

SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS

Godly leadership in the house of God and the heart of the believer

TITLE: The Walk of Wisdom

TEXT: 1 Kings 3; 2 Chronicles 1

Two parts

Look at the chapters so you have the historical context of what is transpiring.
Look at Wisdom and a peak at the fool.

Age 12-14 - Solomon becomes king.

Age 16-18 - He begins construction on the temple – 1 Kings 6:1.

Age 21-25 – finishes the temple – 1 Kings 6:38.

Age 21-25 – begins the palace.

Age 34-38 – finishes the Palace 1 Kings 7:1 (13 years).

Chapter 3/ 2 Chron. 1 – The dream and the request

1 Kings 3:7-9

⁷ “Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

2 Chron. 1:10

¹⁰ Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

- A discerning heart to govern.
- Wisdom and knowledge to lead.

God’s response part 1

Granting it all

1 Kings 3:11-14

¹¹ So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. ¹³ Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. ¹⁴ And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”

Chapter 4 – God’s response part 2 Applying it All

Organization and God’s wisdom given

1 Kings 4:29-34

²⁹ God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. ³⁰ Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.

³¹ He was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Kalkol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. ³² He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. ³³ He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. ³⁴ From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

Solomon's Wise decisions

Chapter 5 / 2 Chron. 2- Preparing to Build the temple

1 Kings 5:7

⁷ When Hiram heard Solomon's message, he was greatly pleased and said, "Praise be to the LORD today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation."

2 Chron. 2:11

Hiram king of Tyre replied by letter to Solomon: "Because the Lord loves his people, he has made you their king."

1 Kings 6/ 2 Chron. 3 – He builds the temple –

- Gold everything and everything to SPEC.
- God cares about the details.

1 Kings 7/ 2 Chron. 4 – Builds the palace and furnished the temple.

- Details and spared no expense.

1 Kings 8 / 2 Chron. 5, 6-7 – The ark comes to the temple, he blesses the people and prays a dedication.

- ²⁷ "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!
- Psalm 134:1 - Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD who minister by night in the house of the LORD ² Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.
- Psalm 135:1 - Praise the LORD. Praise the name of the LORD; praise him, you servants of the LORD, ² you who minister in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.

God's response to the Dedication

The Good and the Bad – The Choice is yours

Chapter 9/ 2 Chron. 7

The Lord's response and his other acts with attention to organization and detail.

- 2 Chron. 7:14,15 ...¹⁴if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.
- 1 Kings 9: 4-7 - ⁴“As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness... ⁵I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever. ⁶“But if you or your descendants turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, ⁷ then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name.

Solomon writes Ecclesiastes near the end of his life, but in his younger years He wrote the book of Proverbs.

The Book of Wisdom

Every morning, over a bowl of Raisin Bran, Mom would read a chapter of Proverbs at the table.

The What of Wisdom

When Solomon was taking over for his father David, he had a dream in which God asked him what one thing he wanted. God was willing to give Solomon anything he asked. Solomon asked for wisdom.

- In the first few verses of Proverbs 1, we read that Solomon sought wisdom, instruction, understanding, knowledge, increased learning, and wise counsel (v. 1-5).
- Wisdom is the one thing we need more than anything else. It is to your life what the foundation is to your house.

Wisdom and *intellect* or *education* are not the same.

- The Bible says knowledge alone puffs up, making you arrogant.
- Knowledge is for the head, but wisdom is for the heart.
- Knowledge *teaches* you, but wisdom *transforms* you.
- Wisdom is *supernatural*.
- More than *information*, wisdom is *application*.
- **We live in a world that is drowning in information and starving for wisdom.**

Proverbs 14:8 says, “The wisdom of the prudent *is* to understand his way...”

- *Wisdom is understanding why you do the things you do.*
- When you are at a loss and don't have a clue, *ask God!* He is not silent. He is speaking today.

The Way of Wisdom

Proverbs 2:1-3 says, “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding....”

- A wise person is teachable.
 - Tune in to God. Incline your ear to Him.
- Cry out for wisdom and discernment.
- James 1:5 says God will give it generously to those who ask.
 - The wiser you become the more you realize how much you don’t know.
 - IQ – higher the more inclined to what they don’t know and feel insecure.
- Wise men receive rebuke and correction.
 - How do you take rebuke? Fools get defensive, argue, and blame others.

Proverbs gives a contrast from the wise to the foolish.

There are five types of fools in Proverbs that we are warned about:

1. The Simple Fool

- The Hebrew word for “simple [fool]” is *pethîy* (peth-EE). The root word from which it is derived, *pâthâh*, implies extreme vulnerability, literally meaning “to be opened up.” **The simple fool opens his mind to any passing thought.**
- Because the simple fool is not discerning, he is easily captivated by all kinds of enticements and deceptions. **He is dangerously immature, extremely gullible, and intensely curious.**

2. The Silly Fool

- The Hebrew word that refers to a “silly fool” is *’eviy* (ev-EEL). Its definition is “to be perverse, silly.” **The mouth of a silly fool often gets him in trouble.** “*Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish [’eviy] is near destruction*” (Proverbs 10:14; see also Proverbs 20:3). **When things go wrong for a silly fool, he becomes angry, resulting in more damage.**
- A silly fool believes that his own way of thinking is right (see Proverbs 12:15), so much so that **he reacts to instruction when it is offered:** with argument and anger.

3. The Sensual Fool

- This type of fool is identified in Scripture with the Hebrew word *keçîyl* (kess-EEL), which means “fat, i.e. stupid or silly.” The word denotes a person who seems determined to make wrong choices. **He does not have a mental deficiency, but rather rejects the wisdom of God.**

- The sensual fool's focus is on that which brings him immediate pleasure. **He glories in that of which he should be ashamed.**
- **A sensual fool is unreasonable.** Scripture gives more warnings about the sensual fool than about any other type of fool. **His motives and methods are subtle.**

4. The Scorning Fool

- The Hebrew word that denotes a "scorning fool" is *lûwts* (LOOTS). It means "to make mouths at, i.e. to scoff." The scorning fool's **facial expressions communicate the disdain and contempt he has in his heart toward his authorities**, including parents, civil authorities, and God.
- This type of fool not only has rejected truth; **he also has embraced that which is abominable to God.**

5. The Steadfast Fool

- **The most dangerous type of fool is a steadfast fool.** The Hebrew word *nâbâl* (naw-BAWL), which means "stupid, wicked," identifies this type of person. Elsewhere in the Old Testament, *nâbâl* also is translated as *vile person*.
- **A steadfast fool totally rejects God and His ways.** *"The fool [nâbâl] hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good"* (Psalm 14:1).
 - This type of fool is self-confident and close-minded. He is his own god, freely gratifying his lower nature.
 - **It is his goal to draw as many others as possible into his evil ways.**

The Worth of Wisdom

"If you seek [wisdom] as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God" (Prov. 2:4-5).

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

- Wisdom is more important than all the wealth and fame in the world.
- *You cannot separate wisdom from the word of God.*
- How much time do you spend reading the news compared to the Bible?
- Do you dig and search for hidden treasure in Scripture?

We are all capable of making decisions that we will regret and that will impact our children and grandchildren for years to come.

- Wisdom is a gift we can pass on that will last.
- Money they will spend, property they will sell, etc. Give them wisdom. Give them Jesus.

The Who of Wisdom

You can't know wisdom without knowing Jesus.

Colossians 2:3 says, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

- The one who fears the Lord will stay with the Lord...
- Isaiah 55:8-9 says that "His ways are higher than our ways."
- The fool will have too low a view of God and too high a view of self.
- You cannot live in right relationship to how things are if you miss on this fundamental point.
- You will think too highly of yourself.
- Your own heart will be the compass that guides you through life in a broken and rebellious world.
- Wisdom is knowing what God is doing in our time.
- Our culture is addicted to youth.
 - Everyone is looking for the fountain of youth but what we need is the fountain of life!
- The world thinks the Bible is behind the times.
- Proverbs tell us these truths have stood the test of time.
- The wisdom of God is a person, Jesus.

How can you become wise? WISDOM COMES FROM THE LORD

You can't know wisdom apart from knowing Jesus.

Learning from Jesus and loving Jesus is wisdom. He is the way, the truth, and the life.