

SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM

1 Kings 3:6-15
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INTRO:

1. Systematic Theology
2. Biblical Theology

A. THE START OF WISDOM

1. Acknowledgement of the past (v. 7)
2. Admission of the present (v. 7-8)

B. THE SOURCE OF WISDOM

1. God as called Jehovah (v. 7)
2. God as called Elohim (v. 8)

C. THE SUBSTANCE OF WISDOM

1. Discerning heart (v. 9a)
2. Distinguishing what is right and wrong (v. 9b)

D. THE SUCCESS OF WISDOM

1. Favorable life (v. 10-12)
2. Fruitful life (v. 13)
3. Fervent life (v. 14)

CONCLUSION

TABLETALK QUESTIONS

Godly wisdom is a gift from God that equips us to make smart choices. Rather than wishing to increase his personal wealth or reputation, Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God's people. He would later write, "Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment" (Proverbs 9:10,). Fear of the Lord doesn't mean being afraid of God. Instead, it means to fear violating His Word and His commands.

Solomon understood the importance of godly wisdom in his new position as king of Israel. To govern a nation was no small feat. We should also note that Solomon asked for wisdom before he needed it. He didn't wait until he was facing a major decision or navigating through a crisis—and neither should you. Undoubtedly, Godly wisdom is a steady pursuit, not an escape hatch.

1. Read 2 Chronicles 1:1–6.

As part of taking "firm control" over his kingdom, Solomon gathered his people and took them to Gibeon to worship. Solomon's father, David, had previously stationed priests for sacrifices and worship leaders at Gibeon (1 Chronicles 16). Though the ark of the covenant was no longer located there, Solomon's return to Gibeon—a physical location where the people had a history of connecting with God—was a way of publicly acknowledging Solomon's reliance on the eternal, unchanging God of Israel.

- What physical location is a tangible reminder of God's presence for you?
- How do you feel when you revisit this special place? Why do you think your connection to this place is so powerful?

2. Read 2 Chronicles 1:7–12.

After Solomon's public acknowledgement and extravagant worship of the Lord, the Lord appeared to him and gave him the opportunity to ask for whatever he wanted. Inherent in Solomon's request for wisdom is the humble acknowledgment that he did not believe he was wise apart from the Lord. God honored Solomon for his desire to have wisdom and knowledge above material possessions and personal success by blessing him with it all. Solomon's humility was a big factor in his asking for wisdom. He would later write: "Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

- How have you observed this proverb to be true?

3. Read 2 Chronicles 1:13–17.

These verses catalog just a portion of Solomon's wealth. The sequence of Solomon's worship followed by God's blessing is significant: God has a history of blessing those who seek Him above all else. This truth is further demonstrated in the New Testament when Jesus told His disciples not to worry about meeting their own needs, but rather to "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need" (Matthew 6:33).

- Who are some people you know (or know of) who consistently put God first and are blessed as a result?

4. Read 2 Chronicles 9:1–8.

The Queen of Sheba had heard so much about Solomon’s wisdom and wealth that she had to see it for herself. The reports must have been impressive, indeed, as journeys—particularly journeys by sovereign leaders—were not undertaken haphazardly in this time. Travel was time-consuming and difficult.

The queen’s declaration that she had “not heard half” of Solomon’s great wisdom is significant. Ultimately, she reacted to Solomon’s great wisdom and wealth by praising the God who gave it to him.

- The Queen of Sheba traveled to Solomon to “test” his wisdom. Who are wise people you seek out—not to test, but for wise counsel or advice? What makes them so trustworthy?
- Solomon’s wisdom and wealth pointed to God. When the Queen of Sheba saw them for herself, she immediately attributed them not to Solomon—but to God. In what ways can Christ-followers allow their words and actions to point to Jesus?

5. Wisdom is a gift from God. You can’t achieve it through education or wealth. After all, some of the smartest, wealthiest people in the world make some of the worst moral decisions (just watch the news for a few minutes)! You can’t even expect to attain wisdom with age. The author of Psalm 119 even notes that because he honored God’s commandments, he was wiser than older leaders (Psalm 119:100). James 1:5 tells us that we just need to ask God for wisdom, and He will give it generously. God is not just willing, but eager to give you wisdom. As Jesus explained in Matthew 7, “if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him” (Matthew 7:11). God is a good father. He wants to see you make good decisions, and He delights in equipping you to do so.

- Solomon’s request for wisdom demonstrated the alignment of his heart with the Lord’s. In the same way, examining your prayers can help you determine how aligned your heart is with the heart of God. If God were to answer every prayer you prayed in the last three days, for example, what would be the result? Would you see change mostly in the details of your own life or in the lives of others? Explain your observations below.