



Reading: 1 Kings chapter 4 verses 20-34

Key Thought: *Blessed are those who find wisdom ... it is more profitable than silver or gold* (Proverbs 3 v 13 & 14)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and not on your own understanding ... and he will guide your paths. (Proverbs 3 verses 5 & 6)

Context: In verses 1-12, we see Solomon's wise administration in action, as he builds a structure of officials and governors across the land of Israel. Each of the twelve governors was required to supply the palace with supplies for one month of the year. God blessed the land with both peace and prosperity, and blessed Solomon with an abundance of daily provisions. There is a clear link between Solomon's desire for wisdom and his prosperity: 1 Kings 3 verse 12 and 13 (God speaking) "I will give you a wise and discerning heart ... I will also give you what you have not asked for ... both wealth and honour". Other people might not notice, but God sees what is in our hearts. This chapter makes it quite clear that, all that Solomon had and became, was a result of his desire to serve God with wisdom.

Content:

So, here we see just how much God blessed Solomon:

- The people multiplied in numbers and were happy (verse 20)
- Solomon himself had an amazing abundance of daily provisions (verses 22-23)
- He had a very large number of horses and charioteers and the world's greatest stables (v26) – he could have won any battle, and yet his reign was a reign of peace (v25).
- Solomon was revered as a great, wise man (verses 29-31). He was a philosopher and a poet (verse 32); a botanist and a zoologist (verse 33); and he was respected by people from all around the world (verse 34). He wrote the Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes and much of The Book of Proverbs.

God blessed Solomon with every kind of blessing, both material and spiritual. And he desired to serve God with the gifts he had been given. The wisdom of Solomon lives on, even today.

Challenges:

Do we want to move forward in wisdom?

We are not all like Solomon, and we often make unwise decisions that affect the course of our lives, sometimes bringing unhappiness and problems. But ... when we repent, although we still have to live with the consequences of our decisions, God can – and does – bless us. He is willing to forgive and forget our foolish past. And if we really want to change, God will see our hearts and help us to be wiser in the future. We can put our past behind us and be free.

1 John 1 verse 9: If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all the wrong in our lives. If we are truly seeking to live a better life for Christ, the Lord will see our hearts and bless us. He may not bless us in material things, but His Word promises to bless us in many ways when we, like Solomon, seek wisdom. **James 1 verse 5: If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 3 verse 17 and 18: Wisdom that comes from heaven is ... pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, merciful ... Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.** Do you need wisdom today? Why not come reverently before God and pray for it now?

Communicate:

Feel free to let us know if you have any questions or comments about this study. Perhaps you have a testimony or word of encouragement that might help others. Or maybe you would like prayer as you begin a new thing for God in your life. We will gladly get back to you.