

FIRST DAY:

- Review the lecture, Read the notes and the references

SECOND DAY:**Read 1 Kings 3:1-4; 2 Chronicles 1:1-6; Deuteronomy 17:16-20****Solomon Asks for Wisdom**

[3:1] Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the temple of the LORD, and the wall around Jerusalem. [2] The people, however, were still sacrificing at the high places, because a temple had not yet been built for the Name of the LORD. [3] Solomon showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the statutes of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

[4] The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

2 Chronicles 1:1-6**Solomon Asks for Wisdom**

[2Ch 1:1] Solomon son of David established himself firmly over his kingdom, for the LORD his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

[2] Then Solomon spoke to all Israel—to the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, to the judges and to all the leaders in Israel, the heads of families— [3] and Solomon and the whole assembly went to the high place at Gibeon, for God's Tent of Meeting was there, which Moses the LORD's servant had made in the desert. [4] Now David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared for it, because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. [5] But the bronze altar that Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made was in Gibeon in front of the tabernacle of the LORD; so Solomon and the assembly inquired of him there. [6] Solomon went up to the bronze altar

before the LORD in the Tent of Meeting and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

Deuteronomy 17:16-20

[16] The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, "You are not to go back that way again." [17] He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

[18] When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. [19] It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees [20] and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.

THIRD DAY**Read 1 Kings 3:5-28; 2 Chronicles 1:7-13; Proverbs 1**

[5] At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

[6] Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

[7] "Now, O 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?"

[10] The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. [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 riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. [14] And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” [15] Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

A Wise Ruling

[16] Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. [17] One of them said, “My lord, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me. [18] The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

[19] “During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. [20] So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. [21] The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne.”

[22] The other woman said, “No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.”

But the first one insisted, “No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine.” And so they argued before the king.

[23] The king said, “This one says, ‘My son is alive and your son is dead,’ while that one says, ‘No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.’”

[24] Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword for the king. [25] He then gave an

order: “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

[26] The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, “Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!”

But the other said, “Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!”

[27] Then the king gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.”

[28] When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

2 Chronicles 1

[7] That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

[8] Solomon answered God, “You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. [9] Now, LORD God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. [10] Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

[11] God said to Solomon, “Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, [12] therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.”

[13] Then Solomon went to Jerusalem from the high place at Gibeon, from before the Tent of Meeting. And he reigned over Israel.

Proverbs 1

Prologue: Purpose and Theme

[Pr 1:1] The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

[2] for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight;

[3] for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair;

[4] for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—

[5] let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—

[6] for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.

[7] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Exhortations to Embrace Wisdom

Warning Against Enticement

[8] Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

[9] They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

[10] My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

[11] If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul;

[12] let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

[13] we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder;

[14] throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse"—

[15] my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;

[16] for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.

[17] How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds!

[18] These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves!

[19] Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.

Warning Against Rejecting Wisdom

[20] Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares;

[21] at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:

[22] "How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?"

[23] If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.

[24] But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand,

[25] since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke,

[26] I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—

[27] when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

[28] "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me.

[29] Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD,

[30] since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke,

[31] they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

[32] For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them;

[33] but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

FOURTH DAY

Read 1 Kings 4:1-28; 2 Chronicles 1:14-17

1 Kings 4

Solomon's Officials and Governors

[4:1] So King Solomon ruled over all Israel. [2] And these were his chief officials:

Azariah son of Zadok—the priest;

[3] Elihoreph and Ahijah, sons of Shisha—secretaries;

Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud—recorder;

[4] Benaiah son of Jehoiada—commander in chief;

Zadok and Abiathar—priests;

[5] Azariah son of Nathan—in charge of the district officers;

Zabud son of Nathan—a priest and personal adviser to the king;

[6] Ahishar—in charge of the palace;

Adoniram son of Abda—in charge of forced labor.

[7] Solomon also had twelve district governors over all Israel, who supplied provisions for the king and the royal household. Each one had to provide supplies for one month in the year. [8] These are their names:

Ben-Hur—in the hill country of Ephraim;

[9] Ben-Deker—in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh and Elon Bethhanan;

[10] Ben-Hesed—in Arubboth (Socoh and all the land of Hephher were his);

[11] Ben-Abinadab—in Napthoth Dor (he was married to Taphath daughter of Solomon);

[12] Baana son of Ahilud—in Taanach and Megiddo, and in all of Beth Shan next to Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth Shan to Abel Meholah across to Jokmeam;

[13] Ben-Geber—in Ramoth Gilead (the settlements of Jair son of Manasseh in Gilead were his, as well as the district of Argob in Bashan and its sixty large walled cities with bronze gate bars);

[14] Ahinadab son of Iddo—in Mahanaim;

[15] Ahimaaz—in Naphtali (he had married Basemath daughter of Solomon);

[16] Baana son of Hushai—in Asher and in Aloth;

[17] Jehoshaphat son of Paruah—in Issachar;

[18] Shimei son of Ela—in Benjamin;

[19] Geber son of Uri—in Gilead (the country of Sihon king of the Amorites and the country of Og king of Bashan). He was the only governor over the district.

Solomon's Daily Provisions

[20] The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore; they ate, they drank and they were happy. [21] And Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. These countries brought tribute and were Solomon's subjects all his life.

[22] Solomon's daily provisions were thirty cors of fine flour and sixty cors of meal, [23] ten head of stall-fed cattle, twenty of pasture-fed cattle and a hundred sheep and goats, as well as deer, gazelles, roebucks and choice fowl. [24] For he ruled over all the kingdoms west of the River, from Tiphseh to Gaza, and had peace on all sides. [25] During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree.

[26] Solomon had four thousand stalls for chariot horses, and twelve thousand horses.

[27] The district officers, each in his month, supplied provisions for King Solomon and all who came to the king's table. They saw to it that nothing was lacking. [28] They also brought to the proper place their quotas of barley and straw for the chariot horses and the other horses.

2 Chronicles 1:14-17

[14] Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. [15] The king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills. [16] Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue—the royal merchants purchased them from Kue. [17] They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a

hundred and fifty. They also exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and of the Arameans.

Question 10

Ecclesiastes 3:10-14; 5:18-20; [10] I have seen the burden God has laid on men. [11] He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. [12] I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. [13] That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God. [14] I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.

[18] Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot.

[19] Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God. [20] He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.

Question 11

Deuteronomy 8:10-18; 17:16-17; [10] When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. [11] Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. [12] Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, [13] and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, [14] then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. [15] He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. [16] He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. [17] You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” [18] But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so

confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

[16] The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, “You are not to go back that way again.” [17] He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

FIFTH DAY:

Read 1 Kings 4:29-34

Solomon's Wisdom

[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 men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. [31] He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Calcol 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 described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. [34] Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

Question 12

1 Kings 3:10-15; [10] The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. [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 riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. [14] And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” [15] Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

Question 13

1 Corinthians 1:18-24; [18] For 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. [19] For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

[20] Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? [21] For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. [22] Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, [23] but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, [24] but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

James 1:5; 3:13-17; [5] If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

[13] Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. [14] But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. [15] Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. [16] For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

[17] But 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.

Question 14

Ecclesiastes 1:16-18; 2:13; 4:13; 8:1; [16] I thought to myself, “Look, I have grown and increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.” [17] Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

[18] For with much wisdom comes much sorrow;

the more knowledge, the more grief.

[13] I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness.

[13] Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to take warning.

[8:1] Who is like the wise man? Who knows the explanation of things? Wisdom brightens a man's face and changes its hard appearance.

Sixth Day

Review 1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chronicles 1; and Proverbs 1

(See above scriptures)