

**100 Great Events of the  
Old Testament  
Lesson #64 – Solomon Writes of  
God’s Wisdom**

**Family / Teacher Notes**  
**For Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Proverbs; Ecclesiastes**

**“Wisdom is the  
main thing. So  
get wisdom.  
And in all your  
getting, get  
understanding.”  
(Proverbs 4:7)**



“And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men...his fame was in all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.” (I Kings 4:29-32)

Solomon not only spoke wise things, he wrote and collected many proverbs. Biblical proverbs are sayings designed to instruct and teach us. Many of the proverbs show you wise conduct and then show what a foolish person does. These practical points of wisdom are meant to help us avoid trouble. Proverbs is a good guidebook for living right and successfully.

**Who was the real source of Solomon's wisdom?** We remember that God was the one who blessed Solomon with this great wisdom.

- “And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore “ (I Kings 4:29,30).
- “And all the kings of earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart” (2 Chronicles 9:23).
- The book of Ecclesiastes is another of Solomon’s great books of Wisdom. In it he is called the preacher, but he was also the king of Israel. Eccl. 12:9-11 says, “Because the Preacher was wise, he taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright -- words of truth.” But notice where these words of truth came from: “The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, **given by one Shepherd.**”

**Solomon’s Main Goal** was to impart wisdom to people. Every one of us is constantly making decisions. Then once we decide something and do it, we have to live with how it turns out. It is easy to make bad decisions. Some people may be intelligent and have learned a lot from books and school, but they still aren’t very wise about their decisions. Knowledge is good, but wisdom helps you make the best decisions and avoid the painful consequences of having chosen to do something bad.

**Some Important Things We Learn From Proverbs.** Proverbs is filled with lots of good advice on how to live a happier, better life.

**It explains how to be wise and how not to act like a fool.**

- “Wise people will inherit honor, but fools will bear disgrace.” (3:35)

**It warns us that the most important thing we must do is fear God.**

- “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Stubborn fools despise wisdom and discipline.” (1:7)

**It tells us to be careful about what we allow in our hearts and minds.**

- “Guard your heart diligently for your whole life comes forth from what is in your heart.” (4:23)

**It encourages us not to let our hearts be filled with pride, but to stay humble.**

- “A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.” (29:23)

**It reminds us that we must not let our anger get out of hand and we should not stir up trouble.**

- “A hotheaded, angry man will stir up a fight, but the one who can hold his temper will be able to calm down disputes.” (15:18)

**It shows us the value of our family, of fathers and mothers telling their children about God’s wisdom, and of children obeying their parents. Of husbands and wives treating each other properly.**

- “Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck.” (1:8,9)
- “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (22:6)
- “He who troubles his house will inherit wind” (11:29). “A wise woman builds her house, but a foolish one tears it down with her own hands” (14:1)

**It warns us about being influenced by anything that would make us intoxicated such as wine and strong drink.**

- “Who has trouble? Who has sorrow? Who has quarrels? Who has a complaint? Who has wounds for no reason? Who has red eyes? Those who stay around wine and go looking for mixed wine. Do not look at wine when it is red and sparkles in the cup, and goes down smoothly. Think about how later it will bite like a snake and show itself to be a poisonous snake. Your eyes will see strange sights, and your mouth will say perverse things.” (23:29-33)

**It explains that we must control our words. What we say can get us into a lot of trouble. Good words can show that we are wise.**

- “Those who answer something before they have truly listened will act foolishly and bring shame on themselves.” (18:13)

**It tells us how to use good sense about our money, but also not to put too much trust in it.**

- “Those who love pleasure shall be a poor; those who love wine and oil will not be rich.” (21:17)
- “...Riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.” (23:5)

**It warns us not to be lazy. Lazy people will never have much or accomplish much in life.**

- “Sluggard, how long will you stay asleep? When will you get up? A little more sleep, a little more slumber, a little more folding of the hands, and you will find that poverty comes on you like a robber and need will come on you like a man with a weapon.” (6:9-10)

**It reminds us to be honest in the way we deal with people. Tell the truth, because God despises lying.**

- “Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.” (12:22)

**We have to work on keeping a good name, a good reputation. We don't want anyone to be able to criticize us for doing something wrong.**

- “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.” (22:1)

**Proverbs talks about what kind of friend we need to be to other people and what kind of friends we should want.**

- “A man that has friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.” (18:20)

**We are told to be generous, not greedy.**

- “Those who give to the poor will not lack: but the ones who hide their eyes from them will have many a curse.” (28:27)

**The Book of Ecclesiastes** is another of Solomon's writings of wisdom. It never calls Solomon the writer, but it seems to fit who Solomon was: "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem" (Ecclesiastes 1:1). In Ecclesiastes, Solomon talks about what he had seen in life. He can see that without God life has no real meaning—and many people waste their lives pursuing things that will never truly make them happy. In the end he says that that fearing God and keeping His commandments are the whole duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13).



Rom. 15:4 “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

**Jesus is the Wisdom of God.** We may remember the story of how the Queen of Sheba came to see Solomon and was greatly impressed with his wisdom. But Jesus reminded His generation, “The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.” (Matt. 12:42)

Jesus had even greater wisdom than Solomon. Jesus was, of course, the Son of God and would know more than men knew. When Jesus began to preach, one of the questions that people wondered about was “Where did this Man get this wisdom?” (Matt. 13:54) In I Corinthians 1:24 Christ is called “the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

**God’s Wisdom.** We must remember that there are two kinds of wisdom to choose from: human or worldly wisdom and God’s wisdom. Paul said, “However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God...we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches” (I Cor. 2:6,7,13). God wants us to be “filled” with His wisdom, “the wisdom that is from above” (James 3:17).