

The Wisdom of God

Introduction

If you could ask the Lord for only one gift what would you choose? Would it be wealth or success? Fame or position? Happiness? Or would you take a page from King Solomon's book and ask for wisdom?

Our Study

From earliest childhood Solomon sought to please the Lord.

The Scripture: 1 Kings 3:3

"Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the statutes of his father David."

1. How did Solomon show his love for the Lord? _____

The Lord was pleased with Solomon and in time appeared to him in a dream.

The Scripture: 1 Kings 3:5

"God said, 'Ask for whatever you want Me to give you.'"

2. How did the Lord respond to Solomon's love? _____

What an amazing offer! However, it is no more amazing than Solomon's request.

The Scripture: 1 Kings 3:7, 9

"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?"

3. What did Solomon ask for? _____

The Scripture: 1 Kings 3:12

God showed His pleasure with Solomon's request by granting it.

"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, not will there ever be."

4. What did the Lord say He would give Solomon? _____

But that is not all the Lord promised Solomon.

The Scripture: 1 Kings 3:13

"I will give you what you have not asked for - both riches and honor."

5. What did God give to Solomon? _____

God kept His promise. Later scripture tells us:

The Scripture: 1 Kings 4:29-31

"God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man...Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom."

6. What did God give Solomon? _____

A well-known anecdote from Solomon's life illustrates his wisdom.

The Scripture: Have your instructor read 1 Kings 3:16-28 to you.

7. Summarize the story. _____

8. What was the people's reaction to Solomon's wisdom? _____

However, when God spoke of wisdom, He did not mean worldly wisdom. The Apostle Paul also makes it clear that there is more than one kind of wisdom.

The Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:19-25

"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.' Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the...world. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for [worldly] wisdom...Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength."

9. What is foolishness to those perishing? _____

10. What does God say He will do to the wisdom of the wise (the world)? _____

11. How does God describe the foolishness and weakness of God? _____

The Scripture: Proverbs 8:11

"Wisdom is more precious than rubies and nothing you desire can compare with her."

12. How does the author of Proverbs describe wisdom? _____

The Apostle James also has much to tell us about wisdom.

The Scripture: James 3:17

"The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

13. How does James describe God's wisdom? _____

Paul calls Jesus "God's wisdom." From an early age, Jesus displayed that wisdom.

The Scripture: Luke 2:46-47

"They (Mary and Joseph) found [Jesus] sitting among the teachers listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers."

14. What amazed the teachers? _____

The Scripture: Luke 2:52

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men."

15. How did Jesus mature? _____

God thinks so highly of His wisdom that He has accompanied its acquisition with many benefits. Read the following scriptures and list the benefits that go with them.

The Scripture: Proverbs 2:1-2, 5, 8

"If you accept My words and store up My commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding....then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God....for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones."

16. The benefits? _____

The Scripture: Proverbs 2:1-2, 11-12

"If you accept My words and store up My commands within you,...discretion will protect you and understanding will guard you. Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men."

17. The benefits? _____

The Scripture: Proverbs 3:13, 16-18

"Blessed is the man who finds wisdom...long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor...All her paths are peace...Those who lay hold of her will be blessed!"

18. Benefits? _____

The Scripture: Proverbs 4:10

"Accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many."

19. The benefit? _____

The Scripture: Proverbs 19:11

"A man's wisdom gives him patience."

20. Benefits? _____

The Scripture: Proverbs 24:5

"A wise man has great power."

21. Benefits? _____

The Scripture: Proverbs 24:14

"If you find [wisdom] there is future hope for you and your hope will not be cut off."

22. Benefits? _____

The Scripture: Proverbs 28:26

"He who walks in wisdom is kept safe."

23. Benefits? _____

If you are familiar with Solomon's history, you may wonder why his reign ended so poorly. Although Solomon was wise, he was not always obedient. He disobeyed the Lord by marrying many foreign wives and allowing them to practice their heathen religions in the land of Israel. To acquire God's wisdom we must be obedient to Him.

The book of Proverbs also shows us the way to wisdom.

The Scripture: Proverbs 9:10

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

24. What is the beginning of wisdom? _____

Fear of the Lord does not mean "fear" in the usual sense of the word, like being scared of. Rather, it is reverence or awe and the highest respect for Him.

The Scripture: Reread Proverbs 2:1-2, 5, 8

"If you accept My words and store up My commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding...then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God...for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones."

25. How can we understand fear of the Lord? _____

The Scripture: James 1:5

"If anyone lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

26. How do we obtain wisdom? _____

27. How does God give it to us? _____

The Scripture: James 1:6, 7

"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."

28. What is the one requirement? _____

29. How does James describe such a doubter? _____

The Scripture: Proverbs 4:7

"Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom, though it cost all you have."

30. What is the author's advice? _____

The Scripture: Ephesians 1:7-8

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."

31. What has God lavished on us? _____

Paul was firm in his belief that wisdom is available to all believers. Here is a portion of one of Paul's best known prayers;

The Scripture: Ephesians 1:17

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better."

32. What does Paul pray? _____

33. Why? _____

Throughout the Bible, much of man's wisdom and God's wisdom are diametrically opposed. What wonderful benefits accompany God's wisdom, wisdom that is ours for the asking, believing and our obedience: understanding the fear of the Lord and finding the knowledge of God, protection, understanding, being saved from the ways of wicked men, long life, riches, honor, peace, patience, great power, future hope which will not be cut off, and safety. The person who would be truly wise seeks God's wisdom with all his heart.

The Answers

1. By walking in the statutes of his father David
2. He told Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted the Lord to give him.
3. For a discerning heart to govern the people and to distinguish between right and wrong
4. What he had asked for - a wise and discerning heart
5. Riches and honor
6. Wisdom and very great insight. His wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East and of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man.
7. Your summary
8. They held the king in awe because they saw that he had wisdom from God.
9. The message of the cross
10. Destroy it
11. As wiser than man's wisdom and stronger than man's strength
12. More precious than rubies. Nothing we can desire compares with it.
13. As pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere
14. Jesus' understanding and His answers
15. In wisdom, stature and in favor with God and men
16. Understanding the fear of the Lord and finding the knowledge of God; protection
17. We will be saved from the ways of wicked men.
18. Long life, riches, honor, peace and blessings
19. Long life
20. Patience
21. Great power
22. Future hope which will not be cut off
23. Safety
24. The fear of the Lord
25. By accepting God's words and storing them in our hearts
26. By asking God for it
27. Generously and without finding fault
28. We must believe and not doubt
29. As double-minded, unstable in all he does
30. To get wisdom no matter what it costs
31. All wisdom and understanding
32. That we be given the Spirit of wisdom and revelation
33. That we may know Him better.

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