

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 4

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through 1 Kings

And we currently find ourselves in the portion of 1 Kings where we find ourselves at the beginning of Solomon's reign.

Solomon has been given incredible wisdom from God – we looked at this in our last study here on Wednesday night.

God asked Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted – and Solomon asked for wisdom.

Solomon asked for Godly wisdom because he understood that godly wisdom was needed to rule over God's people.

Solomon wanted to do what was right in the eyes of the Lord

And we saw at the end of chapter three – that Solomon exercised that godly wisdom when he had to settle the dispute between the two women.

Solomon said, "Bring me the sword" and right away, it was revealed who the real mother was.

This is the godly wisdom that Solomon was going to have to rely upon to do what was right.

In our text this morning – we are going to see the blessings that godly wisdom produced.

Let's pray...

So – since we are on the subject of wisdom –

I want you to turn to Proverbs 4 –

Here in Proverbs 4 –

Solomon is looking back at the lessons that David gave him as he was growing up –

And one of those things was the pursuit of godly wisdom.

This is how Solomon knew to ask for godly wisdom -

[Pro 4:6-9 NKJV] 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. 7 Wisdom [is] the principal thing; [Therefore] get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. 8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. 9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."

David taught Solomon – above everything else – pursue godly wisdom

The love and the pursuit of godly wisdom would bring blessings and honor -

And we saw that at the end of chapter three when the people feared or revered King Solomon for the wisdom that he demonstrated.

All because Solomon asked for it and God gave it to him.

So the question becomes – how do we get godly wisdom like Solomon did?

And the answer – we ask.

The bible tells us to ask for wisdom

Wisdom is a good thing to ask for -

Turn to James 1

[Jas 1:5-8 NKJV] 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 [he is] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Now, the context of James 1 is trials and working through trials in life.

And for all of us that have gone through trials or are going through trials – we know that there are times when we lack wisdom on what to do and what not to do.

Do I turn to the left or do I turn to the right or do I wait?

Trials will cloud our vision

As a bible student – we may know what to do, because we have read His word or listened to sermons preached about what to do – but when a trial hits, we lose that equilibrium we thought we had.

We begin to doubt the things we never doubted before

So we make bad decisions

Instead of going before the Lord and saying, “I don’t know what to do”

During hard times, during trials, during periods of sorrow – that is the time to ask for wisdom.

But here is the thing church –

We have a tendency to ask for knowledge.

We want to know - why?

Why is this happening to me?

Why did you allow this to happen God?

That is knowledge

We ask for wisdom –

Wisdom is using the knowledge that God has already given to us.

Wisdom is knowing how to apply the truths of God in our lives.

It is understanding how to approach life with God's understanding.

So we ask for wisdom in faith (knowing He will give us the wisdom) and then we walk in wisdom.

And then, we will be at the same level that Solomon is here in 1 Kings 4

Now – the first 19 verses, I am not going to try to read those names – you can go ahead and read them tonight when you get home.

But pretty much what we have is Solomon using the godly wisdom to set up 12 districts around the land –

These 12 districts have nothing to do with the tribes –

They were set up with leaders to help Solomon run the country and help to share in the burden.

The significance of these leaders is that we see a picture of the church

Because the Apostles – in the same way, they appointed qualified leaders to wait on tables. Philip, Stephen and the others.

And that is what good leaders do -

[1Ki 4:20 NKJV] 20 Judah and Israel [were] as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing. 21 So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River [to] the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. [They] brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

The writer of 1 Kings is describing a time of prosperity and blessing in Solomons' kingdom.

There is peace throughout the land – the ites are not attacking.

The borders are expanding

And the population is growing in multitude.

These are all fulfillment of God's promises.

God speaking to Abraham -

[Gen 22:17 NKJV] 17 "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which [is] on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

This time period here in Solomon's reign – this is the time when the nation came to it's highest place.

David laid the right foundation and did a lot of the hard work – as he fought and defeated many of the nation's enemies.

And so – Solomon was able to walk in David’s footsteps and experience peace and prosperity.

Remember, I pointed this out when we looked at the differences between David and Solomon –

Solomon was not a warrior

He was not a military leader like his dad was

22 Now Solomon's provision for one day was thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal, 23 ten fatted oxen, twenty oxen from the pastures, and one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl.

Talk about a bbq – this is one days food

I actually looked up how big a kors is equivalent to about 55 gallon container of something.

In this case – flour.

20,000 loaves of bread / day

So what we have here in verses 22 and 23 is how much food the palace went through in a day to feed Solomon and all his household.

And I am pretty sure it extended to distant relatives and family friends.

Now – I don't think that this is here to show us the lavish lifestyle that Solomon and his family lived in.

I think it is here to show God's blessings upon the people.

The nation was prosperous because of the hand of blessing of God.

It was just a great time of rejoicing and celebrating God grace and God's provisions

24 For he had dominion over all [the region] on this side of the River from Tiphseh even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River; and he had peace on every side all around him.

This is something we never see in the scriptures about Israel and the promised land up to this point.

Because from the time they came into the Promised Land until now – they were always fighting battles.

Sometimes it was the ites, and sometimes it was among themselves

25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

I had you make a note of the phrase each man under his vine and his fig tree – again, this is a picture of peace and prosperity.

It speaks of every person of a time when every person is satisfied – a time when every person will have enough.

Turn to Micah 4

Here in Micah 4 – it speaks of the millennial kingdom and Jesus' reign here on earth.

There is a sense where Solomon's reign becomes a shadow of millennial reign.

It is an imperfect foreshadowing of the perfect reign of Jesus Christ

[Mic 4:1-4 NKJV] 1 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days [That] the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it. 2 Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. 4 But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make [them] afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

So – in the millennial kingdom – it will be a time of peace, no wars –

But here is the thing – peace is not achieved due to the absence of war.

It doesn't come from everything being perfect

Because we can still have peace in the midst of chaos, in the midst of trials

Peace is found only in Jesus Christ

Jesus is going to rule – (you can read Psalm 2 how He will rule) and there will be peace

It will be -

A time where people are going to come to Jerusalem to meet with Jesus and to know Him better

But it will also be a time of prosperity -

26 Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

Though this gives us a picture of Solomon's great military strength, it is starting to set off little warning bells.

This was one of God's laws for kings:

(Dt 17:16 NKJV) But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’

Is 40,000 horses multiplying horses? Yes it is

Later on in ch 10 – we will find out that Solomon got some of his horses from Egypt.

27 And these governors, each man in his month, provided food for King Solomon and for all who came to King Solomon's table. There was no lack in their supply. 28 They also brought barley and straw to the proper place, for the horses and steeds, each man according to his charge.

So each region or district had to provide the food for the palace every day but they also had to provide the feed for the animals. For the horses and for all the cattle.

But it wasn't a big deal because the land was so prosperous.

The problem was that Solomon didn't place his trust in the Lord as much as he should have – just like we do today.

Had you make a note of the phrase - each man according to his charge

Each person had a calling

Each person had a level of responsibility

Each person had something they needed to do – to make everything go the way it is supposed to.

Once again, we see a picture of the church

Every single one of us – has a gift and a calling on our life.

29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.

This could be something that we can all pray for in our own lives and the lives of each other.

We certainly want great understanding and a largeness of the heart.

And I had you make a note of the phrase – largeness of heart

Largeness of heart means the expansion of the inner man.

God enlarged Solomon's heart, or inner man, to receive what God had for him.

Solomon had asked for wisdom, and God had to enlarge him to receive it.

And the same thing goes for us –

We can ask God to enlarge our hearts like Solomon did or we can feed and meditate on His word.

The more we feed on God's Word, the more the Word enlarges our hearts to receive God's Word. Jesus becomes bigger in us as we grow in the Word and the Word grows in us.

As we feed on the Word, we see it, hear it, believe it, speak it, do it, and become it.

30 Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all men--than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.

All these guys thought they were wise guys –

But God's Word tells us that Solomon was wiser than all men.

All the wisdom of Egypt – remember, they had a bunch of wise guys who built the pyramids and all the monuments down there.

They came up with ways to move the rocks up and down the Nile River

Yet Solomon's wisdom was greater because his wisdom came from the Lord.

[Pro 9:10 NKJV] 10 "The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One [is] understanding.

Turn to Luke 12 -

[Luk 12:16-21 NKJV] 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 "So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, [and] be merry." ' 20 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21 "So [is] he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The rich farmer had knowledge

The rich farmer had a practical plan for his profits.

However, the rich farmer lacked wisdom because all of his plans were made with no thought of God or eternity.

Solomon had the fear of the Lord –

Now – think about this,

Solomon is wiser than any man that ever lived – and he is still multiplying horses and multiplying wives.

So you know what this tells us –

That we need to take heed lest we fall.

Because none of us are as wise as Solomon – that means that we can fall just like he did or we can fall greater than he did.

This is why we have to be humble and broken and desperate and seek Him constantly – because if we rely on our own strength, we are going to fail.

32 He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. 33 Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. 34 And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

The book of Proverbs is less than a third of the three thousand proverbs that Solomon wrote.

He was also a composer – we have a couple of his songs in the Song of Solomon and a few of the Psalms (72, 127)

He was also a scientist

And kings and queens would come to Jerusalem to hear the wisdom of Solomon and who his God was.

In a few weeks – we will see the Queen of Sheba do exactly that – and everything she heard was only a fraction of what she saw when she arrived – and the bible tells us that she was amazed at the glimpse that she saw.

But remember – God can do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)

Through Jesus Christ, God can do even greater things in us than He did in the life of Solomon.

Church – His invitation still stands

And I pray that we – just like Solomon, that we may be wise enough to ask for His wisdom and a greater heart.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

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