

King Solomon

If you were granted one wish for yourself , what would you wish for?

1. Just cause you know better, doesn't mean you'll live better

1. Solomon asks for Wisdom

1. 1 Kings 3:5-14

3:3 Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship. 4 The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings. 5 That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"

6 Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.

7 "Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. 8 And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! 9 **Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"**

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— 12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! 13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! 14 And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life."

2. *Wisdom to rule others - in administering justice – cutting baby in half*

1. *management anecdote*

3. *Wisdom for self (doesn't live righteously)*

4. Do As I Say, Not as I Do

2. *He marries pharaoh's daughter,*

1 Kings 9:3, against Deuteronomy 17:17

3. *Builds temples for other gods.*

1. *1 Kings 11:1-10*

11:1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh's daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites. 2 The Lord had clearly instructed the people of Israel, "You must not marry them, because they will turn your hearts to their gods." Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway. 3 He had 700 wives of

royal birth and 300 concubines. And in fact, they did turn his heart away from the Lord.

4 In Solomon's old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God, as his father, David, had been.

5 Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech,^[a] the detestable god of the Ammonites. 6 In this way, Solomon did what was evil in the Lord's sight; he refused to follow the Lord completely, as his father, David, had done.

7 On the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem,^[b] he even built a pagan shrine for Chemosh, the detestable god of Moab, and another for Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. 8 Solomon built such shrines for all his foreign wives to use for burning incense and sacrificing to their gods.

2. Bigger and better, doesn't make your life bigger and better

1. 7 years to build God's temple
2. 13 years to build his palace
 1. Even more spectacular than the temple
3. Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

2:1 I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless. 2 So I said, "Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?" 3 After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world.

4 I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. 7 I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. 8 I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire!

9 So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. 10 Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. 11 But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

3. You might be wise, but if your heart doesn't know who to follow, it doesn't matter.

1. Spent his life pursuing his own goals, end of his life sees differently
2. Denied his heart nothing, but what his heart desired was wrong to begin with.
3. What's the meaning of life? Knowing God, and being known by God

1. Ecclesiastes 12:1-7; 13

Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore." ² Remember him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky.

³ Remember him before your legs—the guards of your house—start to tremble; and before your shoulders—the strong men—stoop. Remember him before your teeth—your few remaining servants—stop grinding; and before your eyes—the women looking through the windows—see dimly.

⁴ Remember him before the door to life's opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Now you rise at the first chirping of the birds, but then all their sounds will grow faint.

⁵ Remember him before you become fearful of falling and worry about danger in the streets; before your hair turns white like an almond tree in bloom, and you drag along without energy like a dying grasshopper, and the caperberry no longer inspires sexual desire. Remember him before you near the grave, your everlasting home, when the mourners will weep at your funeral.

⁶ Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. ⁷ For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

¹³ That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. ¹⁴ God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE

At sixty, I wish by now I can say that my understanding of life is abundant. But it is not. Life is so complex. No matter how clever you are, how hard you try, how desperate you want it, or whichever way to look at it, there is just no way to master it.

We're probably better off not trying to understand it. Sixty years seems like a long time but when you reach it you wonder why it has come so soon? For all those years, I tried to do my best to make sure that everyone in the family has been taking care of. Life is a battle and it is brutal at times. With wisdom, courage and love we can still enjoy the beauty of life.

4. Jesus, True Wisdom

1. Jesus is true wisdom, and wisdom applied
2. He guides, leads, and transforms hearts and minds – Power of God & Wisdom of God
3. 2 Corinthians 1:20-2:5

*20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 **For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.***

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,^[a] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being^[b] might boast in the presence of God. 30 **And because of him^[c] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,** 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

2:1 And I, when I came to you, brothers,^[d] did not come proclaiming to you the testimony^[e] of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

4. 1 Corinthians 2:10

2:10 For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. 11 No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. 12 And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

5. SO HOW DO WE RESPOND

6. Praise Jesus! Remember Him! Thank Him! Glorify Him! Trust Him!
7. Ask His Spirit to teach you, and to make him known, and to lead you to be known by Him
 1. Remember his power and authority
 2. Remember his love and sacrifice
 3. Praise his Wisdom & Power
 4. Praise his Love & Grace
 5. Trust in His Wisdom.
 6. Living for yourself will only leave you exhausted. We were designed to live for Christ. Self fulfilment comes not from self power, but Christ's power and life satisfies.
 7. Love God & love your neighbour. Reach out.