

Wisdom that is Out of this World

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. 1Kings 3:5-15
- B. Learning from the life of Solomon:
 - 1. In all your getting, get wisdom
 - 2. Earthly things cannot satisfy
 - 3. Marriage is important, but God always comes first
- C. The life of Solomon was one of great accomplishment and great tragedy.
 - 1. Solomon was the son of David by Bathsheba. God told David that Solomon would be king and build the temple - 1Chron. 22:9-11
 - 2. Solomon's life began with great purpose. However, Solomon also married multiple wives and was lead into idolatry - 1Kings 11:1, 3
 - 3. The book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon's crowning work, ends with the summation of human existence - Ecc. 12:13-14
 - 4. Solomon was able to serve God in spite of his failures - 1Kings 4:32-34

I. IN ALL YOUR GETTING, GET WISDOM

- A. Solomon began with asking for wisdom from God - 1Kings 3:5-11
 - 1. In addition to wisdom, God gave Solomon power, wealth, and prosperity. He lacked nothing - 1Kings 3:12-13
 - 2. Proverbs uses the word wisdom 53 times - Prov. 1:2-7.
 - 3. Wisdom is personified - Prov. 1:20-33
 - 4. One who has wisdom is happy - Prov. 3:13
- B. Among all the things that we get in this life, wisdom should be among the most important - Prov. 4:7
 - 1. Wisdom begins with proper respect for God - Prov. 9:10
 - 2. Wisdom is more valuable than any earthy thing - Prov. 16:16
 - 3. Wisdom is not to be neglected - Prov. 23:23
- C. How does one obtain wisdom? - James 1:5
 - 1. We would do well to follow Solomon's example in the pursuit of wisdom

II. MATERIAL POSSESSIONS CANNOT SATISFY

- A. Solomon would know both by inspiration and experience.
 - 1. Wealth; silver was made as common as stones - 1Kings 10:10-25, 27
 - 2. Power - 1400 chariots 1200 horsemen - 1Kings 10:26
 - a. Sisera, commander of the armies of Jabin, the Canaanite king, at the height of his power could only muster 900 chariots
 - 3. Relationships; 700 wives, 300 concubines - 1Kings 11:3
 - 4. Peace - 1Kings 4:24
 - 5. He had it all - 1Kings 3:11-13
- B. The world has always seen the abundance of possessions as necessary for happiness. Solomon had it all and called it an empty waste of time
 - 1. Ecc. 1:2, 12-14

2. He learned that even having an abundance of wisdom did not save him or make him happy - Ecc. 1:16-18
 3. Having fun and pursuing a good time does not make one happy - Ecc. 2:1-2
 4. Food and drink does not make one happy - Ecc. 2:3
 5. Houses and property do not bring happiness - Ecc. 2:4, 10-11
 6. Wealth does not make one happy - Ecc. 5:10
 7. Even life itself does not give happiness - Ecc. 4:1-3
- C. Solomon is saying, "I've done it all and there is only one thing that is unbroken and upon which you can build your life" - Ecc. 12:13
1. We would do well to heed the example of Solomon in understanding that everything in this life is broken, fallen, temporary, and in the long term, vanity

III. MARRIAGE IS IMPORTANT, BUT GOD ALWAYS COMES FIRST

- A. In marriage, Solomon had great prophetic success and great personal failure.
1. God inspired Solomon to communicate the joy and love of a good marriage in the Song of Solomon - Song 2:4, 5:16, 8:7
 2. Proverbs is an abundant source of wisdom in marriage - Prov. 5:18, 18:22, 19:14, 31:10
- B. Solomon failed to apply this wisdom in his own life and allowed his wives to influence his relationship with God.
1. He disobeyed God in his choice of life mate - Gen. 2:24; 1Kings 11:1-13
 2. He disobeyed God by allowing the women to draw him into idolatry - 1Kings 11:4-10
- C. We would do well to heed Solomon's wisdom in marriage, but do not follow his example with our mate

Conclusion:

- A. "The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool."
(William Shakespeare, As You Like It)
1. 1Cor. 10:12; Rom. 11:20
 2. Psalm 62:9 - "Surely men of low degree are empty, Men of high degree are vanity; If they are weighed on the scales, They are altogether lighter than vapor."
- B. Nothing in this life in this world under the sun is more important than the soul housed in your body. Your life after this world depends on your pursuit of the salvation of your soul today
1. Ecc. 12:13; Mark 8:36-37