pkgs. **100** Save
FLAV-O-RICH **Dairy Charm** Ice Cream 5 qt. pail **299** Save

ALL FLAVORS **Shasta Drinks** 2 liter btl. **79¢** Save
CRISP N' TASTY **Jeno's Pizza** 10 oz. pkg. **99¢** Save

A&P COUPON
SAVE ON **Orange Juice** 64 oz. ctn. **99¢**
A&P COUPON
SAVE ON **Scott Towels** big roll **49¢**

A&P COUPON
SAVE ON **Crisco Oil** 32 oz. btl. **139**
A&P COUPON
\$1.00 OFF WITH THIS COUPON AND PURCHASE OF ANY **Stoneware Completer Piece**

1334 CENTRAL AVE. 4337 PARK ROAD 180 SHARON AMITY
1015 PROVIDENCE RD. 1600 WEST TRADE 4459 CENTRAL AVE.
5831 S. BLVD.

GET THE WORD OUT!
Advertise in
THE CHARLOTTE POST
CALL 376-0496