

Wisdom Before Wealth: Seeking God's Heart First

Solomon's Rise and God's Favor (v. 1)

The second book of Chronicles opens with Solomon stepping into his father David's shoes. The kingdom of Israel had reached its golden age under David, and Solomon inherited a strong foundation—a united people, military peace, and vast resources. Scripture tells us, *"The Lord his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly"* (v. 1, NKJV). Solomon's strength wasn't just political—it was spiritual. God's hand was on his life from the start.

Personal Application:

You may have blessings in your life today that are the result of someone else's faithfulness—parents who prayed for you, mentors who guided you, or an ekklesia that helped you grow. Recognize where you've come from, and like Solomon, build on that foundation with a heart to honor God.

Worship Before Decisions (vv. 2–6)

Before Solomon did anything as king, he prioritized worship. He gathered the leaders of Israel and went to Gibeon, where the original tabernacle and altar of sacrifice were still located. There he offered a thousand burnt offerings—a massive act of devotion.

Personal Application:

Before you make a big decision—whether it's about your future, your job, your family—take time to worship and seek God. Don't rush into leadership or responsibility without first aligning your heart with Him. Solomon started his reign by offering his best to the Lord. What do you need to lay on the altar today?

A Defining Question: "Ask What I Shall Give You" (v. 7)

That night, God appeared to Solomon and gave him a stunning invitation:

"Ask! What shall I give you?"

Pause for a moment—what if God asked *you* that today? What would you say?

Personal Application:

Most of us would be tempted to ask for wealth, success, health, or long life. But what Solomon asked for reveals a deeper maturity and humility.

Solomon's Request: Wisdom, Not Riches (vv. 8–10)

Instead of asking for comfort, victory, or fame, Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge. Why? Because he understood the weight of his calling—to govern God's people with justice and discernment.

"Who can judge this great people of Yours?" he said (v. 10, NKJV).

He wanted to do God's work God's way.

Personal Application:

Is your desire to live well for God, or just to live well? When we ask for wisdom, we're acknowledging that we don't have what it takes on our own. Like Solomon, let's ask God for what we *truly* need—not just for a comfortable life, but for a faithful and fruitful one.

God's Response: More Than Solomon Asked For (vv. 11–12)

God was pleased. Because Solomon's request was selfless and focused on others, God not only gave him wisdom and knowledge—He also gave him what he didn't ask for: riches, wealth, and honor, beyond what any king had known before or would know after.

Personal Application:

When we seek *first* God's kingdom and His righteousness, everything else we need is added to us (Matthew 6:33). When your priorities align with God's heart, you can trust Him to provide what's best—even the things you didn't think to ask for.

A Subtle Shift: Seeds of Compromise (vv. 13–17)

Solomon returned to Jerusalem and began to build his reign. He collected chariots, horsemen, silver, gold, and cedar in abundance. He even traded horses and chariots with neighboring nations, including Egypt.

But here's a detail we shouldn't overlook: according to Deuteronomy 17:16, God had commanded that Israel's kings should not multiply horses or return to Egypt for supplies. Why? Because God wanted them to trust *Him*, not military strength or foreign alliances.

Personal Application:

Even when we start well, compromise can creep in quietly. Solomon's downfall didn't happen overnight—it started with small steps away from God's Word. Be careful not to rely on your own strength, your network, or your resources. Stay anchored in the Word and sensitive to the Spirit.

Final Reflection:

Solomon began his reign with humility, worship, and wisdom-seeking—and God blessed him. But even in that blessing, there were signs of drifting. His story reminds us that:

- A strong start is good, but a faithful finish is better.
- True wisdom begins with acknowledging our need for God.
- Worship and obedience should always come before ambition or advancement.
- What we trust in most will shape the course of our lives.

"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." —James 1:5 (NKJV)