

PROVERBS

Lesson 1

1. To begin our study of “The Proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel, we need to know more about King Solomon’s reign. Read 1 Kings 3.
 - a. What made Solomon so wise?

 - b. What foolish mistakes did he make from the beginning of his reign? Read 1 Kings 3:1-9 and Deuteronomy 12:2-5.

2. Solomon was perhaps 20 years old when his father, David, died. Solomon’s half-brother Adonijah had competed with Solomon for David’s throne.
 - a. Why was it wise for Solomon to ask for a discerning heart?

 - b. What can we learn from his example?

3. In secular terms, wisdom is more than head-knowledge. Biblical wisdom also surpasses simple knowledge of data. The account in 1 Kings 3:16-28 provides an insight into Solomon’s God-given wisdom. How did it surpass mere knowledge?

4. In what other areas did Solomon manifest wisdom?
 - a. 1 Kings 4:1, 21; 5:6; 7:13-14

 - b. 1 Kings 4:29-34; 10:1-9

 - c. 1 Kings 8:27-30, 41-43

5. Solomon's reign represents the highest achievements of ancient Israel, achievements God promised through the prophets and King David.
 - a. Read Genesis 22:15-18. What aspect of this promise finds fulfillment in Solomon's reign? (1 Kings 4:20-21)

 - b. In 2 Samuel 7:10-13 God promises blessings for Israel through David's descendent. What aspects of this promise find fulfillment in Solomon's reign? (1 Kings 4:24-25; 5:3-5)

6. What grand personal achievements are described in 1 Kings 7:1-12?

7. What does the contrast recorded in 1 Kings 6:38-7:1 reveal about Solomon? What does this foreshadow about his reign?

8. Psalm 72 was written by Solomon or for Solomon. It summarizes the great achievements of his reign. Jewish and early Christian tradition also viewed this psalm as a description of the reign of the Messiah. Compare the achievements of Solomon in this psalm with the achievements of Jesus. What points of comparison do you see?