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An Analytical Research of Prophet King Solomon's Leadership Qualities, Decisiveness, and Sagacity

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Abstract:

Many great leaders who left their marks on people have been witnesses to history. King Solomon, known as Prophet Suleiman, was one of the greatest leaders of Muslims. Solomon showed administrative wisdom and established successfully better diplomatic relations, social justice, and judicial enforcement, as well as leading literary creations in Israel. This article focuses on the leadership of King Solomon, using the historical method of research, in an analysis of leadership qualities by evaluating the reign of Salomon, as in Biblical and Islamic texts: The Saba conquest; the judgment, the wisdom, decision-making power. Moreover, the paper assesses Solomon's leadership and decision-making capabilities based upon an Islamic view of his leadership and compare them to the modern definition for leadership in order to understand the practicality and efficiency of his leadership.

Keywords: *Suleiman in Quran – Jinn – the language of animals – Hoopoe (hud-hud) in the Quran – Ants valley*

1. Introduction

The Biblical account states that King Salomon was Israel's third and last king. At 15 he rose up to the throne and from 977 to 932 BC he ruled Israel. His experience and leadership contributed to unparalleled success, which was one of the most outstanding leaders. His empire had 666 gold talents annually other than merchants and traders' donations. When he designed Jerusalem's holy temple, he lined its inner walls with gold and the floors. Gold didn't lose its shine even after thousands of years. Gold investments are now one of the wisdom investments, and the value of a national currency is affected by gold reserves. The Song of Solomon, the Ecclesiastes, and the Proverbs also praise him for his contribution to many of his literary plays. History is shaped by leading leaders, and visionary leadership is crucial to any successful society. It was said that Salomon was a messenger to God, and all his successes were God's blessing. The leadership concept in the social, political and financial fields is currently becoming crucial. Every area of life requires good leadership, whether in the family, in companies, or in global organizations. They have developed with the time and there are many definitions of leadership. But one thing that is constant is wisdom – even today, knowledge is a necessary feature to become a successful leader. In the current scenario, however, a leader's achievement is not linked with divine interference. Besides scanning historical pages to explore King Salomon's leadership skills, achievements and wisdom in making it a legend, it also explores the archaeologists' findings that prove the reality of the Legend. This also contrasts Solomon's characteristics with current management.

2. Methodology

The article uses the historic method of research and analyzes different aspects of his life, the impact of his leadership on his kingdom and how he has become a useful tool for analytical research on the leadership of King Solomon. It is based on the description and the interpretation of it in the religious text — the Bible and the Qur'an by different scholars. He also discusses Islamic views on the leadership of Solomon (Kirsten, 2018).

2.1. Suleiman, the Prophet

From 961 to 922 BC, Prophet Suleiman was the successor of his father the King of David, and his empire expanded into the territory of the Philistines from the Euphrates. His wealth said that he was one of the richest and most powerful in his day, he built a temple in Jerusalem. Having the insight in assessing the environment, Solomon has taken up old customs and has established numerous domestic alliances with different tribal groups and races by gathering women from tribes and foreign nations. Solomon was made up of 700 women and three hundred concubines of BCE 950. He preserved the Kingdom of Israel, as a competent leader, by improving its defense and alliances with neighboring countries. He also increased his political power through peaceful means rather than war, as well as by uniting his people. By establishing constructive relations with neighboring nations, he demonstrated his astuteness and intelligence. It also proved to be equal to his father's administrative and political experience by increasing Israel's economic activities.

2.1.1. Quran Narrative: The Field's Judgment

The Qur'an and the Bible are full of stories concerning the Wisdom of Solomon. The Wisdom of Solomon as the boy is one of the interesting stories in the Qur'an. He was in the company of his father when two men brought a court case (harth) or an inheritance to David. The first man, a vineyard owner, claimed he was cultivating and collecting grapes all year long. One day the other man's sheep flocked and killed his crop (grapes) in the vineyard in his absence. Therefore, he wanted damage compensation. Once the case was heard, Solomon suggested that the owner of the sheep should work in the wine yard of the plaintiff until the vines were planted. The vineyard owner would care for the sheep in the meantime, as he would enjoy milk and fur. The Quran describes the ability of Solomon to discern better than David his father based on this event. The Muslims describe Solomon's wisdom to be Hikma and then to Sulaimān al-Sakīm, which means the 'wise Solomon' (Julian, 2015).

2.1.2. Empire of Solomon

The young Solomon became the Prophet King of the Israelites after the death of his father. Upon rising to the throne, Solomon desired such a Kingdom that after he and God had granted him his wishes, he would not suit. God was so kind to him and gave him numerous gifts later. The wind and jinn, for example, were put under the supreme power of Salomon according to the Quran. Both Jinn and Shaithan supported him by constructing his temples. Solomon improved his Kingdom. For Solomon, the jinn who used in building works (Routledge 2018), God created a miraculous ayn. Solomon's appeal, as mentioned above, was to understand different animal languages. The Quran doctrine says of another thrilling event in connection with his skills. Once, Solomon and his forces came into the ant valley of Wadin-Naml. When a namlah, a female aunt, saw the Salomon army, he threatened that others should hide or be crushed unknowingly by Solomon and his forces. It brought a smile on the face of Prophet Solomon and he thanked God for blessing him with the ability to understand the language of the ants, so that when he said, 'Oh ye Ants, get into your dwellings that you may not be crushed by Salomon and his army!' He could therefore not think of injustice against people or harming any creature. He was considered to be a sinless prophet ruler. Therefore, God gave him power to interact with animals and ensure he stayed free from all sins. It was indeed an outstanding grant, and Solomon was thankful of the same to God. He gave a smile of gladness and thanksgiving to God (Quran 27-18). King Salomon never missed his prayer, according to Islamic doctrine. Regular prayer was more important for him than all his gifts (Al Hazemi, 2019).

2.2. The Saba Conquest

His leadership was distinguished by King Solomon's forces, including men, jinn and birds. Often his guerrillas were evaluated. He once noticed the hoopoe (hudhud) was not present at the meeting when he assessed the troops. He took birds and asked, 'Why can I not see a Hoopoe? Instead, is he one of the absences?' (Quran 27-20), providing an example of a specific path. Unless I have an explicit permission (Quran 27-21), I will punish him harshly or slaughter him. The Hoopoe returned soon to the court of the king, but he did not remain longer and said: 'I have accepted (in wisdom) the thing you have not protected, and from Sheba I came to you with a certain message (27-22). He told him that in Sheba, there are people worshipping the sun, and a mighty and smart woman ruling them.

Having been careful to listen, Salomon wrote a letter to the people of Sheba using his diplomatic skills and persuaded them to avoid worshipping the sun the land will then come back to God's worship (SoRes, 2018). 'We will see if you were truthful or liars' (Qur'an 27-27) said Salomon. The singularity of the leadership of King Solomon was his determination and wisdom. He ordered Hud-hud, therefore, to take his letter to the Queen of Sheba to secretly evaluate her reply. 'Take my letter and deliver to them and leave to see if they are going to come back.' (Quran 27-28). (Quran 27). Hud-hud immediately sent the Queen the message. Having received Solomon's letter the Queen summoned her ministries and shared the message of Solomon stating, 'In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Merciful, I warn that I will take the sun and acknowledge the one God as Allah. O distinguished; indeed, a noble letter has been delivered to me (Qurans 27-29). This is in line with Solomon's warning. 'She then asked the ministers to give advice and said,' My people, Sheba, I am sure that you are all the courageous and strong conquerors and there is no one on the Earth that can overthrow our troop, but I am still looking for your views.

2.2.1. Wisdom of Prophet Solomon

King Solomon's experience is one of the most frequently debated qualities. His wisdom gained him the title of Israel's wisest king, as stated before. For each portion of the Quran, which refers to the King of the Bible, Salomon offered an offering to God, but God eventually revealed Himself for his dream. During the vision, God asked him of his heart's wishes, during which he wanted riches and prosperity for knowledge, his enemies' death and his long life. God was so pleased with Salomon's option according to the Books of Doctrine that, along with other gifts, he gave him wisdom (Louise, 2018). Wisdom is crucial to every leader, and the decisions and judgment of Solomon often reflected his wisdom. One of his well-known stories is how he settled the conflict over the custody of a child between two women.

To resolve the dispute, Solomon ordered to halve the baby and give one part to each woman. On hearing the king's judgment, one of the women agreed to give her baby to the other woman instead of seeing the child killed. According to Solomon, the woman's decision was proof enough to prove that the child belonged to her. He said that only a mother could show such compassion under such circumstances; hence she is entitled to keep the baby. The Quran recites: 'He grants Hikmah to whom He pleases, and he, to whom Hikmah is granted, is indeed granted abundant good. However, none remember (will receive admonition) except men of understanding' (Quran, 2:269).

It is clear now that among King Solomon's characteristics, wisdom was the essential attribute. Quran mentions that he started showing signs of his extraordinary intelligence in the presence of his father. Indeed, wisdom is a useful tool in decision-making, which means a wise leader can apply his knowledge and experience to make informed decisions. Solomon was aware of the consequences of unfair judgment in the case of men fighting for the child's custody.

Wisdom is about perspective—the higher the perspective, the better the capacity to make the right decision. For instance, before making decisions, a leader must consider its repercussions across cultures and economies. Wise leaders are equipped with adequate understanding and knowledge that empowers them to make the right decisions at the right time. A leader's wisdom attracts people. However, leadership and wisdom are not predominantly characterized by awareness. Seeking information is not enough to make the right decision. Under such circumstances, judgment and experience, that King Solomon possessed, play a critical role in the success (Kari, 2018).

2.3. Solomon's Traits - Blessing of God

Quran describes Solomon as a prophet who effectively represented his people and religion based on God-given gifts. His leadership is compared to God's Kingdom for delineating a high level of spiritual morality. When people witnessed his artistic power, wisdom, knowledge, intelligence, and diplomacy, they easily adhered to his invitation to worship only God. Besides, he had several God-given rewards because of his religious commitment to spreading God's message and establishing a great nation. For many years, the might and power of Prophet Solomon had surprised people, and his great wisdom manifested in various streams such as films, paintings, and novels. Prophet Solomon's characteristics, such as wisdom and superior knowledge, are described as blessings from God. However, Quran emphasizes on the fact that God is the only one who blesses, gives knowledge, unites, leadership skills and wisdom in the same way He did to Solomon. Every aspect of Solomon's leadership was attributable to God's approval and will.

2.4. Islamic View on Prophet Solomon

The Quran narrates fascinating tales of King Solomon, and those anecdotes are not just captivating but also philosophical and divine. This is so because Solomon's symbolic yet mysterious control was over all the creatures on the earth, including humans, jinn, animals, birds, insects, and every other life form (Walker, 2012). King Solomon had the power to communicate directly with all the creatures and command them. There is a mention of a fixed cross in the Quran concerning the king Solomon. The astrological sign of a king is 'Leo.' Therefore, in the Quran, King Solomon is a metaphorical depiction of a human king corresponding to Leo's sig.

The fixed cross is described in Quran regarding Solomon in the following fashion: 'And unto Solomon (We gave) the wind, of which the morning course was a month's journey and the evening course a month's journey, and We caused the fount of copper to gush forth for him, and (We gave him) certain of the jinn who worked before him by permission of his Lord. Moreover, such of them as deviated from Our command, we caused to taste the punishment of flaming fire'. Chapter 18 of the Quran, called 'The Cave,' is the most comprehensive chapter on astro theology in the Quran. The characteristics and sequence of events during Solomon's reign, as described in the Quran, are interpreted from an astro theological perspective to understand the best principles of authority in hierarchy and diversity for the benefits of individual participants and its contribution towards the governing structures (Izzi, 2011). King Solomon's actions in the Quran emphasizes the responsibility that comes with sovereignty, and the loyal subjects that support the realm as much as the kingdom of Solomon. According to the Quran, Solomon is a Nabi (prophet) and Malik (King) of all the tribes in Israel. Muslims believe that King Solomon was faithful to one God throughout his reign and that the kingdom of Israel got blessings with high kingship, a blessing never bestowed upon anybody before him and after him. As a king, he attained a complete fulfillment of all the prospective commandments like being granted a promise of nearing God's paradise towards his demise. Arabic history considered Solomon as one of the blessed leaders around the globe (Zafar, 2000).

2.5. Solomon's Wisdom and Islamic View on Leadership

This section evaluates the leadership characteristics of Prophet Solomon from Biblical and Islamic perspectives. Islam recognizes the greatness of Prophet Solomon. The Quran comprehensively addresses Solomon's character as a God-chosen leader concerning human culture, society, intelligence, wisdom, and quality leadership (Table 1). It also throws light on the quality leadership and its pre-conditions. Other than the religious books, various scholars and researchers have written about leaders and leadership. The great scholar Ibn Khaldun analyzed Prophet Solomon's leadership in his literary work titled *Al-Muqaddimah* and wrote, 'Leadership is an outcome of the interaction between different social groups.' On the other hand, Al Burley said, 'an Islamic leader is the one that seeks happiness for the individual and society.' There are many traits and skills demonstrated by leaders (Abraham, 2018). These include talent, drive, willpower, practical wisdom, loyalty, ethical behavior, emotional intelligence, integrity, self-awareness, and resilience. According to Baker, a leader's commitment to the organization is crucial. Their role in effectively disseminating this belief and a sense of mission to the subordinates and their role in creating an environment in which people can give their best to achieve the goals is critical to organizational effectiveness (Abraham, 2018).

The fundamental principle of leadership is, 'since people tend to follow those who, in their view, offer them a means of satisfying their personal goals, the more managers understand what motivates their subordinates and how these motivations operate, and the more they reflect this understanding in carrying out their managerial actions, the more effective the leaders are likely to be.' In challenging the process, leaders look for both internal and external opportunities. They look for ways to change or improve the status quo. Such opportunities may include an innovative new service or activity, reorganization, or a realignment of the organization's mission. To aid their search process, leaders should use

shura or consult people within the organization and outside. Employees use services provided by the organization; therefore, they can have a critical insight as they are closest to problem areas or external constituents (Abraham, 2018). In Islam, terms like Shariah, Khilafa, and Imam describe leadership. However, Islamic speeches and verses mention many other words to describe a leader such as Sheikh, Malik, Sayyid, and Amir-ul-Muminin, and they are used interchangeably to portray a leader.

In Islam, leadership is defined as a combination of position, responsibilities, attitude, skills, and behaviors that allows someone to bring out the best in others and their organization in a sustainable manner. A successful leader from the Islamic point of view is the person with wise management skills, ethical approach, organizational capability, creativity, responsibility, and political wisdom, and Prophet Solomon lived up to the expectations. He proved himself to be a leader and politician of extraordinary organizational, administrative, managerial, legislative, and executive skills. Prophet Solomon's political acumen helped him successfully rule his country and establish peaceful relationships with foreign nations. The reign of King Solomon was a period of security, prosperity, and international recognition for its economic and diplomatic achievements. In Islam, leadership is also about trust. It is the mutual understanding between the subordinates and the leader that the leader or king's actions and decisions will be beneficial to the subordinates and goals & objectives of the organization (Beekun, 2002). The definition of leadership in the Quran says, "And by the Mercy of Allah you deal with them gently. Moreover, had you been severe and harsh hearted, they would have broken away from you. So, pass over (their faults) and ask (Allah's) forgiveness for them, and seek their opinion in the affairs. Then when you have taken a decision, put trust in Allah. Allah loves those who put their trust (in Him)" (Quran 3:159).

In Islam, incentives are broadly classified as - positive and negative as modern classification admits. Jannah or Paradise is for those who follow the commands of Allah and abstains from the forbidden (Abedi, 2016). Hell/fire for apostasy.

There are extrinsic and intrinsic incentives. Surah At-Talaq (verses 2-3) and Surah- Nuh (Quran 71-10-13) are two examples of extrinsic or material incentives. As for the intrinsic or inherent non-material incentives, the Quran and Sunnah are full of such examples that include tranquility and peace of mind, Islamic spirit, changing sins into virtues by the grace of Allah. The ability to offer incentives is one of the essential authorities that a leader can use to achieve his goals.

Classification of leadership is found in western writings, and the western scholars classify them on how leaders use their authority. In this model, leaders have three basic styles. Autocratic leaders are dogmatic, positive, and lead by the ability to withhold or give rewards and punishment. Second, the democratic or participative leaders who consult with subordinates on proposed actions and decisions and encourages involved engagement and inputs. Third, Shura. Democratic leadership is the closest to Shura (Buraey, 2003). This article also focuses on the lessons that can be learned from verses in Surah An-Tamil of the Quran. It is related to leadership behavior, which is as fresh as modern research can be. Various leadership aspects ranging from theory and practice of gradual punishment to communication, consultation, and delegation of authority during the Prophet Solomon reign were looked at and treated from the leadership perspective somewhat Prophetic side of King Solomon.

2.6. Literary Achievements of Prophet Solomon

Inspired by the Quran verses, Muslims firmly believe that Abdullah ibn Muhammad is portrayed in Songs of Songs, the fifth chapter. The comparison between the Hebrew term found in verse 16 and Muhammad's Islamic name (letters of consonant: M-h-m-d) portrays consonantal resemblance. The Hebrew term with a consonant format of M-h-m-d-y-m was defined as 'altogether lovely' as it resembles the name 'Muhammad.' Biblically, Solomon authored seven books. His literary works include texts in zoology, botany, history, poetry and songs. During Solomon's reign, multiple works of the golden era were produced in Israel. Later, those works were compiled under 'Ketuvim' in the Hebrew Bible.

Apart from theology, Solomon's literary work included the wisdom literature (evidenced in Akkadian and Egyptian genres), giving advice on personal challenges or topics, practical learning, relationship, and the creation of the world. The romantic genre presented an eventual union between couples through themes like loyalty, love, desire, beauty, and power. In his article, Sarit focuses on the cultural perspective on the legend of Solomon's unique ability to control demons originated in Jewish-Hellenistic circles that became widespread later in Judaic, Islamic and Christian culture. In the Qur' ān, as well as in the earlier Babylonian Talmud and other rabbinic sources, the legend was adopted with a clear tendency to avoid the pragmatic demonic aspects of the story.

In a similar vein, Qur'ānic commentators presented the relations between Solomon and the demons as an expression of the supernatural rule of the king over the cosmos and ignored his shameful end. The inclusion of the legend in the most sacred canonical text of Islam and its connotation of eternity may explain the frequent representation in Muslim art. On the other hand, the avoidance by the Christian establishment authorities and the relegation to profane literature mocking the king may account for its absence in the western official art. A combination of the high and low aspects of Solomon is seen in an illuminated medieval Hebrew Mahzor from South Germany. The divine aspect of Solomon, as he appears in the Mahzor, is paralleled in the Muslim examples. These similarities are the result of close textual traditions deriving from the same sources (Shalev-Eyni, 2006).

2.7. The Accomplishments of Prophet Solomon

A good leader is assessed based on his leadership skills, accomplishments, followers, and diplomacy, among other attributes. From an Islamic perspective, leaders are essential people in establishing happiness, peace, and achieving success within a given society. For this reason, the Islamic rules on leadership are oriented in ensuring proper rules adhere to every platform of life (Houch and M. Pashaei, 2016). In describing Solomon's accomplishments, there is much

similarity to all the stipulated perspective of an Imam (leader). Known to be a diplomatic leader, Solomon established peace with neighboring nations and established extensive trade networks. Such initiative helped King Solomon emerge as the wealthiest leader of his reign. King Solomon's fame transcended boundaries so much, so that leader of Sheba visited him and tested his intelligence by asking riddles. After attesting Solomon's achievements in terms of leadership and wisdom, he honored the Lord of Israel by stating, 'The earlier reports I received about your words and wisdom are indeed true. I doubted the reports until when I witnessed them in person. I only heard half of the real happenings; your prosperity and wisdom exceed all the heard reports.' Besides, Solomon goes down in the books of history for authoring prolific writings with over 1,000 songs and about 2,900 proverbs.

3. Results

The analysis of the religious texts and its comparison with the modern-day definitions of successful leaders testifies that King Solomon's wisdom was a God's gift, but when compared to the modern-day leaders, they do not seem unrealistic or unachievable. In 2013, an archeologist found another proof during excavations at Timna Valley that links the copper mines in the southern tip of Israel to the reign of King Solomon. The artifacts discovered at the site have been radiocarbon dated to the 10th century B.C. when King Solomon ruled, and archaeologist Erez Ben-Yosef of Tel Aviv University said that the mines are definitely from the period of King Solomon (Gannon, 2013). The descriptions in the religious texts and the discoveries made by the modern-day archeologists substantiate King Solomon's stories and his wisdom and wealth. Historians and archaeologists are continually working to find new evidence to substantiate these texts further.

4. Discussion

Religious texts are filled with admiration and praise for King Solomon's wisdom, a trait extensively discussed in the Bible and Quran. His stories have regaled and inspired human civilization for centuries. At the same time, there has been an ongoing debate in modern society about the historical accuracy of Solomon's kingdom and his wisdom stories. Modern scholars were of the view that David and Solomon are just mythological figures and accepted his stories as legends. However, the pieces of evidence found during excavations tell a different story. Researchers have found proof establishing the existence of Solomon's kingdom. According to Science Daily, while carrying an archaeological survey at a site in Israel, a team of archaeologists from Mississippi State University found six official clay seals that provide evidence and support biblical kings David and Solomon.

The current world is a distinct force compared to the age of Solomon. Similarities are hardly there, but the history stories are a common thread, and modern time is knowledge. Many think that at birth, knowledge is not inculcated into a person, but rather through experience. Like Solomon, modern leaders need the extra dose of knowledge to provide peace and economic growth in their country to be an effective political leader. In the present era where the world is confronting economic and social crises and challenges such as War and terrorism, they need the wisdom to take diplomatic lead. In addition, literacy and wellbeing are also used for economic assessment. When confronted with successful modern leadership, the qualities of Solomon's leadership do not turn out to be unnatural, although he has been divine. He was his time's richest man. For 40 years he ruled and was portrayed as Israel's most prosperous period. This period is also known as Israel's Golden Age. Considering the present situation, where the planet is faced with global instability, economic recession, environmental disruption, one thinks it will be beneficial.

5. Conclusion

On the basis of the above, the great leadership means wisdom, wisdom, intelligence and, last but not least, gifts from Heaven. It can be inferred. Blessed with wisdom were Daud (David) and Suleiman (Solomon). The religious texts show that knowledge leads to the higher things in life, and the wisdom that David and Solomon demonstrate in their decisions and actions, as well as in the understanding and vision that enabled them to achieve their goals, were evident in David's profound leadership. As one of the wisest leaders ever to live, King Solomon respected. Renowned for his intelligence, riches and cutting-edge buildings from his period, King Solomon was a wise, articulate, exceptionally talented, scientifically outstanding king. He was shocked at his knowledge of songs and proverbs and his ability to comprehend other living beings. He was able to perceive the soul of man with a strong intellectual ability. The sovereignty of Prophet Solomon has represented the country's economic and diplomatic achievements as a period of security, prosperity and international recognition. The exceptional organizational, administrative, management, legislative and executive capacities of Prophet Solomon; his impressive leadership enabled him to create a large empire. The genius and wisdom of King Solomon's prophet is forever legendary.

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Appendix

S.No.	Qualities	Description
1.	Taqwa (Deep conscious)	It means humility; being conscious of Allah's presence and fearing, Him at all times.
2.	Justice	a fundamental precept of Islam and an essential characteristic a leader must possess.
3.	Decisiveness (Hazem)	Being decisive means the ability to decide. The strength of a decision instills the ability to act. A quick and well-thought-out decision backed by logic, gut instinct and taking personal responsibility for whatever the outcome will be, can boost professional standing.
4.	Patience and tolerance	These are essential qualities of a leader. It helps a leader to act responsibly.
5.	Trust - trusteeship	An important concept of Islamic leadership. It is a psychological contract between the leader and his followers.
6.	Dependence on Allah (Tawakkul)	This virtue means surrendering to Allah. A leader must have his plan, policy, and strategy in place to achieve any lawful objectives. After that, it is his sacred duty to depend on Allah to bestow him with success and positive result.
7.	Consultation (Mushwara)	It means sharing views and exchanging opinions on vital matters.
8.	Accountability	A leader is responsible for his deeds and he is bound to be accountable to his followers and Allah the Almighty
9.	Knowledge and wisdom	In Islamic, Hikmah does not mean the wisdom and special knowledge merely, it is such a divine gift that comes only through inner enlightenment and by seeking sincere guidance from Allah; it is the ability to apply knowledge to bring about the most desirable outcome.
10	Unshakable confidence in God	Leader with unshakable confidence in God never waver come what may. Unshakable confidence comes by realizing that God is able to see you all the time.

Table 1: Top 10 Most Leadership Qualities of King Solomon