1 Kings 3:4-9

4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and
Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.
5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for
whatever you want me to give you.” 6 Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to
your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in
heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his
throne this very day. 7 “Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my
father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your
servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or
number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish
between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

1 Kings 3:16-28

16 Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. 17 One of them said, “Pardon
me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there
with me. 18 The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were
alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us. 19 “During the night this woman’s son
died because she lay on him. 20 So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from
my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my
breast. 21 The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked
at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn’t the son I had borne.” 22 The other
woman said, “No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.” But the first one insisted,
“No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine.” And so they argued before the king. 23
The king said, “This one says, ‘My son is alive and your son is dead,’ while that one says, ‘No!
Your son is dead and mine is alive.’ ” 24 Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they
brought a sword for the king. 25 He then gave an order: “Cut the living child in two and give
half to one and half to the other.” 26 The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out
of love for her son and said to the king, “Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill
him!” But the other said, “Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!” 27 Then the king
gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.” 28
When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they
saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.