"SOLOMON: A Wise Man of God"

(I Kings 3:3-15)

12/29/10



INTRODUCTION:

***Like Solomon did, you should ask God for wisdom.**

Four reasons why we should ask God for wisdom:

I. Wisdom comes from GOD ALONE
(Wisdom is requested - 3:3-15)

How did Solomon receive wisdom from God?

A. Solomon realized the importance of God's wisdom (v. 7-8)

1. Wisdom is needed because of inexperience (v. 7)
(when you have never done it before)

"I am but a little child"

2. Wisdom is needed because of ignorance (v. 7)
(when you don't know how)

"I do not know how to go out or come in"

3. Wisdom is needed because of impotence (v. 8)
(when the task is too great for you)

B. Solomon had the right motives for desiring God's wisdom

1. Wisdom is wanted when: You have a love for God (v. 3)

2. Wisdom is wanted when: You realize your dependence on God (v. 7-8)

3. Wisdom is wanted when: You desire to honor God (v. 9)

V. 10-15 - When our heart's request pleases God, He gives us much more than we expect or deserve. SEE: James 1:5

II. **Wisdom is <u>PRACTICAL INSIGHT</u> into the true nature of things**
(Wisdom is <u>displayed</u> - 3:16-28)

III. **Wisdom will <u>ADVANCE</u> an ordinary person above and beyond even the world's smartest geniuses**
(Wisdom is <u>esteemed</u> - 4:29-34)

IV. **Wisdom is a <u>TESTIMONY</u> of God's greatness before the eyes and ears of the sceptical world**
(Wisdom is <u>respected</u> - 10:1-9)



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INTRODUCTION:

"He knows not how to rule a kingdom, who cannot manage a province; nor can he control a province, who cannot order a city; nor can he order a city, who knows not how to regulate a village; nor can he regulate a village, that cannot guide a family; nor can that man govern well a family that knows not how to govern himself. . . nor can he govern himself unless . . . he be ruled by God" (Hugo Grotius, 1654)

V. 3

"Solomon" = name means "peace" or "Peaceable"

He was also named "Jedidiah" (Meaning "beloved of the Lord") by Nathan (II Sam. 12:24-25)

V. 5

"Dream" - not normative.

God does not speak in this way to just anyone.

God spoke in this way to Israel's prophets (Num. 12:6)

to certain kings (Nebuchadnezzar)

to certain specially selected servants (Mt. 1:20; 2:13)

If God offered our president, governor, or mayor such a wish, I wonder what they would ask.

***Like Solomon did, you should ask God for wisdom.**

Four reasons why we should ask God for wisdom:

I. Wisdom comes from GOD ALONE
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Where is wisdom to be found? See: Job 28:1-28

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Solomon's request also included the words: "Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can rule this great people of thine?" (I Chron. 1:10)

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II. Wisdom is PRACTICAL INSIGHT into the true nature of things
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V. 18

The woman is saying that there were no witnesses to verify her testimony.

--No one who could recognize the child and his proper mother
--No one who could testify as to what actually happened.

With no witnesses, this would be a cifficult judgment for Solomon to make (they didn't have the medical technology we do today to determine genetically whose child it was).

V. 25

Solomon knew that by cutting the child in half he would not solve the problem. What he was expecting was that the true mother would object to this solution and the jealous woman would not.

Solomon knew that the true mother would express love for the baby and the other would not.

Who needs wisdom?

Parents, pastors, teachers, administrators, managers, judges, presidents, governors, mayors, counsellors, anyone who deals with people and problems.k

Wisdom gives to the parent the perception to realize the real needs of his/her child. Why is the child behaving htis way? What needs have not been met?

Prayer and the knowledge of what the Bible teaches about the true nature of man will provide wisdom.

--Wisdom gives to the counsellor the perception to get to the heart (core, crux, essence) of the problem.

One's ability to "see through" a problem (the veneer, the peripheral issues, the manifestations but not the cause) is wisdom.

--Wisdom gives a soulwinner the perception to discern how to best unfold the plan of salvation to the lost sinner (the approach, the words, the manner).

--Wisdom gives the teacher the skill to ask the right questions to provoke thought and learning.

Men who had wisdom:

--Joseph (Gen. 41:16, 25-39) - wisdom to prepare for famine

--Ezra (Ez. 7:25) - Wisdom to select and train leaders

--Daniel (Dan. 1:17; 5:14) - Wisdom to understand the meaning of divinely sent messengers

--Paul (II Pet. 3:15) - wisdom to pen great spiritual truth

III. Wisdom will <u>ADVANCE</u> an ordinary person above and beyond even the world's smartest geniuses

(Wisdom is <u>esteemed</u> - 4:29-34)

V. 30

Moses was trined in the wisdom of Egypt (Acts 7:22f).

Note: This world's wisdom is foolishenss to God

(SEE: I Cor. 3:18-23)

"Excelled" - NOTE: the man who knows God's Word excels above and beyond even the aged scholars (Ps. 119:97-100).

V. 32

Of these f3,000 proverbs, 917 were inspired by God in the cannon of Holy Scripture.

Of his 1,--5 songs, many are reflected in the Son of Solomon.

V. 33

"Trees, hysop, animals, birds, reptiles, and fish" - all can be used as illustrations to teach character lessons, etc. (EX: Gothard's 3 Vol. Series).

NOTE: In teaching, a picture is a thousand words. A skillful teacher uses analogies (EX: Jesus)_, object lessons, etc.

V. 34

Wisdom will command the attention of others.

IV. Wisdom is a <u>TESTIMONY</u> of God's greatness before th eyes and ears of the sceptical world
(Wisdom is <u>respected</u> - 10:1-9)

A. Wisdom enables one to answer life's toughest questions (10:1-3)

B. Wisdom is not theoretical but practical -- its results are visible (10:4-7)

The wise man hears and heeds God's Word (Mt. 7:24ff)

C. Wisdom is a blessing to the lives of others (10:8-9)

The characteristics of true wisdom (James 3:17) -

CONCLUSION:

Don't glory in your wisdom (Jer. 9:23)

WARNING - Today's wisdom does not guarantee tomorrow's!

Solomon's wisdom failed when "women" and "things" turned his heart away from God (SEE: I Ki. 11:1-8).

The king violated God's law for kings. Deut. 17:14-20 - He multiplied <u>horses</u> (I Ki. 10:26-29), <u>wives</u> (I Ki. 11:3), <u>money</u> (I Ki. 10:F14, 23, 27)

See: Ps. 90:12 -