

THE MIRACLE OF LIFE

“God’s ways are as mysterious as the pathway of the wind and as the manner in which a human spirit is infused into the little body of a baby while it is yet in its mother’s womb. Keep on sowing your seed, for you never know which will grow-- perhaps it all will. It is a wonderful thing to be alive! (Eccl 11:5-7 TLB)

King Solomon, who wrote these words, must have been in awe and deeply humbled by the miracle of life. He had a thousand wives, but only one son. His son, Rehoboam, came from Naamah, an Ammonitess. The name Rehoboam, means “The people (or family) is extended (enlarged)”. Perhaps Solomon dreamed of a large family and felt that Rehoboam would be the first of many sons. Hebrew leaders were proud of their sons. Gideon had 70 sons (Judges 9:2). Ahab also had 70 sons (2 Kings 10:1). No matter how hard Solomon’s tried, however, his family was apparently not enlarged. Solomon discovered that the miracle of life is in the hands of God.

Perhaps I should not be dogmatic about Solomon’s family for my thinking is based upon an argument from silence. I can simply find no other son of Solomon mentioned in Scripture. In 1 Chron. 3:1-9, for example, the sons of David are listed. The next verse states: **“Solomon’s son was Rehoboam”** (1 Chron. 3:10). If Solomon had other sons, why not mention them? Taphath (1 Kings 4:11), Basmath (1 Kings 4:15), are listed as the daughters of Solomon. But only Rehoboam is mentioned as his son.

It is interesting to note that Rehoboam was conceived before Solomon became king. We know this by comparing 1 Kings 11:42 and 1 Kings 14:21. The first Scripture states that Solomon reigned 40 years, and the second tells us that Rehoboam was 41 when he became king. Simple math proves that Rehoboam was one year old when Solomon became king.

We know that Solomon had a harem with 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3). Perhaps one reason for his many wives was frustration. More wives, however, did not solve his problem. He learned with Abraham, Abimelech, Zacharias and others that the miracle of life is in the hands of God. God promised David that one of his descendants would always be upon the throne of Israel (2 Chron. 6:16). Solomon therefore had to have at least one son for this promise to be true. Rehoboam fulfilled that promise and was an ancestor of Jesus (Matt. 1:7).

Solomon is credited with writing Ps. 127. This psalm begins: **“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it”**. It reminds us that **“Children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them . . .”** Solomon apparently learned this lesson the hard way.

But now let us make a spiritual application of this principle. If only God can create the miracle of physical life, certainly He alone can create the miracle of spiritual life. If Solomon was humbled by his inability to father physical children, we should also be humbled by the reality that only the Lord can enable us to be “born again”.

Solomon wrote: “God’s ways are as mysterious as the pathway of the wind”. Every parent and every preacher ought to listen reverently to such words of wisdom. We need to stand in awe at the miracle of life. Every lesson on human reproduction ought to emphasize the omnipotence of God and the limitations of man. Every lesson in evangelism ought to also acknowledge that only God can write someone’s name in the Lamb’s book of life.

On the one hand we are told that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Rom. 10:13), but on the other hand we are reminded that not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” will enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 7:21). It is God who determines who is added to His church, and who is not!

The fact that you are reading this article is proof that you were born the first time. God placed that spark in your mother’s womb and gave you life. Our loving Heavenly Father also wants you to be born again. Please humbly pray that God will grant you this miracle of life also!