

# SOLOMON THE WISE

By Rod

*This poem tells the story of Solomon's reign from 2 Chronicles chapters 1 - 9 and 1 Kings chapters 1 – 11. It is probably best performed with a group of actors to mime out the actions as the poem is read or with powerpoint slides to illustrate.*

It's Solomon of whom we will tell;  
Yes, one of those Old Testament guys.  
He was king over all Israel,  
Known for being exceedingly wise.

Son of David and Queen Bathsheba,  
Bathing beauty who caught David's eye.  
David anointed Solly his heir,  
So chosen by the Lord God on high.

Solly needed the use of the sword,  
But succeeded as David had planned.  
And when God asked him what he desired,  
Said "Discernment to govern the land."

When two women appeared at his court,  
Solly showed his thinking was nifty.  
They argued over whose was a child;  
He said, "Simple, let's go fifty-fifty."

This drew out a dramatic response,  
And the real mum was easy to see.  
Solomon's fame spread far and wide,  
Known as the wisest of wise was he..

The nation, under Solomon's rule,  
All enjoyed the most peaceful of lives.  
But some alliances had to be formed  
Which meant Solomon had many wives.

Men, this may sound the greatest of news,  
But wait – I do urge you to pause.  
Just think what many wives means.  
Yes, that's right, lots of mother-in-laws.

But more important than that was this:

The foreign wives brought with them their gods.  
So Solly's domestic arrangements  
And his faith became quickly at odds.

But Solomon set out to construct  
A golden temple fit for the Lord,  
With stones mined from the quarry  
And cedar logs shipped in from abroad.

Seven long years it took him to build:  
A temple thirty metres by ten.  
But he also fancied a palace  
For his wives and all his children.

This project lasted thirteen years more,  
The palace being two times the size.  
So we might ask, "Was this man of God  
Really being exceedingly wise?"

The Queen of Sheba came to see Sol.  
Was he really as wise as they said?  
But he answered all her hard questions.  
Yes, the ultimate nerdy egghead.

Solomon's wealth it grew and it grew.  
He made silver as common as stones.  
But his wealth and his wives turned his head;  
He no longer loved God in his bones.

He took up with the idol Molech  
And other gods that came from abroad.  
Apparently not giving a heck  
To the warnings giv'n him by the Lord.

This angered the Lord God on high,  
And so rebels appeared on the scene:  
Hadad in Egypt, had had enough,  
And Jerobo'm began to look mean.

King Solomon hung on to his throne,  
But his life was now not much fun.  
The kingdom was set for division;  
Only Judah passed on to his son.

So what can we make of our hero?  
His songs numbered one thousand and five,  
And he spoke out three thousand proverbs –  
Clearly wiser than all men alive.

But he drifted away from the Lord;  
Those wives were the downfall of Solly.  
In the end then, no wise man of God;  
Just a king locked up in his folly.