

Calvary Chapel of Escondido
Men's Ministry Bible Study

Solomon Study #1 - Asking for Wisdom



Solomon was the builder of the temple in Jerusalem and the first king of Israel to trade commercial goods profitably to other nations, the author of Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. According to the chronology in 1 Kings 11:42, Solomon was about 20 years old when he was crowned. He assumed leadership of Israel at a time of great material and spiritual prosperity. During his 40-year reign (970-930 B.C.), he expanded his kingdom until it covered about 50,000 square miles from Egypt in the south, to Syria in the north, to the borders of Mesopotamia in the east.

There is no doubt that God chose specific men and women throughout history to reveal to us throughout Scripture for a purpose. As we study the life of Solomon over the next four weeks, we will see a man who was chosen by God to be King and chosen by God to build His dwelling place. We will see a man who did many godly things throughout his lifetime and his reign as king. We are going to study how one man with so much wealth would eventually trust in his own wisdom and decide to follow his own way. Solomon was not strong enough to withstand the temptations that come with a life of luxury. He chose the way of the world instead of the way of God.

Again, God has chosen to reveal to us the life of Solomon and the choices that he made. Let us gain wisdom by gleaning from the things that Solomon did that pleased God and also learn from the mistakes that he made.

Supportive Scripture

Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. "And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn." (1 Kings 2:1-3)

And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king [Solomon] had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice. (1 Kings 3:28)

Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7)

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (John 15:7)

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. (1 John 5:14-15)

Teach [us] to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalms 90:12)

Happy [is] the man [who] finds wisdom, And the man [who] gains understanding. (Proverbs 3:13)

How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. (Proverbs 16:16)

The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (James 3:17)

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those [who live] according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded [is] death, but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:5-8)

Examine yourselves [as to] whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified. (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Key Verse

"Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" (1 Kings 3:9)

Memory Verse

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

Quote

"The student who has to cram through a school or a college course, who has made himself merely a receptacle for the teacher's thoughts and ideas, is not educated; he has not gained much. He is a reservoir, not a fountain. One retains, the other gives forth. Unless his knowledge is converted into wisdom, into faculty, it will become stagnant like water." ~ J.E. Dinger

Questions for Group Discussion

1 Kings 3:1-15

1. **(v.1-4) A Divided Heart** – Why do you feel that Solomon came up short in following God wholeheartedly? Explain the consequences of living with one foot in the world and one foot in the church?

2. **(v.5) Your One Wish** - What would your wish be? Do you feel that God would have given Solomon *anything* that He asked for? Explain.

3. **(v.3-9) Ways to Please God** - We read that Solomon began his walk with God in a way that was pleasing to God. Describe in your own words how Solomon, and his father David, pleased God in the following verses.
- Verse 3

 - Verse 6

 - Verse 7

 - Verse 9

Explain in one sentence the attitude of the heart that is necessary to please God.

4. **(v.10-13) God's Response** – How did God feel about Solomon's request? What was God's response to Solomon?
- Verse 12

 - Verse 13
5. Meditate today on God's requirement for Solomon in order for Solomon to remain pleasing in God's sight. Think about what was required of Solomon as his responsibility in order for God's hand to remain on him. Is the requirement any different for us today? Explain.

Additional Questions for Personal Study

1. Who did Solomon marry? Was this a problem? Use scripture to support your answer.

2. Why did the people sacrifice to God in the high places?

3. Do you feel that it is wrong to ask for riches and a long life?

4. Consider all of the things that God has blessed you with. How many of these did you think to petition God and how many did God simply bless you with even though you didn't ask? What does this tell you?

5. What is a burnt offering? Peace offering?