

¹And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about.²Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days.³And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.⁵In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.⁶And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.⁷And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.⁸And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.⁹Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?¹⁰And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.¹¹And God said unto him,

¹وَصَاهَر سُلَيْمَانُ فِرْعَوْنَ مَلِكَ مِصْرَ وَأَخَذَ بِنْتَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَآتَى بِهَا إِلَى مَدِينَةِ دَاوُدَ إِلَى أَنْ أَكْمَلَ بِنَاءَ بَيْتِهِ وَبَنَى الرَّبُّ وَسُورَ أُورُشَلِيمَ حَوْلَئِهَا.²إِلَّا أَنَّ الشَّعْبَ كَانُوا يَذْبَحُونَ فِي الْمُرْتَفَعَاتِ، لِأَنَّهُ لَمْ يَبْنِ بَيْتٌ لِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ إِلَى تِلْكَ الْيָأَمِ.³وَأَحَبَّ سُلَيْمَانُ الرَّبَّ سَائِراً فِي فَرَائِضِ دَاوُدَ أَبِيهِ، إِلَّا أَنَّهُ كَانَ يَذْبَحُ وَيُقَدِّسُ فِي الْمُرْتَفَعَاتِ.⁴وَذَهَبَ الْمَلِكُ إِلَى جِبْعُونَ لِيَذْبَحَ هُنَاكَ، لِأَنَّهَا هِيَ الْمُرْتَفَعَةُ الْعَظِيمَةُ. وَأَصْعَدَ سُلَيْمَانُ أَلْفَ مُحْرَقَةٍ عَلَى ذَلِكَ الْمَذْبَحِ.⁵فِي جِبْعُونَ تَرَاعَى الرَّبُّ لِسُلَيْمَانَ فِي حُلُمٍ لَيْلاً. وَقَالَ اللَّهُ، اسْأَلْ مَاذَا أَعْطِيكَ.⁶فَقَالَ سُلَيْمَانُ، إِنَّكَ قَدْ فَعَلْتَ مَعَ عَبْدِكَ دَاوُدَ أَبِي رَحْمَةٍ عَظِيمَةٍ حَسَبَ مَا سَارَ أَمَامَكَ بِأَمَانَةٍ وَبِرٍّ وَاسْتِقَامَةٍ قَلْبٍ مَعَكَ، فَحَفِظْتَ لَهُ هَذِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعَظِيمَةَ وَأَعْطَيْتُهُ ابْنًا يَجْلِسُ عَلَى كُرْسِيِّهِ كَهَذَا الْيَوْمِ.⁷وَالآنَ أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهِي، أَنْتَ مَلَكَتَ عَبْدَكَ مَكَانَ دَاوُدَ أَبِي، وَأَنَا قَتِيٌّ ضَعِيفٌ لَا أَعْلَمُ الْخُرُوجَ وَالْدُخُولَ.⁸وَعَبْدُكَ فِي وَسْطِ شَعْبِكَ الَّذِي اخْتَرْتَهُ شَعْبٌ كَثِيرٌ لَا يَخْصِي وَلَا يَعُدُّ مِنَ الْكَثَرَةِ.⁹فَأَعْطِ عَبْدَكَ قَلْبًا فَهِمًا لِأَحْكَمَ عَلَى شَعْبِكَ وَأَمِيرًا بَيْنَ الْخَيْرِ وَالشَّرِّ، لِأَنَّهُ مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَحْكُمَ عَلَى شَعْبِكَ الْعَظِيمِ هَذَا. فَحَسَنَ الْكَلَامِ فِي عَيْنِي الرَّبِّ، لِأَنَّ سُلَيْمَانَ سَأَلَ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ.¹⁰فَقَالَ لَهُ اللَّهُ، مِنْ أَجْلِ أَنَّكَ قَدْ سَأَلْتَ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ وَلَمْ تَسْأَلْ لِنَفْسِكَ أَثَامًا كَثِيرَةً وَلَا سَأَلْتَ لِنَفْسِكَ غِنًى وَلَا سَأَلْتَ أَنْفُسَ أَعْدَائِكَ، بَلْ سَأَلْتَ لِنَفْسِكَ تَمَيزاً لِيَفْهَمَ الْحُكْمَ، هُوَذَا قَدْ فَعَلْتَ حَسَبَ كَلَامِي. هُوَذَا أَعْطَيْتُكَ قَلْبًا حَكِيماً وَمُمْتِراً حَتَّى إِنَّهُ لَمْ يَكُنْ مِثْلَكَ قَبْلَكَ وَلَا يَقُومُ بَعْدَكَ تَطْيِيرُكَ.¹¹وَقَدْ أَعْطَيْتُكَ أَيْضاً مَا لَمْ تَسْأَلْهُ، غِنًى وَكَرَامَةً حَتَّى إِنَّهُ لَا يَكُونُ رَجُلٌ مِثْلَكَ فِي الْمُلُوكِ كُلِّ أَثَامِكَ.¹²فَإِنْ سَلَكَتَ فِي طَرِيقِي وَحَفِظْتَ فَرَائِضِي وَوَصَايَايَ كَمَا سَلَكَ دَاوُدُ أَبُوكَ فَإِنِّي أُطِيلُ أَثَامَكَ.¹³فَاسْتَقِظْ سُلَيْمَانُ وَإِذَا هُوَ حُلُمٌ. وَجَاءَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ وَوَقَفَ أَمَامَ تَابُوتِ عَهْدِ الرَّبِّ وَأَصْعَدَ مُحْرَقَاتٍ وَقَرَّبَ ذَبَائِحَ سَلَامَةٍ وَعَمَلَ وَلِيْمَةً لِكُلِّ عِيْدِهِ.¹⁴جِيئَ ابْنُ رَائِيئَانَ إِلَى الْمَلِكِ وَوَقَفَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ. فَقَالَتِ الْوَاجِدَةُ، اسْمِعْ يَا سَيِّدِي. إِنِّي أَنَا وَهَذِهِ الْمَرْأَةُ سَاكِتَانِ فِي بَيْتٍ وَاحِدٍ، وَقَدْ وَلَدْتُ مَعَهَا فِي الْبَيْتِ.¹⁵وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ بَعْدَ وَلادَتِي وَلَدْتُ هَذِهِ الْمَرْأَةَ أَيْضاً، وَكُنَّا مَعاً وَلَمْ يَكُنْ مَعَنَا غَرِيبٌ فِي الْبَيْتِ. فَقَامَتِ ابْنُ هَذِهِ فِي اللَّيْلِ لِأَنَّهَا اصْطَلَجَعَتْ عَلَيْهِ.¹⁶فَقَامَتْ فِي وَسْطِ اللَّيْلِ وَأَخَذَتْ

Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;¹² Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.¹³ And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.¹⁴ And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.¹⁵ And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.¹⁶ Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.¹⁷ And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.¹⁸ And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.¹⁹ And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.²⁰ And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.²¹ And when I rose in the

أَيْنِي مِنْ جَانِبِي وَأَمَلْتُ تَائِمَةً، وَأَصْغَعْتُهُ فِي حِضْنِهَا، وَأَصْجَعْتَ ابْنَهَا الْمَيِّتَ فِي حِضْنِي.²¹ فَلَمَّا قُمْتُ صَبَاحًا لَأَرْضَعَ ابْنِي إِذَا هُوَ مَيِّتٌ. وَلَمَّا تَأَمَّلْتُ فِيهِ فِي الصَّبَاحِ إِذَا هُوَ لَيْسَ ابْنِي الَّذِي وَلَدْتُهُ.²² وَكَانَتِ الْمَرْأَةُ الْآخَرَى تَقُولُ، كَلَّا بَلِ ابْنِي الْحَيُّ وَابْنُكِ الْمَيِّتُ. وَهَذِهِ تَقُولُ، لَا بَلِ ابْنُكِ الْمَيِّتُ وَابْنِي الْحَيُّ. وَتَكَلَّمْنَا أَمَامَ الْمَلِكِ.²³ فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، هَذِهِ تَقُولُ، هَذَا ابْنِي الْحَيُّ وَابْنُكِ الْمَيِّتُ، وَتِلْكَ تَقُولُ، لَا بَلِ ابْنُكِ الْمَيِّتُ وَابْنِي الْحَيُّ.²⁴ ائِثُونِي يَسِيفُ. فَأَتَوْا يَسِيفُ بَيْنَ يَدَيِ الْمَلِكِ.²⁵ فَقَالَ الْمَلِكُ، اسْطَرُّوا الْوَلَدَ الْحَيَّ اثْنَيْنِ، وَأَعْطُوا نِصْفًا لِلْوَاحِدَةِ وَنِصْفًا لِلْآخَرَى.²⁶ فَقَالَتِ الْمَرْأَةُ الَّتِي ابْنُهَا الْحَيُّ لِلْمَلِكِ لَأَنْ أُخْشَاءَهَا اضْطَرَمْتُ عَلَى ابْنِهَا، اسْتَمِعْ يَا سَيِّدِي. أَعْطُوهَا الْوَلَدَ الْحَيَّ وَلَا تُمَيِّتُوهُ. وَأَمَّا تِلْكَ فَقَالَتْ، لَا يَكُونُ لِي وَلَا لَكَ. اسْطَرُّوهُ.²⁷ فَأَمَرَ الْمَلِكُ، أَعْطُوهَا الْوَلَدَ الْحَيَّ وَلَا تُمَيِّتُوهُ فَإِنَّهَا أُمُّهُ.²⁸ وَلَمَّا سَمِعَ جَمِيعُ إِسْرَائِيلَ بِالْحُكْمِ الَّذِي حَكَمَ بِهِ الْمَلِكُ هَابُوا الْمَلِكَ، لِأَنَّهُمْ رَأَوْا حِكْمَةَ اللَّهِ فِيهِ لِإِجْرَاءِ الْحُكْمِ.

morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.²² And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king.²³ Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.²⁴ And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.²⁵ And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.²⁶ Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.²⁷ Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.²⁸ And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.