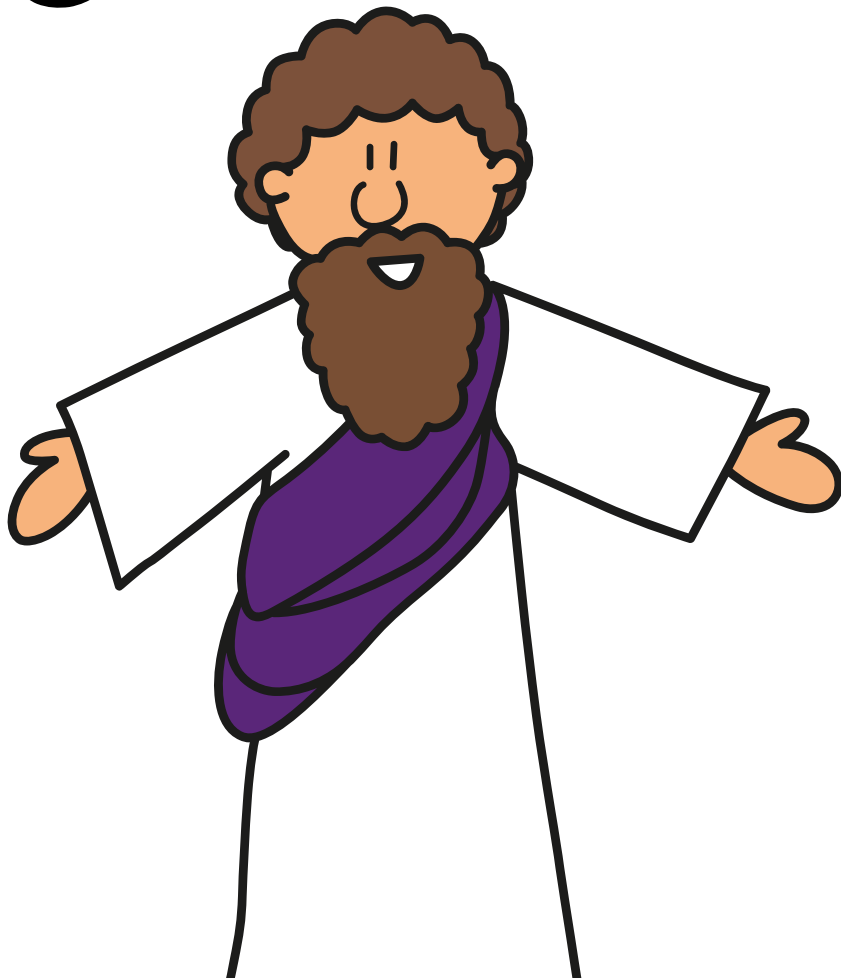


God's Promise to King Solomon



Circa 970 BC

After the death of David, Solomon, his son, became king.

Appearing to Solomon in a dream, the LORD said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "You have made me king in place of my father David. But I do not know how to carry out my duties. So give your servant wisdom to be able to distinguish between right and wrong."

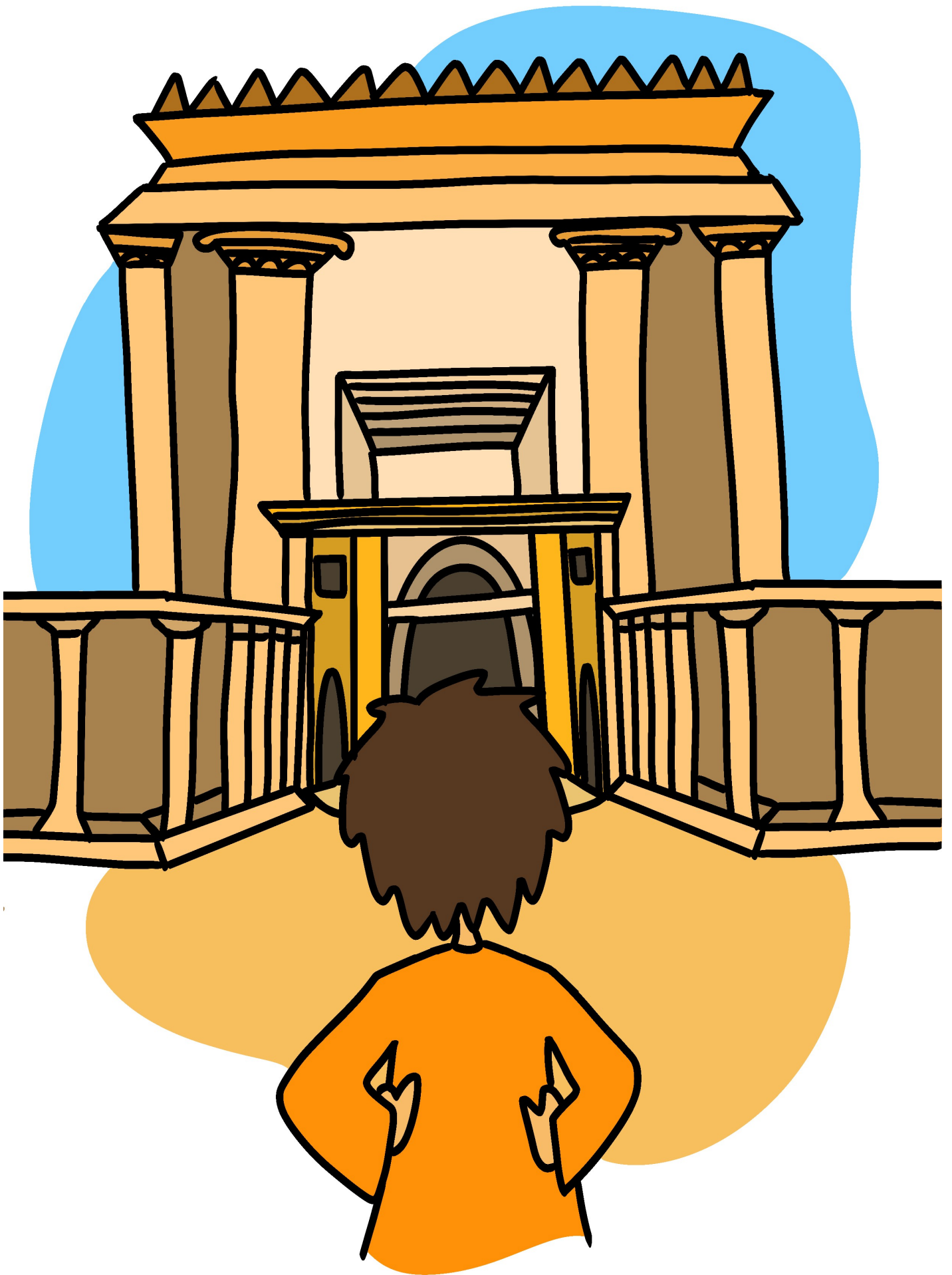
The LORD was pleased with Solomon. He said, "Since you have asked for this and not long life or wealth, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise heart so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for — both riches and honor. And if you obey me, I will give you a long life."



God gave Solomon greater wisdom than all the wisdom of Egypt. People from every land came to listen to his wisdom.

And while Solomon enjoyed peace from his enemies, he oversaw the building of the temple of the LORD.

When it was finished, the LORD appeared to him a second time and said, "I have made this temple a holy place. My eyes and my heart will always be there. As for you, if you walk faithfully, and do all I command, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever as I promised David."



King Solomon grew in wealth and wisdom.

But King Solomon did not walk faithfully as the LORD God had commanded. For the king loved many foreign women from the nations which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them because they will turn your hearts after their gods."

And as Solomon held fast to them in love, his wives turned his heart after other gods.



The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD.

So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since you have not obeyed me, I will tear the kingdom away from you. But because of the promise I gave David, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of my promise to David."

Solomon reigned over all Israel for forty years. He was then was buried in the city of David.

1 Kings 1-11

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