

Wisdom

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2 Chron. 1:1-12

The wisdom of Solomon.

2 Chron. 1:1-12, *“And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him, and magnified him exceedingly. Then Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every governor in all Israel, the chief of the fathers. So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness. But the ark of God had David brought up from Kirjathjearim to the place which David had prepared for it: for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem. Moreover the brasen altar, that Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD: and Solomon and the congregation sought unto it. And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee. ~Solomon’s Prayer for Wisdom And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. Now, O LORD God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.”*

What is wisdom?

Vine’s Expository Dictionary: Composite of understanding, intelligence, and prudence.

Prov. 1:1-6. *“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of*

understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.”

We have the book of Proverbs because Solomon wisely chose wisdom over riches or fame.

- Prov. 1:7, “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”
- Job 28:28, “*And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*”
- Prov. 14:33, “*Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding.*”

Who can get wisdom?

The wise. Daniel 2:21, “*And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.*”

His children. Eph. 1:3-9, “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:”*

How do we get wisdom?

Ask for it.

James 1:5-8, “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*”

Be attentive for it.

- Prov. 2:1-9, “*My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.*”
- Prov. 5:1-2, “*My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.*”

It is contained in God’s Word. Listen for it.

- Prov. 4:1-13, “*Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my father’s son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.*”
- James 1:25, “*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*”

- Prov. 19:20, *“Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.”*
- Prov. 10:8, *“The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.”*

The older a faithful person gets, the more wisdom the Lord gives him.

- Job 12:12, *“With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.”*
- Job 32:7, *“I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.”*

Seek it.

- Prov. 14:6, *“A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.”*
- James 1:25, *“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*

Desire it.

Prov. 21:20, *“There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.”*

Isn’t our own wisdom good enough?

- Prov. 3:5-7, *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”*
- Prov. 12:15, *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”*
- Prov. 14:12, *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*
- Prov. 13:10, *“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”*
- Prov. 11:2, *“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.”*
- Prov. 16:18, *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*

Example of pride. Luke 18:9-14, “*And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*”

1 Cor. 1:25, “*Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*”

What does wisdom do for us?

Preserves us. Prov. 2:10-13, “*When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;*”

Makes us happy. Prov. 3:13-20, “*Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her. The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.*”

Lengthens our days. Prov. 9:10-12, “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased. If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.*”

What are we to do with wisdom?

Have it. Prov. 11:12, “*He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.*”

Absorb it. Prov. 24:13-14, “*My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.*”

Use it. Prov. 15:2, “*The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.*”

Be temperate with it. Prov. 25:27-28, “*It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory. He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*”

Control it. Prov. 29:11, “*A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.*”

Not flaunt it. Prov. 17:27-28, “*He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.*”

Examples of wisdom.

The ant. Prov. 6:6-11, “*Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.*”

Prov. 10:5, “*He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.*”

Four wise things. Prov. 30:24-28, “*There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings’ palaces.*”

A wise man. Matt. 7:24-27, “*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*”

