

Week 22: Solomon - Wisdom and Its Warnings

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Introduction

Solomon, son of David, was blessed with wisdom beyond all men. He asked not for riches or fame but for an understanding heart to judge God's people, and the Lord granted him wisdom, honor, and wealth. His reign began in peace and prosperity, and his writings, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs, are treasures of divine wisdom. Yet Solomon's story also stands as a warning: wisdom without obedience leads to ruin. His many foreign wives drew his heart away, and his kingdom was torn apart after his death. This study reminds us that wisdom is not simply knowing what is right but walking faithfully in it.

 **Scripture Reading: Selected Passages (KJV) 1 Kings 3:5–12; Proverbs 1:7; 1 Kings 11:1–4; Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (KJV)**

(With commentary throughout)

1 Kings 3:5–12

5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10 And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

Commentary:

Solomon's request pleased the Lord because it revealed humility. True wisdom begins not with self-confidence but with dependence on God.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Commentary:

Solomon's foundational teaching shows us that all wisdom flows from reverence for God. Apart from this, intellect becomes folly.

1 Kings 11:1–4

1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites:

3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

Commentary:

Here lies the tragedy. Wisdom did not keep Solomon from compromise. Affections divided between God and idols led to downfall. The warning is clear: no amount of knowledge excuses disobedience.

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Commentary:

After a life of riches, power, and regret, Solomon ends with this sobering truth: our purpose is

not pleasure or possessions, but to fear God and obey Him. Wisdom finds its fulfillment in obedience.

Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children:

- What did Solomon ask God to give him?
- Where does wisdom come from?
- Why should we always listen to God's Word?

Older Children & Teens:

- Why do you think Solomon's wisdom wasn't enough to keep him from sin?
- What does it mean to "fear the Lord"?
- How can you apply Proverbs 1:7 in school, friendships, or choices you face?

Adults:

- How can we guard against the same compromises that ruined Solomon?
 - What dangers come when wisdom becomes pride instead of humility?
 - In what ways can your family keep God's Word central in times of prosperity?
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Psalm Reading

Psalm 111:10 (KJV)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Commentary:

Wisdom is not a mystery to be discovered but a path to be walked. Obedience and praise go hand in hand for those who truly fear God.

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Irish hymn (translated by Mary Byrne, 1905)

1.

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

4.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Family Application Points

1. Pray for Wisdom: Like Solomon at the beginning, ask God for discernment in every decision.

2. Fear the Lord: Teach children that true wisdom comes from honoring God, not from human achievement.

3. Guard Your Heart: Beware of divided affections—what you love most will guide your path.

4. Finish Well: A wise start means little without faithful endurance. Encourage one another to stay true until the end.

5. Live Ecclesiastes 12:13: Make obedience to God the clear purpose of your household.

A Sabbath Feast Prayer

“Gracious Father, You are the source of all wisdom and truth. As we gather at this Sabbath table, may our conversation honor You. Guard our hearts from distractions and idols, and let our joy be rooted in fearing You and keeping Your commandments. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Closing Prayer

“Lord, grant us the wisdom of Solomon but also the faithfulness he lacked. Teach us not only to know Your Word but to walk in it. Protect us from divided hearts, and let our devotion remain fixed upon You all our days. May our household treasure Your commandments above riches and Your presence above all worldly gain. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”