

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN SIMPLIFIED ENGLISH

# STUDY GUIDE

## The Special Wisdom of Solomon

### A Study of 1-2 Chronicles

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# Adult Bible Study in Simplified English Study Guide

## The Special Wisdom of Solomon: 1-2 Chronicles

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# The Special Wisdom of Solomon: 1-2 Chronicles

## Introduction

“Ask Me for anything and I will give it to you.” If God said this to you, what would you ask for? Health? Wealth? Fame?

Young King Solomon was asked that question, and he had a quick answer: Wisdom and understanding. He wanted wisdom so he could rule God’s people well. Good answer, Solomon!

God gave him wisdom – and not just any kind of wisdom. This was not the wisdom that comes from reading books. This was a wisdom only God can give.

Solomon’s wisdom made him a great leader. It also made him famous and rich. By the end of his life, Solomon was known around the world for his wisdom and his riches. God was very kind to Solomon.

As we study the lessons in this unit, we will see that Solomon had it all. But Solomon was not happy or satisfied with having it all. In the end, Solomon learned that riches and fame do not make anyone happy. Sadly, Solomon missed out on what brings true happiness. His life is like a movie that does not have a “happily ever after” ending.

But we can learn from Solomon’s wisdom. And we can even learn from Solomon’s

mistakes. Solomon’s life can teach us a lot about how to choose wisely and the blessings that come from putting God first in our lives.

This 14-week Bible study has 13 lessons from 1-2 Chronicles, plus one Easter lesson from the book of Luke.

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**John and Maggie Vasut** wrote Lesson 13 and the Easter Lesson. John teaches physics at Baylor University in Waco, and Maggie homeschools their four children.

# The Special Wisdom of Solomon: 1-2 Chronicles

## Lesson Overview

|                      |                                    |   |
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| <b>Lesson 2</b>      | <b>Doing God's Work Together</b>   | 1 Chronicles 28:11-21                                     |
| <b>Lesson 3</b>      | <b>Giving Freely to God</b>        | 1 Chronicles 29:1-3, 6-16                                 |
| <b>Lesson 4</b>      | <b>A Prayer for Wisdom</b>         | 2 Chronicles 1:1-13                                       |
| <b>Lesson 5</b>      | <b>A House for the Lord</b>        | 2 Chronicles 2:1-9, 12                                    |
| <b>Lesson 6</b>      | <b>The Cost of Worship</b>         | 2 Chronicles 3:1-2, 7-10, 14-17                           |
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| <b>Lesson 9</b>      | <b>Dedicated</b>                   | 2 Chronicles 6:12-14, 18, 38-39                           |
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| <b>Lesson 12</b>     | <b>Wise Words and Living Proof</b> | 2 Chronicles 9:1-8  |
| <b>Lesson 13</b>     | <b>You Can't Take It With You</b>  | 2 Chronicles 9:13, 15, 17, 19-20, 22-23, 25-26, 28, 30-31 |
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# The Special Wisdom of Solomon: 1-2 Chronicles

## Word List

### Lesson 1

**challenge:** a difficult task or problem; an invitation to take on something hard to do

**confidence:** a strong feeling or belief that someone will succeed

**presence:** the fact of being in a particular place or being present

**request:** something that a person asks for

**wisdom:** knowledge that is gained by having many experiences in life

### Lesson 2

**equip:** to prepare for an activity or problem

**generation:** a group of people born and living during the same time

**relay:** passing something from one person to another

**tradition:** a way of doing something that has been repeated many times

### Lesson 3

**humble:** not proud; not thinking of yourself as better than others

**repentance:** feeling or showing that you are sorry for something bad or wrong that you did and that you want to do what is right

**ultrasound:** a way of using sound waves to make pictures of the inside of the body

**wealth:** a large amount of money and possessions

### Lesson 4

**allies:** countries that help and support another country

**sacrifice:** a religious ceremony that seeks to please God

**sage:** a person who is very wise

**secure:** protected from danger or harm

### Lesson 5

**participate:** to be involved with others in doing something; to take part in an activity or event with others

**undertaking:** an important or difficult task or project

### Lesson 6

**cost:** the price of something; the amount of money that is needed to pay for or buy something

**establish:** to begin or create something that is meant to last for a long time

**expensive:** costing a lot of money

# The Special Wisdom of Solomon: 1-2 Chronicles

## Word List

### Lesson 7

**cherubim:** angels who serve God; also, statues of angels who serve God

**temple:** special building for **worship**; house of the Lord

**worship:** what you do to show God that you know who He is and what He has done

### Lesson 8

**dedicate/dedication:** set apart for God

### Lesson 9

**dedicate:** to officially make something a place for honoring or remembering God or to say that something will be used for only one purpose

**humble:** to do or say something which shows that you are not proud or that you do not think of yourself as better than other people

**symbol:** an action, object, event, etc., that represents a particular idea or quality

### Lesson 10

**consume:** to eat or drink; to use completely; to destroy; to take all of one's attention

**generous:** freely giving or sharing money and other valuable things

### Lesson 11

**covenant:** a formal and serious agreement or promise between two people or groups

### Lesson 12

**circumstance:** the way something happens; the specific details of an event

**hard:** (1) physically or mentally difficult; not easy; (2) able to be clearly seen and measured; not able to be questioned or doubted

### Lesson 13

**legacy:** something given to children or other people when a person dies

**shield:** a piece of metal or wood that is carried by a soldier to protect himself

### Easter Lesson

**disappear:** to stop being able to be seen

**optical illusion:** an image that looks different from the way it really is or an image that can be seen in more than one way

**resurrection:** a person coming back to life after he or she has died

# The Special Wisdom of Solomon: 1-2 Chronicles

## Word List in Alphabetical Order

These vocabulary words can found in the lesson listed in each definition; “L8” is Lesson 8.

**allies:** countries that help and support another country (L4)

**challenge:** a difficult task or problem; an invitation to take on something hard to do (L1)

**cherubim:** angels who serve God; also, statues of angels who serve God (L7)

**circumstance:** the way something happens; the specific details of an event (L12)

**confidence:** a strong feeling or belief that someone will succeed (L1)

**consume:** to eat or drink; to use completely; to destroy; to take all of one’s attention (L10)

**cost:** the price of something; the amount of money that is needed to pay for or buy something (L6)

**covenant:** a formal and serious agreement or promise between two people or groups (L11)

**dedicate/dedication:** set apart for God (L8)

**dedicate:** to officially make something a place for honoring or remembering God or to say that something will be used for only one purpose (L9)

**disappear:** to stop being able to be seen (Easter Lesson)

**establish:** to begin or create something that is meant to last for a long time (L6)

**expensive:** costing a lot of money (L6)

**equip:** to prepare for an activity or problem (L2)

**generation:** a group of people born and living during the same time (L2)

**generous:** freely giving or sharing money and other valuable things (L10)

**hard:** (1) physically or mentally difficult; not easy; (2) able to be clearly seen and measured; not able to be questioned or doubted (L12)

**humble:** not proud; not thinking of yourself as better than others (L3)

**humble:** to do or say something which shows

that you are not proud or that you do not think of yourself as better than other people (L9)

**legacy:** something given to children or other people when a person dies (L13)

**optical illusion:** an image that looks different from the way it really is or an image that can be seen in more than one way (Easter Lesson)

**participate:** to be involved with others in doing something; to take part in an activity or event with others (L5)

**presence:** the fact of being in a particular place or being present (L1)

**relay:** passing something from one person to another (L2)

**repentance:** feeling or showing that you are sorry for something bad or wrong that you did and that you want to do what is right (L3)

**resurrection:** a person coming back to life after he or she has died (Easter Lesson)

**request:** something that a person asks for (L1)

**sacrifice:** a religious ceremony that seeks to please God (L4)

**sage:** a person who is very wise (L4)

**shield:** a piece of metal or wood that is carried by a soldier to protect himself (L13)

**symbol:** an action, object, event, etc., that represents a particular idea or quality (L9)

**secure:** protected from danger or harm (L4)

**temple:** special building for worship; house of the Lord (L7)

**tradition:** a way of doing something that has been repeated many times (L2)

**ultrasound:** a way of using sound waves to make pictures of the inside of the body (L3)

**undertaking:** an important or difficult task or project (L5)

**wealth:** a large amount of money and possessions (L3)

**wisdom:** knowledge that is gained by having many experiences in life (L1)

**worship:** what you do to show God that you know who He is and what He has done (L7)



# The Special Wisdom of Solomon: 1-2 Chronicles

## Memory Verses

**Lesson 1**

“There are many plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s plan that will stand.”  
(Proverbs 19:21)

**Lesson 2**

“We all have different gifts that God has given to us by His loving-favor. We are to use them.” (Romans 12:6a)

**Lesson 3**

“The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it, the world, and all who live in it.”  
(Psalm 24:1)

**Lesson 4**

“If you do not have wisdom, ask God for it. He is always ready to give it to you and will never say you are wrong for asking.”  
(James 1:5)

**Lesson 5**

“Do you not know that your body is a house of God where the Holy Spirit lives? God gave you His Holy Spirit. Now you belong to God. You do not belong to yourselves.”  
(1 Corinthians 6:19)

**Lesson 6**

“God bought you with a great price. So honor God with your body. You belong to Him.”  
(1 Corinthians 6:20)

**Lesson 7**

“They praised the Lord, saying, ‘He is good. For His loving-kindness lasts forever.’”  
(2 Chronicles 5:13b)

**Lesson 8**

“Now the Lord has kept His promise which He made.” (2 Chronicles 6:10a)

**Lesson 9**

“Do you not know that you are a house of God and that the Holy Spirit lives in you?”  
(1 Corinthians 3:16)

**Lesson 10**

“Since we have received a holy nation that cannot be moved, let us be thankful. Let us please God and worship Him with honor and fear. For our God is a fire that destroys everything.” (Hebrews 12:28-29)

**Lesson 11**

“If My people who are called by My name put away their pride and pray, and look for My face, and turn from their sinful ways, then I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”  
(2 Chronicles 7:14)

**Lesson 12**

“We are His work. He has made us to belong to Christ Jesus so we can work for Him. He planned that we should do this.”  
(Ephesians 2:10)

**Lesson 13**

“For what does a man have if he gets all the world and loses his own soul? What can a man give to buy back his soul?”  
(Matthew 16:26)

**Lesson 14**

“For sure the Lord is risen.” (Luke 24:34b)



# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 1: When God Says No

#### Bible Text

1 Chronicles 28:1-10

#### Memory Verse

“There are many plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s plan that will stand.” (Proverbs 19:21)

#### Word List

**challenge:** a difficult task or problem; an invitation to take on something hard to do

**confidence:** a strong feeling or belief that someone will succeed

**presence:** the fact of being in a particular place or being present

**request:** something that a person asks for

**wisdom:** knowledge that is gained by having many experiences in life

People enjoy funny movies. Sometimes funny movies can help you look at things differently. Funny movies can even have serious topics. In 2003, there was a movie like this entitled *Bruce Almighty*.

This is the story of a man named Bruce. Bruce complains about God. In this made-up story, God appears to Bruce in human form. God **challenges** Bruce to stop complaining. He

challenges Bruce to do God’s job. God asks if Bruce really thinks he can do a better job.

Bruce accepts the challenge. He agrees to act in God’s place.

Bruce finds it very hard to act in God’s place. Bruce discovers that the job is too big for him. For example, Bruce receives millions of prayer **requests**. He has a hard time making decisions about each request. He does not know what to do. So Bruce just decides to answer every request with a *yes*. Soon, Bruce realizes this is a big mistake.

Bruce begins to understand that sometimes God says *no* to people’s requests for good reasons. Bruce begins to see that his own understanding of things is very limited. He also begins to realize that God is far more wise than he first thought.

#### David’s Request to God

(1 Chronicles 28:1-3)

**1 David gathered together all the leaders of Israel. There were leaders of the family groups, and leaders of the armies that served the king. There were captains of thousands, and of hundreds. There were leaders who cared for all the things and animals belonging to the king and his sons. There were the leaders and all the powerful soldiers.**

**2 Then King David stood up and said, “Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had wanted to**

build a house of rest for the special box with the Law of the Lord, a place for God to rest His feet, so I had made plans to build it.

**3** But God said to me, ‘You must not build a house for My name, because you are a man of war and blood.’”

David was nearing the end of his life on earth. He would not be king much longer. Many important people gathered around David. They wanted to hear the words he would speak. During David’s life, he wanted one thing very much. David wanted to build a place for the special box with the Law of the Lord. He understood that this box housed God’s very **presence**. And he wanted to build a special place for God’s people to come worship near His presence.

David loved God. David understood that God’s presence was holy and special. He spent a lot of time planning to build this special place of rest. He prayed for God’s blessing. David asked God to help him with this important work. Chapters 23-26 of 1 Chronicles tell more about the details of David’s plan. David felt sure that God would approve of his plans. David did not expect that God would deny his request.

### **God Says No to David’s Request (1 Chronicles 28:4-5)**

**4** “But the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from all the house of my father to be the king of Israel forever. For He has chosen Judah to be a

leader. And in the house of Judah, my father’s house, and among my father’s sons, He was pleased to make me king of all Israel.

**5** The Lord has given me many sons. And of all my sons, He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the nation of the Lord over Israel.”

David knew that God was in charge of all things. He understood that God has all authority on earth and in heaven. This meant that God would decide who should build the special house of rest for the box with the Law of the Lord. No matter how much David wanted this job, he accepted that God alone would choose the builder. David could have argued with God. He could have led God’s people to do things his way instead of God’s way. Instead, David turned his heart toward the Lord. David obeyed God’s plan.

God said *no* to David’s request, but David still honored God with praise and worship. For sure, David understood Proverbs 19:21: “There are many plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s plan that will stand.” God chose David to be king, but He did not choose David to build the special place of rest. Still David honored God.

### **God Speaks to David (1 Chronicles 28:6-8)**

**6** “He said to me, ‘Your son Solomon is the one who will build My house and My open spaces. For I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be

his father.

**7 I will make him king forever, if he is faithful to obey My Words and My Laws, as he is doing now.'**

**8 So now I say to you in front of all these people of Israel, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to do all the Law of the Lord your God. If you obey you will receive the good land and also leave it to your children after you forever."**

Many of Israel's leaders surrounded David. God spoke to David. David shared God's message with all of the people. David said that his son Solomon would build God's house. And David warned Solomon to obey everything God commanded. David reminded Solomon about the blessings that come from obeying God. He also reminded God's people of this important truth.

### Things to Think About

1. Whom do you know and consider to be very wise? What makes them wise in your eyes?
2. How do you respond when God says *no* to your requests?
3. Why should you continue listening and obeying God even when He does not give you what you want?
4. Can others have confidence in you to obey God even when you do not understand His wisdom?
5. Where are you looking for wisdom apart from God? What effect is this having on your life? How is this affecting others in your life?

But David did more than speak God's message. David lived as an example of obedience for Solomon and others to follow. David wanted to build God's house. God did not plan for David to do this. Even though David did not get what he wanted, he still obeyed God. This example of obedience pleased God. It also encouraged Solomon and all Israel to keep obeying God. David's example blessed God's people.

### David Speaks to Solomon

**(1 Chronicles 28:9-10)**

**9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father. Serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind. For the Lord looks into all hearts, and understands every plan and thought. If you look to Him, He will let you find Him. But if you turn away from Him, He will turn away from you forever.**

**10 Listen now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a place of worship. Be strong, and do it."**

Finally, David spoke important words to Solomon. He reminded his son about God's wise ways. David knew that real **wisdom** comes only from God. He also reminded Solomon that true wisdom always leads a person to obey God. It takes strength to obey God in all things. David encouraged his son to be strong and obedient. He trusted God's wisdom above all else.

## Things to Remember

There are times in life when God says *no* to our requests. We do not always get what we want. We do not always get what we think we need. God has wisdom that is higher than our requests. We might not always understand His choices. But we must always trust His wisdom.

David was an important man. He was God's chosen king. But no person is too important to trust God's wisdom. No person is too important to obey God's plan. We can choose to follow David's example. We can accept God's answers to our requests. We can accept His plan for our lives. We can honor God and trust Him because He alone is wise.

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### 1 Chronicles 28:1-10

**1** David gathered together all the leaders of Israel. There were leaders of the family groups, and leaders of the armies that served the king. There were captains of thousands, and of hundreds. There were leaders who cared for all the things and animals belonging to the king and his sons. There were the leaders and all the powerful soldiers.

**2** Then King David stood up and said, "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had wanted to build a house of rest for the special box with the Law of the Lord, a place for God to rest His feet, so I had made plans to build it.

**3** But God said to me, 'You must not build a house for My name, because you are a man of

war and blood.'

**4** But the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from all the house of my father to be the king of Israel forever. For He has chosen Judah to be a leader. And in the house of Judah, my father's house, and among my father's sons, He was pleased to make me king of all Israel.

**5** The Lord has given me many sons. And of all my sons, He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the nation of the Lord over Israel.

**6** He said to me, 'Your son Solomon is the one who will build My house and My open spaces. For I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his father.

**7** I will make him king forever, if he is faithful to obey My Words and My Laws, as he is doing now.'

**8** So now I say to you in front of all these people of Israel, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to do all the Law of the Lord your God. If you obey you will receive the good land and also leave it to your children after you forever.

**9** As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father. Serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind. For the Lord looks into all hearts, and understands every plan and thought. If you look to Him, He will let you find Him. But if you turn away from Him, He will turn away from you forever.

**10** Listen now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a place of worship. Be strong, and do it."

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 2: Doing God's Work Together

#### Bible Text

1 Chronicles 28:11-21

#### Memory Verse

"We all have different gifts that God has given to us by His loving-favor. We are to use them."  
(Romans 12:6a)

#### Word List

**equip:** to prepare for an activity or problem  
**generation:** a group of people born and living during the same time  
**relay:** passing something from one person to another  
**tradition:** a way of doing something that has been repeated many times

Many people around the world enjoy watching the Olympic Games. These games start with an old **tradition**. The Olympic torch is a symbol of the Olympic Games. Olympic officials choose a special person to light the Olympic torch in Greece. Once the torch is lit, other people are chosen to carry the flaming torch from Greece to the site of the Olympic Games.

Each person in the **relay** carries the

torch on part of the journey. The torch is passed from one person to the next along the journey. By working together, these people carry the torch to the site of the games. They use the torch to light a new fire in the Olympic Bowl. Lighting the Olympic Bowl marks the beginning of the new games every four years.

In some ways, Christians are like the people who carry the Olympic torch. Christians carry the flame of faith on their journey through life. Christians must always remember to pass on the flame of faith to others. This is how faith in Jesus Christ spreads throughout the earth. This is how faith in Jesus Christ moves from one **generation** to the next. God's people work together to pass the torch of faith to the ends of the earth.

#### Building the Temple

(1 Chronicles 28:11-19)

**11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plan of the porch of the Lord's house, its buildings, and its store-houses. He gave him the plan of the rooms on its second floor, its inside rooms, and the room for the mercy-seat.**

**12 He gave him the plan of all he had in mind. It showed the open spaces of the Lord's house, and all the rooms around them. It showed the store-houses of the house of God, and the**

store-houses of the holy things.

13 He gave him the plan for the way the religious leaders and the Levites were to be divided up for all the work of the Lord's house. He told how all the objects were to be used in worship in the Lord's house.

14 David gave the weight of all the gold objects to be used in each part of worship. He gave the weight for all the silver objects to be used in each part of the worship.

15 The plan gave the weight of gold for the gold lamp-stands and gold lamps. It gave the weight of each lamp-stand and its lamps. It gave the weight of silver for the silver lamp-stands. It gave the weight of each lamp-stand and its lamps, by the use of each lamp-stand.

16 It gave the weight of gold for each table of holy bread, and of silver for the silver tables.

17 It gave the weight of the meat-hooks, the pots and the cups of pure gold. It gave the weight for each of the gold and silver pots.

18 It gave the weight of the fine gold of the altar of special perfume, and of the gold wagon and of the cherubim that spread out their wings and covered the special box with the Law of the Lord.

19 David said, "This is in writing because His hand was upon me. He helped me to know all the plan."

David told Solomon that it was God's plan for him to build the special house of rest for the box with the Law of the Lord (1 Chronicles 28:6). David shared God's plan with Solomon. Even more, David shared instructions for building the house of rest. David's instructions included many important details. He told Solomon how to build each room. This included the porch, the second floor, the inside rooms, the mercy-seat, the store-house, and many other things.

David knew that many people would be needed to take care of God's house. He had a plan for this. He shared this with Solomon, too. David's plans included instructions for worship. David told Solomon about all of the special religious objects should be used. These objects included gold lamps and silver lamp-stands and special perfume. David wanted his son to understand exactly how to honor God with these things.

David made sure that Solomon had the knowledge he needed to succeed. David also made sure Solomon understood another important thing. David explained that these plans came from God. David knew that God's "hand was on [him]" (v. 19). David knew that God helped him. And he knew that Solomon must depend on God's help, too.

## Leading God's People

(1 Chronicles 28:20)

**20 Then David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong. Have strength of heart, and do it. Do not be afraid or troubled, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not stop helping you. He will not leave you until all the work of the house of the Lord is finished.**

David knew it was important to build a special house of rest for the box with the Law of the Lord. This would be a place where God's people could worship God. Even more, David knew that God's people must worship in their hearts. Solomon would have to lead God's people in the right way. Without strong leadership, God's people might turn away from God's ways. A building to worship God would only matter if God's people had hearts that were right. David led God's people for

many years. Now it would be Solomon's turn. So David told Solomon some important things about leading God's people.

## Working Together

(1 Chronicles 28:21)

**21 See, the religious leaders and the Levites are divided up to do all the work of the house of God. Every willing man who is able to do a special work will help you in all that is to be done. The leaders and all the people will do what you say.”**

David was an important man in the history of God's people. He knew that Solomon would be an important king, too. But David understood that kings can't do all the work alone. God **equips** every person to help lead and guide His people. David was a strong and wise leader. Other men could build things. Still others could help in worship. Some could serve in different ways. David wanted Solomon to remember how important it was for everyone to work together.

God's power and plans come first. These things lay a firm foundation. Strong leaders build on this. They guide the people with God's wisdom. In addition, each of God's people is equipped to serve God and others. Every one of these people adds to and helps God's work in the world.

## Things to Think About

1. Can you think of other relay events like the passing of the Olympic Torch? Describe these events.
2. How does God's presence and power encourage you when you are doing work for Him?
3. Describe some leaders you admire. What makes them effective?
4. Why do you think it is hard for people to work together?
5. Have you ever been assigned a very big job that included many details? Tell about the way you handled that job.



### Things to Remember

God calls people to take on big jobs for Him. The jobs God gives can seem too large or too hard. Christians must depend on God to do the work He gives each one to do. Christians must trust that God will equip them for the hard tasks. We can also depend on each other to help get the job done.

Leaders have an important job. But leading is not the only important job. Strong leaders remind people to work together. Strong leaders remind people to depend on God. This is the kind of leader David was. This is the kind of leader Davis hoped Solomon would be. This is the kind of leader God uses to do His work in every generation. This is how the Good News of Jesus Christ can keep spreading around the world.

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### 1 Chronicles 28:11-21

**11** Then David gave his son Solomon the plan of the porch of the Lord's house, its buildings, and its store-houses. He gave him the plan of the rooms on its second floor, its inside rooms, and the room for the mercy-seat.

**12** He gave him the plan of all he had in mind. It showed the open spaces of the Lord's house, and all the rooms around them. It showed the store-houses of the house of God, and the store-houses of the holy things.

**13** He gave him the plan for the way the religious leaders and the Levites were to be divided up for all the work of the Lord's house.

He told how all the objects were to be used in worship in the Lord's house.

**14** David gave the weight of all the gold objects to be used in each part of worship. He gave the weight for all the silver objects to be used in each part of the worship.

**15** The plan gave the weight of gold for the gold lamp-stands and gold lamps. It gave the weight of each lamp-stand and its lamps. It gave the weight of silver for the silver lamp-stands. It gave the weight of each lamp-stand and its lamps, by the use of each lamp-stand.

**16** It gave the weight of gold for each table of holy bread, and of silver for the silver tables.

**17** It gave the weight of the meat-hooks, the pots and the cups of pure gold. It gave the weight for each of the gold and silver pots.

**18** It gave the weight of the fine gold of the altar of special perfume, and of the gold wagon and of the cherubim that spread out their wings and covered the special box with the Law of the Lord.

**19** David said, "This is in writing because His hand was upon me. He helped me to know all the plan."

**20** Then David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong. Have strength of heart, and do it. Do not be afraid or troubled, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not stop helping you. He will not leave you until all the work of the house of the Lord is finished.

**21** See, the religious leaders and the Levites are divided up to do all the work of the house of God. Every willing man who is able to do a special work will help you in all that is to be done. The leaders and all the people will do what you say."

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 3: Giving Freely to God

#### Bible Text

1 Chronicles 29:1-3, 6-16

#### Memory Verse

"The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)

#### Word List

**humble:** not proud; not thinking of yourself as better than others

**repentance:** feeling or showing that you are sorry for something bad or wrong that you did and that you want to do what is right

**ultrasound:** a way of using sound waves to make pictures of the inside of the body

**wealth:** a large amount of money and possessions

Doctors can use special medical tests to see how well your heart is working. One of these tests uses **ultrasound**, or sound waves to make moving pictures of the heart. Doctors can clearly see the heart's size and shape and how blood is pumping through it. This test can help identify many heart conditions. Without these tests, many people could die from serious heart problems.

Some heart problems are physical. But other heart problems are spiritual. These spiritual kinds of problems happen when a person is not right with God. God also tests the hearts of people. He tests their spiritual condition. These tests show how much faith, obedience, and trust are in a person's heart. They show how pure a person's heart is toward God.

David knew that a giving heart is a spiritually healthy heart. David exercised his heart by giving his **wealth** to God. David led God's people to do this, too. David and the people of Israel gave great wealth to help build the special place of rest for the box with the Law of the Lord. They did this because their hearts were filled with love, faithfulness, and thankfulness to God.

#### David Gives Freely

(1 Chronicles 29:1-5)

**1** Then King David said to all the people, "My son Solomon is the one God has chosen. He is still young and has not had much time to know what to do. It is a very big work because this beautiful house is not for man, but for the Lord God.

**2** I have given all that I have been able to give for the house of my God. I have given the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the brass for the things of brass. I have given the iron for the things of iron, and the

wood for the things of wood. I have given stones of much worth, stones for setting, silver-white stones, and stones of different colors. I have given all kinds of stones of much worth, and many smooth, special white stones.

**3** The house of my God means much to me. I have much gold and silver and I give it to the house of my God, together with all I have already given for the holy house.

David loved God with all his heart. He was not a perfect man. Even so, David always confessed his sins before God. He lived a life of **repentance** and obedience. He committed his talents to God. He committed his time to God. He committed his whole heart to God.

To build the special place of rest, David committed his wealth to God, too. David gave large sums of silver and gold. David gave many stones of much worth. He also gave large amounts of wood and iron. He gave all that he was “able to give” to build “the house of...God.” He did not give these things to earn God’s approval. David gave these things out of a pure heart. He gave because he truly desired to honor God.

### **God’s People Follow David**

**(1 Chronicles 29:6-9)**

**6** Then the rulers of the families gave because they wanted to. The leaders of the family groups

of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and those who watched over the king’s work gave because they wanted to.

**7** For the work of the house of God, they gave gold weighing as much as 5,000 men, and 10,000 gold pieces. They gave silver weighing as much as 10,000 men. They gave brass weighing as much as 18,000 men, and iron weighing as much as 100,000 men.

**8** And whoever had stones of much worth gave them to the store-house of the house of the Lord, in the care of Jehiel the Gershonite.

**9** Then the people were filled with joy because they had been so willing to give. They gave their gift to the Lord with a whole heart. And King David was filled with great joy.

David praised God for allowing him to give so much. David’s actions challenged God’s people to follow his example. David had been their leader for a long time. They knew his heart was right. David had led the people to make their hearts right with God, too. David was a leader the people could trust. This was because David was following a God the people could trust. The people of Israel “gave because they wanted to.” God’s people gave gold, silver, and brass. They also gave stones of much worth. In giving these things, they were deeply joyful. All of this brought David great joy, too.

## Everything Belongs to God (1 Chronicles 29:10-16)

10 So David praised the Lord in front of all the people. He said, “Honor and thanks be to You, O Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

11 O Lord, You have great power, shining-greatness and strength. Yes, everything in heaven and on earth belongs to You. You are the King, O Lord. And You are honored as head over all.

12 Both riches and honor come from You. You rule over all. Power and strength are in Your hand. The power is in Your hand to make great and to give strength to all.

13 So now, our God, we thank You. We praise Your great and honored name.

14 “But who am I and who are my people, that we should be able to give so much? For all

things come from You. We have given You only what already belongs to You.

15 We are strangers before You. We are just staying here for a time, as all our fathers did. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and without hope.

16 O Lord our God, from Your hand are all these many things that we have given to build You a house for Your holy name. It all belongs to You.

David praised God that he was able to give so much. He gave from a heart of thankfulness. And he celebrated with a heart of thankfulness. He offered a public prayer of praise. He praised God’s “power, shining-greatness, and strength.” He proclaimed that “everything in heaven and on earth belongs to [God].” David understood that God was the source of all his wealth. Everything David had came from God. It was right for David to freely give it back to God. David understood the goodness and greatness of God. He knew his ability to give anything came only because God freely gave to him first.

Understanding these truths kept David’s heart **humble** and thankful.

### Things to Think About

1. Does the world consider you rich? Do you see your self the same way? Do you think that your wealth matters to God? Why or why not?
2. David has been described as *a man after God’s own heart*. What do you think this means?
3. David and God’s people gave because they wanted to give. Do you think God cares more about the reason people give or the amount people give?
4. Why should Christians willingly and joyfully give to God and others?

### Things to Remember

Christians need to understand the same things David knew. Everything a Christian has comes from God. Everything a Christian has should be a reminder of God’s grace. God

owns everything. He blesses us to take care of it for a short time. He allows us to participate in His work.

A heart that is right with God is a heart that gives to God. When Christians give freely, God is honored. When Christians give freely, others see God's power, shining-greatness, and strength.

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**1 Chronicles 29:1-3, 6-16**

Then King David said to all the people, "My son Solomon is the one God has chosen. He is still young and has not had much time to know what to do. It is a very big work because this beautiful house is not for man, but for the Lord God.

2 I have given all that I have been able to give for the house of my God. I have given the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the brass for the things of brass. I have given the iron for the things of iron, and the wood for the things of wood. I have given stones of much worth, stones for setting, silver-white stones, and stones of different colors. I have given all kinds of stones of much worth, and many smooth, special white stones.

3 The house of my God means much to me. I have much gold and silver and I give it to the house of my God, together with all I have already given for the holy house.

...

6 Then the rulers of the families gave because they wanted to. The leaders of the family groups of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and those who watched over the king's work gave because they wanted to.

7 For the work of the house of God, they gave

gold weighing as much as 5,000 men, and 10,000 gold pieces. They gave silver weighing as much as 10,000 men. They gave brass weighing as much as 18,000 men, and iron weighing as much as 100,000 men.

8 And whoever had stones of much worth gave them to the store-house of the house of the Lord, in the care of Jehiel the Gershonite.

9 Then the people were filled with joy because they had been so willing to give. They gave their gift to the Lord with a whole heart. And King David was filled with great joy.

10 So David praised the Lord in front of all the people. He said, "Honor and thanks be to You, O Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

11 O Lord, You have great power, shining-greatness and strength. Yes, everything in heaven and on earth belongs to You. You are the King, O Lord. And You are honored as head over all.

12 Both riches and honor come from You. You rule over all. Power and strength are in Your hand. The power is in Your hand to make great and to give strength to all.

13 So now, our God, we thank You. We praise Your great and honored name.

14 "But who am I and who are my people, that we should be able to give so much? For all things come from You. We have given You only what already belongs to You.

15 We are strangers before You. We are just staying here for a time, as all our fathers did. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and without hope.

16 O Lord our God, from Your hand are all these many things that we have given to build You a house for Your holy name. It all belongs to You.

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 4: A Prayer for Wisdom

#### Bible Text

2 Chronicles 1:1-13

#### Memory Verse

"If you do not have wisdom, ask God for it. He is always ready to give it to you and will never say you are wrong for asking." (James 1:5)

#### Word List

**allies:** countries that help and support another country

**sacrifice:** a religious ceremony that seeks to please God

**sage:** a person who is very wise

**secure:** protected from danger or harm

There is an ancient story from India about a king who loved chess. He often challenged visitors to a game. He usually won these games. One day a traveling **sage** visited the kingdom. The king challenged him to a game. The king offered to give the sage whatever reward he asked if the sage won.

The sage asked for a strange reward. He asked for one grain of rice to be placed on the first square of the chessboard. He requested

that the king double this single grain of rice on each following square. The request seemed small. So the king ordered a bag of rice to be brought. One grain was placed on the first square. Two grains were placed on the second. Four grains were placed on the third. Eight grains were placed on the fourth square and so on. The king quickly realized that one bag was not enough. The king would need more than a billion grains of rice to grant this request.

The king's challenger was very wise. He knew that small things have a big impact when they are added together. Wisdom might seem like a small thing, but it is not. It is important that Christians seek God's wisdom in every decision. When God adds to our wisdom and understanding, it grows stronger and stronger.

#### Solomon Becomes King

(2 Chronicles 1:1-4)

**1 Solomon the son of David became a strong king. The Lord his God was with him, and gave him much honor.**

**2 Solomon spoke to all Israel. He spoke to the leaders of thousands and of hundreds. He spoke to the men who judge and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of fathers' houses.**

**3 Then Solomon and all the people with him went to a place of worship at Gibeon where God's**

meeting tent was. It was the tent which Moses the servant of the Lord had made in the desert. 4 (But David had brought up the special box of God from Kiriath-jearim to the place he had made ready for it. For he had set up a tent for it in Jerusalem.)

At the beginning of 2 Chronicles, Solomon had become king. As the new king, Solomon had to gain the people's trust. He needed to **secure** his kingdom. He needed to deal strongly with Israel's enemies. And he needed to show faithfulness to Israel's **allies**. These things would make Solomon a strong king.

Solomon's father, David, had been a strong king. Solomon would need God's help to become a strong king like his father. Solomon gathered together all the leaders, judges, and heads of families. They gathered together at Gibeon. There was a special altar at Gibeon. The altar at Gibeon was a special place of **sacrifice**. Solomon wanted all of Israel to keep worshiping God with a pure heart. These things would help Solomon become a strong king.

### **Solomon Honors God**

**(2 Chronicles 1:5-6)**

**5** Now the brass altar was there in front of the meeting tent of the Lord. It was the altar which was made by Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of

Hur. Solomon and the people worshiped the Lord there.

**6** Solomon went before the Lord to the brass altar at the meeting tent. And he gave a thousand burnt gifts on it.

Solomon led the group to make a special sacrifice to God. He wanted the people of Israel to worship God together. He knew that God was the source of all blessing. He knew that God must be honored and worshiped. He followed David's strong example. He kept the people of Israel focused on God. He helped all Israel to keep their hearts pure.

The altar of sacrifice was where Israel experienced the presence of God. This was the same altar mentioned in Leviticus 1:9. These sacrifices were "pleasing to...the Lord." Solomon honored God with this offering. And he led God's people to honor God, too.

### **God Grants Wisdom**

**(2 Chronicles 1:7-13)**

**7** That night God showed Himself to Solomon and said to him, "Ask Me for anything and I will give it to you."

**8** Solomon said to God, "You have acted toward my father David with great loving-kindness. And You have made me king in his place.

**9** Now, O Lord God, Your promise to my father David has come true. For You have made me king



over as many people as the dust of the earth.

**10** Now give me wisdom and much understanding, that I may lead these people. For who can rule this great nation of Yours?"

**11** God said to Solomon, "You have not asked for riches, much money, or honor, or the life of those who hate you. And you have not asked for a long life for yourself. But you have asked for wisdom and much understanding, that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king. Because this was in your heart,

**12** wisdom and much understanding have been given to you. And I will give you riches and much money and honor. You will have more than all the kings who were before you, and more than all who will come after you."

**13** So Solomon went from the place of worship at Gibeon, from the meeting tent to Jerusalem.

There he ruled over Israel.

Solomon's offerings pleased God. God responded kindly to Solomon. After he led Israel in worship, Solomon met God in prayer. God said that he would give Solomon

anything he asked for. Before Solomon even responded to God's question, he praised God. He remembered God's faithfulness to his father David. And he expressed thanks for God's loving-kindness.

Solomon asked only for wisdom and understanding. Solomon's request for wisdom was not a selfish one. He did not ask for money or fame or power. He did not ask for long life. He asked for wisdom on behalf of God's people. He knew that God's wisdom would prosper the people of Israel. And God understood that Solomon's request came from a pure and humble heart. Because of his wise request, God gave Solomon even more than he requested. God said that Solomon would have wisdom. He also said that Solomon would have more riches than any king before him. God knew that a leader with a heart like Solomon's could be trusted with many riches.

### Things to Remember

Solomon's request might surprise today's Christians. Solomon asked God for wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to know the right thing to do and then do it. Wisdom is the wisest thing Solomon could ask for! God's wisdom would make Solomon a strong leader. Through Solomon, God's wisdom would keep Israel strong.

In today's world, wisdom is not valued. Wealth, power, beauty, and fame are valued far above wisdom. But God's Word stands

### Things to Think About

1. Define wisdom in your own words.
2. What qualities make a strong leader?
3. What kind of worship is most pleasing to God?
4. If you could ask God for anything, what would you request? Why?
5. Where do you go when you seek wisdom? Why?

strong against the world's values: "For wisdom is better than stones of great worth. All that you may desire cannot compare with her" (Proverbs 8:11). Christians must remember that wisdom comes from God alone. And Christians must follow Solomon's example by seeking and valuing wisdom above all things. "If you do not have wisdom, ask God for it. He is always ready to give it to you and will never say you are wrong for asking" (James 1:5).

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### 2 Chronicles 1:1-13

**1** Solomon the son of David became a strong king. The Lord his God was with him, and gave him much honor.

**2** Solomon spoke to all Israel. He spoke to the leaders of thousands and of hundreds. He spoke to the men who judge and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of fathers' houses.

**3** Then Solomon and all the people with him went to a place of worship at Gibeon where God's meeting tent was. It was the tent which Moses the servant of the Lord had made in the desert.

**4** (But David had brought up the special box of God from Kiriath-jearim to the place he had made ready for it. For he had set up a tent for it in Jerusalem.)

**5** Now the brass altar was there in front of the meeting tent of the Lord. It was the altar which was made by Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur. Solomon and the people worshiped the Lord

there.

**6** Solomon went before the Lord to the brass altar at the meeting tent. And he gave a thousand burnt gifts on it.

**7** That night God showed Himself to Solomon and said to him, "Ask Me for anything and I will give it to you."

**8** Solomon said to God, "You have acted toward my father David with great loving-kindness. And You have made me king in his place.

**9** Now, O Lord God, Your promise to my father David has come true. For You have made me king over as many people as the dust of the earth.

**10** Now give me wisdom and much understanding, that I may lead these people. For who can rule this great nation of Yours?"

**11** God said to Solomon, "You have not asked for riches, much money, or honor, or the life of those who hate you. And you have not asked for a long life for yourself. But you have asked for wisdom and much understanding, that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king. Because this was in your heart,

**12** wisdom and much understanding have been given to you. And I will give you riches and much money and honor. You will have more than all the kings who were before you, and more than all who will come after you."

**13** So Solomon went from the place of worship at Gibeon, from the meeting tent to Jerusalem. There he ruled over Israel.

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 5: A House for the Lord

#### Bible Text

2 Chronicles 2:1-9, 12

#### Memory Verse

“Do you not know that your body is a house of God where the Holy Spirit lives? God gave you His Holy Spirit. Now you belong to God. You do not belong to yourselves.” (1 Corinthians 6:19)

#### Word List

**participate:** to be involved with others in doing something; to take part in an activity or event with others

**undertaking:** an important or difficult task or project

I used to have a dream. It was something I wanted to do for God’s church. Then I learned that other members of my family had the same idea. We understood that this idea came from God. We were excited. We were ready to start a new project together.

But the new project was big. We soon realized that we did not have all that we needed to do it. It was going to take more money than we had. There were things that we

did not know how to do. We learned that God’s plan was big because He wanted more people to work on it together.

So we found people who could do it with us. Now I am living my dream. I am doing the thing I wanted to do for God. And I am so glad God’s plan was bigger than mine. God has brought together wonderful people to do His work. It has been a beautiful thing!

Solomon also had a big project that He wanted to do for God. Like mine, it was a family project. Solomon’s father, David, began the project. Solomon was going to build a Temple for God. This was a huge project! Solomon was wise to understand that he needed help. So he found people to help him. Together, they would build a beautiful place to worship God.

### A House for the Name of the Lord (2 Chronicles 2:1-3)

**1** Solomon planned to build a house for the name of the Lord, and a king’s house for himself.

**2** So he picked 70,000 men to carry loads, 80,000 men to cut stones in the mountains, and 3,600 men to watch over these men.

**3** Then Solomon sent word to King Hiram of Tyre, saying, “You sent my father David cedar trees to build him a house to live in. Do the same for me.

Solomon had a clear purpose. He was going to build a house to worship God. This was a big **undertaking**! The house had to be special. Only a grand, beautiful house would be right for God.

Solomon knew that he needed help. He needed people with special skills to do the fine work that was needed. He needed workers and organizers. So he found thousands of men to help build this Temple.

Then he went to another king for help as well. He wrote a letter to his dad's old friend, the king of Tyre. King Hiram would know what was needed for this special building. He had helped David build his home. Now Solomon asked King Hiram to help build God's home, too.

### **A House for Sacrifice (2 Chronicles 2:4-6)**

**4 See, I am about to build a house for the name of the Lord my God. I will set it apart for Him. There special perfume will be burned before Him. The holy bread will be there all the time. Burnt gifts will be given morning and evening, on Days of Rest, on new moons, and during the special suppers of the Lord our God. This is to be done forever in Israel.**

**5 The house I am about to build will be great. For our God is greater than all the gods.**

**6 But who is able to build a house for Him?**

**For the heavens and the highest heavens are not big enough to hold Him. So who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except as a place to burn special perfume before Him?**

The purpose of the Temple was to honor God. But no one could build a house big enough for God. Isaiah 66:1 says, "The Lord says, 'Heaven is My throne, and the earth is the place where I rest My feet. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?'" God is too big for any house on earth. God did not need the Temple. God's people needed the Temple.

The Temple would be a place where people could give gifts to God. We call these gifts *sacrifices*. God's people would make three types of sacrifices at this house. Priests would burn special perfume twice a day on a special altar. Priests would put holy bread on a special table every week. And the people would make sacrifices by fire every day, even on special holy days. God's people needed to give sacrifices to remember their need for God. They needed to ask for forgiveness. They needed to give back to God. This was how they worshipped Him.

Today we do not make sacrifices of perfume, bread, or animals. Instead, God's people give themselves. The Bible tells us to let our bodies be living and holy gifts given to God (see Romans 12:1). How do we make a

living sacrifice with our bodies? We live our lives in a way that honors God. We worship God by giving all of ourselves to Him. The Bible also tells us that our bodies are now God's house (see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We are now God's Temple because His Spirit lives in us. We worship Him when we live good and holy lives for Him.

### **A House of Worship for All (2 Chronicles 2:7-9, 12)**

**7 Now send me an able man to work with gold, silver, brass, iron, and purple, red and blue cloth who knows how to cut all kinds of pictures. He will work with the able men I have in Judah and Jerusalem, whom my father David gave me.**

**8 Send me cedar, cypress and algum trees from Lebanon. I know you have able men who know how to do this work. My servants will work with your servants**

**9 to cut many trees for me. For the house I am about to build will be very great and beautiful.**

### **Things to Think About**

1. How can you join God's people in serving and worshipping God together? What gifts and skills do you have to share?
2. Are you giving your body as a living and holy gift to God? What kind of home are you making for God in your heart?
3. Who do you know that might be watching you to see what God is like? Will they be more interested in knowing God because of what they see in you?

...

**12 Then Hiram said, "Honor and thanks be to the Lord, the God of Israel. He has made heaven and earth. And He has given King David a wise son. Wisdom and understanding have been given to David's son who will build a house for the Lord and a king's house for himself."**

Many people would work on this house for God. David had the idea to build God a house. Then he gathered supplies. But God told him his son would be the builder (see 2 Chronicles 7:11-12). David had fought too many wars. God wanted a man of peace to build His house. Solomon's name means "peace," and God's people would have a time of peace while he was king.

But others would **participate** in this project, too. Solomon asked the King of Tyre to send men to help. King Hiram and the people of Tyre did not worship God as the Only True God. Yet Solomon invited them to take part in this project. God's Temple would not be built by God's people alone.

King Hiram accepted the invitation. And he honored God in his response: "Honor and thanks be to the Lord, the God of Israel. He has made heaven and earth." Hiram saw Solomon's vision of doing something great for God and he chose to be a part of it. Hiram joined in the worship of God!

## Things to Remember

Worship is more than just singing songs at church. All of life is an act of worship for God's people. The men who built the Temple in Jerusalem worshipped God as they worked. And we worship God as we join in His work in our world.

God's church is about people. Every project we do for God is about bringing people together to worship Him. That is why we all have different gifts and skills. That is why God's projects are always big. God likes big projects because He likes to bring people together. And together we grow in love and holiness as we learn from one another. Isn't God's way perfect?

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### 2 Chronicles 2:1-9, 12

**1** Solomon planned to build a house for the name of the Lord, and a king's house for himself.

**2** So he picked 70,000 men to carry loads, 80,000 men to cut stones in the mountains, and 3,600 men to watch over these men.

**3** Then Solomon sent word to King Hiram of Tyre, saying, "You sent my father David cedar trees to build him a house to live in. Do the same for me.

**4** See, I am about to build a house for the name of the Lord my God. I will set it apart for Him. There special perfume will be burned before Him. The holy bread will be there all the

time. Burnt gifts will be given morning and evening, on Days of Rest, on new moons, and during the special suppers of the Lord our God. This is to be done forever in Israel.

**5** The house I am about to build will be great. For our God is greater than all the gods.

**6** But who is able to build a house for Him? For the heavens and the highest heavens are not big enough to hold Him. So who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except as a place to burn special perfume before Him?

**7** Now send me an able man to work with gold, silver, brass, iron, and purple, red and blue cloth who knows how to cut all kinds of pictures. He will work with the able men I have in Judah and Jerusalem, whom my father David gave me.

**8** Send me cedar, cypress and algum trees from Lebanon. I know you have able men who know how to do this work. My servants will work with your servants.

**9** to cut many trees for me. For the house I am about to build will be very great and beautiful.

...

**12** Then Hiram said, "Honor and thanks be to the Lord, the God of Israel. He has made heaven and earth. And He has given King David a wise son. Wisdom and understanding have been given to David's son who will build a house for the Lord and a king's house for himself.

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 6: The Cost of Worship

#### Bible Text

2 Chronicles 3:1-2, 7-10, 14-17

#### Memory Verse

“God bought you with a great price. So honor  
God with your body. You belong to Him.”  
(1 Corinthians 6:20)

#### Word List

**cost:** the price of something; the amount of  
money that is needed to pay for or buy something

**establish:** to begin or create something that is  
meant to last for a long time

**expensive:** costing a lot of money

Few things in life are really free. Have  
you noticed? Everything comes with a **cost**!

Last spring my kids found six tiny  
kittens in a wooded area near our home. Of  
course, they rescued the kittens. And they  
brought them home. Then we bought them  
food. We bought toys and litter. And we took  
them to the vet. Those kittens certainly were  
not free. In fact, they were quite **expensive**!

Solomon was ready to begin building  
the house of God. This building would be big

and beautiful. Nothing on earth should  
compare to this place because it was for God.  
It had to be perfect. It would also be  
expensive. This would be a place of worship.  
And true worship always comes with a cost.

#### A Costly Place (2 Chronicles 3:1-2)

**1** Then Solomon began to build the Lord’s  
house in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah. It was  
there that the Lord had shown Himself to his  
father David. It was the place that David had  
chosen, on the grain-floor of Ornan the  
Jebusite.

**2** Solomon began to build on the second day in  
the second month of the fourth year of his  
rule.

Solomon’s father, David, began the  
preparations for the Lord’s house. David  
made the plans. He collected gold, silver,  
iron, bronze, stone, and wood. He chose the  
land where the Lord’s house would be built.

The place David chose was a hill called  
Mount Moriah. It was the place where  
Abraham went to sacrifice his son Isaac. But  
Isaac did not die in that place that day.  
Instead, God provided a ram for the sacrifice.  
So Mount Moriah was already a place of  
worship. It was also a costly place. Abraham  
was willing to give up his own son to worship  
God (see Genesis 22).



David bought Mount Moriah from Ornan, who was from a group of people called Jebusites. Ornan offered to give David the land and provide oxen to sacrifice there. But David refused the offer. He said, “No, I will buy it for the full price. I will not take what is yours for the Lord. And I will not give a burnt gift for which I do not pay” (1 Chronicles 21:24). David understood that worship of God must cost something.

And now it was Solomon’s turn to begin paying the costs. David had done much to prepare. But it still took Solomon four years to be ready to begin building. But now the time had come.

### **A Holy Place (2 Chronicles 3:7-10)**

**7 He covered the house with gold. He covered its cross-pieces, its door-ways, its walls, and its doors. And he cut pictures of cherubim on the walls.**

**8 He made the most holy place. It was as long as the house was wide, ten long steps. And it was as wide as ten long steps. He covered it with fine gold weighing as much as 600 men.**

**9 The nails weighed as much as fifty pieces of gold. He covered the rooms on the second floor with gold also.**

**10 Then he made two cherubim of wood in the most holy place, and covered them with gold.**

Solomon did not try to cut costs as he built the Lord’s house. He covered everything with fine gold. This building may have cost as much as \$600 million by today’s value of money. Yes, Solomon had great riches. So he was able to pay a lot for this great building. But he also understood the need to give a lot in worship of the Lord.

Solomon also understood that the place needed to be special. So he paid attention to the details. And he gave special attention to the most holy place. This was a room for the special box of God. God told Moses, “Tell your brother Aaron that he must not come just any time into the holy place inside the curtain, in front of the mercy-seat on the special box of the agreement or he will die” (Leviticus 16:2). The most holy place was a room where God was worshipped in fear and awe. God also told Moses, “Once a year Aaron will give a gift for sin on its horns to take away sin. He will give the blood of the sin gift to make it holy once a year for all your people for all time. It is most holy to the Lord” (Exodus 30:10). The most holy place was a holy room where only God’s chosen religious leader went one time a year. It was God’s special holy place on earth.

After Aaron, a new chosen religious leader took his place. This special day of worship continued for many years. Solomon took care that it would continue in the Lord’s house he was building.

**A Strong Place (2 Chronicles 3:14-17)**

**14 He made the curtain of blue, purple and red cloth and fine linen. And he worked cherubim on it.**

**15 He made two pillars in front of the house that were ten times taller than a man. The top piece of each one was as tall as a man can raise his hand.**

**16 For the inside holy place he made chains, and put them on the tops of the pillars. Then he made 100 pomegranates and put them on the chains.**

**17 He put up the pillars in front of the house of God. One was on the right and the other was on the left. He named the one on the right Jachin, and the one on the left Boaz.**

Solomon had two pillars built to stand at the door to the Lord's house. They were very tall. They were decorated with chains and pomegranates. How beautiful they must have been!

### Things to Think About

1. How do you worship God? Do fear and honor have a place in your worship? Do you come boldly and without fear? Why do you worship as you do?
2. People worship God in many different places today. Some worship in big cathedrals or churches. Others worship outside, in tents, or in shacks. Some people worship God in secret places. Where are you willing to go to worship God?
3. What costs are you willing to pay to worship God?

Solomon named these two pillars Jachin and Boaz. The name Jachin means "He **establishes**." And the name Boaz means "He gives strength." These pillars did not hold up the whole house of God. They stood at the front of the Temple to remind people of where their strength lay. God was their source of strength. Yes, Solomon and David paid a lot to build this Temple. But all that they had came from God. God was the real giver of this house for worship.

A curtain separated the most holy place from other parts of the Lord's house. It was a tall curtain made with blue, purple, and red cloth. The curtain marked the place where religious leaders had to stop. It was a symbol of our separation from God.

Then Jesus came. He showed us clearly what God is like. And then He died for us. When He did, the curtain in the Lord's house tore apart. And it tore from the top! God was the one who made the tear. He sent His Son to make it possible for us to come near to Him. He did everything that was needed. God paid the cost.

### Things to Remember

We worship God differently than His people did in Solomon's time. We no longer go to a great golden building to meet with God. We no longer give gifts of animals and food to be burned before Him. Instead, we are now God's temple. And we worship Him by

giving ourselves to Him.

We no longer have a curtain separating us from God. But He is still holy, and we are still sinful. The Bible warns us, “Let us please God and worship Him with honor and fear. For our God is a fire that destroys everything” (Hebrews 12:28b-29). How can we come near such a holy God? The Bible makes that clear: “We can come to God without fear because we have put our trust in Christ” (Ephesians 3:12). We can worship God without fear because Jesus paid the cost. Jesus made worship possible for us without curtains or burnt gifts or even fine Temples. It cost Him His life. So what will we give in return?

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## **2 Chronicles 3:12, 7-10, 14-17**

**1** Then Solomon began to build the Lord’s house in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah. It was there that the Lord had shown Himself to his father David. It was the place that David had chosen, on the grain-floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

**2** Solomon began to build on the second day in the second month of the fourth year of his rule.

...

**7** He covered the house with gold. He covered its cross-pieces, its door-ways, its walls, and

its doors. And he cut pictures of cherubim on the walls.

**8** He made the most holy place. It was as long as the house was wide, ten long steps. And it was as wide as ten long steps. He covered it with fine gold weighing as much as 600 men.

**9** The nails weighed as much as fifty pieces of gold. He covered the rooms on the second floor with gold also.

**10** Then he made two cherubim of wood in the most holy place, and covered them with gold.

...

**14** He made the curtain of blue, purple and red cloth and fine linen. And he worked cherubim on it.

**15** He made two pillars in front of the house that were ten times taller than a man. The top piece of each one was as tall as a man can raise his hand.

**16** For the inside holy place he made chains, and put them on the tops of the pillars. Then he made 100 pomegranates and put them on the chains.

**17** He put up the pillars in front of the house of God. One was on the right and the other was on the left. He named the one on the right Jachin, and the one on the left Boaz.

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 7: Praising God

#### Bible Text

2 Chronicles 5:1-2, 6-8, 10, 13-14

#### Memory Verse

"They praised the Lord, saying, 'He is good. For His loving-kindness lasts forever.'"  
(2 Chronicles 5:13b)

#### Word List

**cherubim:** angels who serve God; also, statues of angels who serve God

**temple:** special building for **worship**; house of the Lord

**worship:** what you do to show God that you know who He is and what He has done

Many people have a special place where they have felt God to be very near to them. For me, that place was at Inlow Baptist Camp where we **worshipped** God sitting on log benches under three tall pine trees in the mountains of New Mexico. God spoke to many of us as we praised God together.

Solomon had just completed the **Temple**, the beautiful house of the Lord. The people praised God with one voice and God's

shining-greatness filled His house. They had a place to worship and knew God was with them.

#### The House of the Lord is Finished (2 Chronicles 5:1-2)

**1** So all the work that Solomon did for the Lord's house was finished. He brought in the things that his father David had set apart, the silver and the gold and all the objects. He put them in the storerooms of the house of God.  
**2** Then Solomon gathered to Jerusalem the leaders of Israel, and all the heads of the families, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the sons of Israel. He called them together to bring up the special box with the Law of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion.

Building the Lord's house was the most important work of Solomon's life. He started soon after he became king. It took almost seven years. Now it was finished. He was very pleased.

Israel had always used a tent that could be moved from place to place as a house of worship. It was a reminder of the years of wandering after they left Egypt. Now that has changed. This was built to stay.

Solomon brought in the silver and gold and other special things which his father David had set apart. God had not allowed David to build the Lord's house but he was

able to help plan and prepare for this time.

King Solomon invited people from all over the kingdom to come. He gathered these leaders in Jerusalem for worship. They were the heads of every tribe and leaders of families.

The most important part of this time of worship was to bring in the special box with God's Laws. For the first time in many years, the box would be in the house of the Lord. It had been lost after a battle with the Philistines. Now the Lord's house was completed. Solomon had called the people together to honor God and His house.

### **Offerings and the Special Box (2 Chronicles 5:6-8, 10)**

**6 Then King Solomon and all the people of Israel who were with him were in front of the special box of God. There they gave on the altar in worship so many sheep and oxen that they could not be numbered.**

**7 The religious leaders brought the special box of the Lord to its place. They brought it into the most holy place in the house, under the wings of the cherubim.**

**8 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the special box of God. They made a covering over the special box and its long pieces of wood used for carrying.**

...

**10 There was nothing in the special box of**

**God except the two stone writings which Moses put there at Horeb. It was there that the Lord made an agreement with the people.**

Solomon and the people were in front of the special box. They gave animals as part of the worship. There were so many given that they could not be counted.

Then the religious leaders took the box into the most holy place. The house of the Lord would not be finished until the special box was in the right place. It was the most important thing in the building,

The religious leaders were the only ones allowed in that room. They put the box beneath the wings of the **cherubim** at the end of the room. There were curtains between the holy place and the most holy place. But the priests could see the poles from the holy place.

Nothing was in the box except the two stone writings which Moses put there at Horeb. Earlier there had been the golden pot that had the bread from heaven (Exodus 16:33), and Aaron's walking stick that budded (Numbers 17:6-11). We do not know what happened to these. They were not there when the box was set in the most holy place.

### **God is Praised and Shows His Shining- Greatness (2 Chronicles 5:13-14 )**

**13 Those who sounded the horns and the singers made themselves heard as with one**

voice, praising and thanking the Lord. They sang in a loud voice, with horns, and timbrels, and other objects for making music. They praised the Lord, saying, "He is good. For His loving-kindness lasts forever." Then the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud.

**14 The religious leaders could not stand to do their work because of the cloud. For the shining-greatness of the Lord filled the house of God.**

The sounds of joy and music may have been heard for miles around the Lord's house which Solomon had built. So many people were there, heads of every tribe, leaders of the fathers' houses, and all of the men of Israel to celebrate with the king. The time for praise and worship began. The religious leaders had come out of the most holy place in the house.

Singers from the tribe of Levi were dressed in their best clothes. They sang with one voice and used horns, harps and other

music makers.

The praise began with a joyful and beautiful song giving praise to God with one voice. They sang, "He is good. For His loving-kindness lasts forever."

They had this worship service after giving God their time, talents, and offerings building the house of the Lord. They praised God in song. They praised God every way they could. They had finished their work and now it was time to honor God.

Soon after this time of worship and praise something amazing happened. The house of the Lord was filled with a cloud. God was pleased. God was there and it was like a cloud filled the room.

The religious leaders could not keep doing their work because of the cloud. The shining-glory of God was too powerful. God was there with His people. He had kept His promises.

### Things to Remember

The house of the Lord was finished. The special box with the Law of the Lord was set in place. The people praised the Lord and thanked Him for keeping His promises.

It was a special time to thank God and be joyful. Everyone was happy and full of joy for all the things that God had done.

The shining-greatness of God filled all the house of the Lord. This same cloud had shown God was with them when they had left

### Things to Think About

1. Is there anything in my life that keeps me from God?
2. Why do you think God waited until the singers sang together to show Himself in the cloud?
3. What are some good ways you can be ready to worship with other believers?
4. How can you encourage your local church leaders this week?

Egypt. This showed God's power.

Today we can also praise and worship God with one heart and with many languages. But we no longer have to give gifts of animals. Jesus has given His life to take away our sins. We know that God is with us.

We worship God on Sunday and every day. In Romans 12:1, Paul tells us to give our bodies to God, as a holy gift given to God. He calls this "true worship."

We are to live our lives in worship. We should look at our jobs as worship, how we get along with others as worship, and our service to God as worship. This way of life changes how we sing to the Lord when we worship on Sundays.

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### **2 Chronicles 5:1-2, 6-8, 10, 13-14**

**1** So all the work that Solomon did for the Lord's house was finished. He brought in the things that his father David had set apart, the silver and the gold and all the objects. He put them in the storerooms of the house of God.  
**2** Then Solomon gathered to Jerusalem the leaders of Israel, and all the heads of the families, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the sons of Israel. He called them together to bring up the special box with the Law of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion.

...

**6** Then King Solomon and all the people of

Israel who were with him were in front of the

special box of God. There they gave on the altar in worship so many sheep and oxen that they could not be numbered.

**7** The religious leaders brought the special box of the Lord to its place. They brought it into the most holy place in the house, under the wings of the cherubim.

**8** The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the special box of God. They made a covering over the special box and its long pieces of wood used for carrying.

...

**10** There was nothing in the special box of God except the two stone writings which Moses put there at Horeb. It was there that the Lord made an agreement with the people of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

...

**13** Those who sounded the horns and the singers made themselves heard as with one voice, praising and thanking the Lord. They sang in a loud voice, with horns, and timbrels, and other objects for making music. They praised the Lord, saying, "He is good. For His loving-kindness lasts forever." Then the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud.

**14** The religious leaders could not stand to do their work because of the cloud. For the shining-greatness of the Lord filled the house of God.



# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### **Lesson 8: God Keeps His Promises**

#### **Bible Text**

2 Chronicles 6:1-11

#### **Memory Verse**

"Now the Lord has kept His promise which He made." (2 Chronicles 6:10a)

#### **Word List**

**dedicate/dedication:** set apart for God

Have you ever wished for something that you thought you really wanted but did not get? Then later, you were glad God did not give it to you? You learned it would have been all wrong for you. Sometimes what we want is not good for us or not the best for us.

It is good to remember that God's plans are best. He knows more than we know. God keeps His promises to take care of us.

#### **Solomon Sees God is with Them (2 Chronicles 6:1-2)**

**1** Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that He would live in the thick cloud.

**2** I have built a great house for You. It is a place for You to live in forever."

Many had gathered on this special day. The house of the Lord was to be set aside for God. Before Solomon spoke to them, something very wonderful happened. A cloud that was a sign of God's shining-glory had filled the building.

King Solomon reminded them that God had said He would be with them in a thick cloud. This was not something new. God had shown Himself to Moses this way. God was letting the people know that He was with them now, in the same way He had been with them in the past.

The shining-glory of God had come as a cloud at other times. At Mount Sinai, God said that He would come to the people in a dark cloud. The people heard God when He spoke to Moses (Exodus 19:9; 20:21). That cloud covered the mountain for 6 days while God spoke to Moses (Exodus 24:16).

It had been over 400 years since the time of Moses when God led them through the wilderness. God used smoke by day and a fire by night to lead them.

Then, at the time that Moses finished building the holy tent, God came to it in a cloud (Exodus 40:34; Numbers 9:15). God told Moses that He would appear in the cloud

over the special box in the holy tent (Leviticus 16:2).

Solomon knew what God had done long ago. When he saw the great cloud he knew it was God. He spoke to God. Two times he used the words “for You.” The great house was not built for Solomon or for the people of Israel. It was built for God.

Solomon built a beautiful house for God to be with them. He built it as a place for God to live in for all time. He did it to honor God. Solomon saw the cloud. He knew God was in that cloud. The cloud showed him that God was pleased with His new house of worship.

### **God's Faithfulness (2 Chronicles 6:3-9)**

**3 Then the king turned around and prayed that good would come to all the people of Israel, while all the people of Israel stood.**

**4 Solomon said, "Honor and thanks be to the Lord, the God of Israel. He spoke with His mouth to my father David. And He has kept His promises with His hands, saying,**

**5 'Since the day that I brought My people from the land of Egypt, I chose no city among all the families of Israel in which to build a house for My name. I did not choose any man to be a leader over My people Israel.**

**6 But I have chosen Jerusalem that My name might be there. And I have chosen David to rule My people Israel.'**

**7 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel.**

**8 But the Lord said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.**

**9 But you will not build the house. Your son who will be born to you will build the house for My name.'**

Solomon turned around from the cloud that filled God's house to speak to all the people. He began with a blessing for them. He prayed for good to come to all of them.

Solomon gave honor to God and thanks to God. He reminded them of God's actions, of what God's hands had done. He was speaking of God's power and God's promises.

He told the people how God had made a promise to David. God had done as He said when He spoke with His mouth to David. God chose Jerusalem as His city and He chose David as the king over His people.

It had been in David's heart to build God a great house. But that was not God's plan. It was not wrong for David to have that dream. But he had been a man of war and not a man of peace. He was not to build it.

The house of the Lord was built. It was finished in God's way and in God's time by David's son, Solomon. David had to give up his dream so it could be built.

Before the time of David, God promised Abraham this land where a permanent building could be built (Genesis 13:14-17). Solomon could only build this place of worship when God's people had taken the land.

God promised David that his son Solomon would be the builder and it would be for God's name.

### **God Keeps His Promise (2 Chronicles 6:10-11)**

**10 Now the Lord has kept His promise which He made. For I have taken the place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised. And I have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel.  
11 There I have put the special box with the Law of the Lord which He gave to the people of Israel."**

### **Things to Think About**

1. Do these verses about God's faithfulness and ability help you have more faith in Him?
2. Do you want to obey God and serve Him? If not, ask Him what He would have you do for Him and be ready to do it.
3. Are you willing to humble yourself and obey God's plan for fulfilling your dreams?
4. Do you trust God to carry out His plans, even if it takes years or does not happen in your lifetime?

Solomon understood that God had kept the promise to David his father. As the son, Solomon became king. This is the first time a son had followed a father.

David's son, Solomon, was king. He built the house of the Lord for God as promised by God. The king used the words "for My Name" or "for the Name of the Lord" many times in these verses. Solomon understood that this building and all their praise and worship was for God.

Solomon had put the special box in the new house of the Lord. The shining- glory of God came like a cloud. That cloud filled the building. Solomon ends with words reminding the people why the special box was so important. It had the words of the Law of the Lord which God had given to the people of Israel. It is the agreement God had made with His people. It was God's promise.

### **Things to Remember**

The special box was brought into the God's house. The religious leaders made music praising God. God's shining-greatness was seen in the smoke filling the building.

God heard Solomon's prayer that good would come to the people. Both Solomon and the people needed to stay near to God for this to happen. Solomon told the people the story of how God's house came into being.

David had wanted to build a house for

the Lord. That was not a bad thing. But God had other plans. When things do not go as we plan, we can do as David did. We can continue to praise the Lord and then do what we can, giving God the glory. David had given his son the materials and plans for the building.

The house of the Lord was beautiful. It was not David's house or Solomon's house. It was for God. The most important part of the story is that Solomon saw how God had been faithful to keep all His promises.

Solomon **dedicated** the building where God would live among His people. Later, Jesus came to save all who would believe in Him. As His followers we are now the house of God (1 Corinthians 3:16). God, through His Holy Spirit, lives in us.

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### 2 Chronicles 6:1-11

**1** Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that He would live in the thick cloud.

**2** I have built a great house for You. It is a place for You to live in forever."

**3** Then the king turned around and prayed that good would come to all the people of Israel, while all the people of Israel stood.

**4** Solomon said, "Honor and thanks be to the Lord, the God of Israel. He spoke with His mouth to my father David. And He has kept His promises with His hands, saying,

**5** 'Since the day that I brought My people from the land of Egypt, I chose no city among all

the families of Israel in which to build a house for My name. I did not choose any man to be a leader over My people Israel.

**6** But I have chosen Jerusalem that My name might be there. And I have chosen David to rule My people Israel.'

**7** Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

**8** But the Lord said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.

**9** But you will not build the house. Your son who will be born to you will build the house for My name.'

**10** Now the Lord has kept His promise which He made. For I have taken the place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised. And I have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

**11** There I have put the special box with the Law of the Lord which He gave to the people of Israel."

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 9: Dedicated

#### Bible Text

2 Chronicles 6:12-14, 18, 38-39

#### Memory Verse

“Do you not know that you are a house of God and that the Holy Spirit lives in you?”

(1 Corinthians 3:16)

#### Word List

**dedicate:** to officially make something a place for honoring or remembering God or to say that something will be used for only one purpose

**humble:** to do or say something which shows that you are not proud or that you do not think of yourself as better than other people

**symbol:** an action, object, event, etc., that represents a particular idea or quality

Solomon was one of the greatest kings of Israel. The greatest thing he ever did was to build the house for the Lord. The day to **dedicate** the temple to God had finally come. The people were expecting a great day. They expected their king to be dressed in fine robes. He might say how hard he worked to build the temple. He might point out all the beautiful

details of the building. They expected him to pray for God to bless Israel. But King Solomon was full of surprises on this day.

#### A Surprising Beginning

(2 Chronicles 6:12-13)

**12 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord, in front of all the people of Israel, and spread out his hands.**

**13 Solomon had made a special place to stand, out of brass. It was as long and as wide as three steps, and as high as a man's chest. And he had put it in the center of the open space. He stood on it, then got down on his knees in front of all the people of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven.**

Solomon could have been very proud on this day. He could have drawn attention to himself and what he had done. Surely the people were surprised when Solomon drew their attention, not to the building, but to the altar of the Lord. He spread out his hands. He had made a tall place to stand so the people could all see and hear him. But Solomon made this place big enough for more than just standing. It was long and wide. He stood on it before he began to speak. Then, Solomon, the king, did a surprising thing. He got down on his knees in front of everyone. People bowed to the king. They did not expect their king to bow down to anyone. But Solomon **humbled**

himself before God. He wanted the people to know that their real king was God. He spread out his hands toward heaven so that everyone would remember this temple was for God.

**A Surprising Reminder  
(2 Chronicles 6:14, 18)**

**14 He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven or on earth. You keep Your promises and show loving-kindness to Your servants who walk with You with all their hearts.”**

...

**18 “But is it true that God will live with man on the earth? See, heaven and the highest heaven cannot hold You. How much less can this house hold You which I have built!”**

God had given the nation a beautiful land. But this land was filled with people who worshiped false gods. Solomon reminded the people that there is no god like the God of heaven and earth. They would never find an idol that was like God. Idols cannot hear. They do not make promises. But God will never break His promises. We can expect His love and kindness when we dedicate our hearts and lives to God. But we must give *all* our hearts to Him. Everything we do and everything we say must be pleasing to God.

The king wanted the people to know that the temple was just a **symbol**. In the Exodus, the people could look up to the cloud or fire and see God with them. But now the people had to live by faith. They should never worship the temple. And they should never think that God was trapped inside that building. God was with each of them every day wherever they went. He is so big that heaven and earth cannot hold Him. The greatest thing the greatest king had ever done was way too small to hold God.

The king was surprised that God would live with people on the earth. What an amazing promise. God was with them, with all of them, every day. But one day, God would humble Himself to become a man. Yes, the most surprising and amazing promise of God is that He would send His Son to live among us in the body of Jesus. Jesus would show us how to live for God in a sinful world. His life was dedicated to God. He is our example.

**A Surprising Warning  
(2 Chronicles 6:38-39)**

**38 “If they come back to You with all their heart and soul in the land where they have been taken and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers and toward the city You have chosen and toward the house I have built for Your name,**

**39 then hear from heaven where You live. Hear their prayer and what they ask for, and help them. Forgive Your people who have sinned against You.”**

The people must have been surprised at what came next. The king did not pray for blessings. Instead, he listed seven problems the nation would face. He asked God to help them in these hard times. Sin would cause crime. God would use enemies against His people when they sinned. Sometimes no rain would come because of sin. People would sometimes be hungry or sick because of sin in the land. God would send strangers to live among His people. Sometimes He would send His people out to war. And it would be sin that would cause Israel to be captured and carried away as slaves.

Every nation, every city, every church, and every family faces these same problems today. Solomon’s prayer is a warning to us today, too.

### **Things to Think About**

1. When hard times come, do you examine your life for sin that may have caused it?
2. Do you confess your sin and ask for forgiveness frequently?
3. Do you ask God to teach you to live by His ways?
4. How does your life measure up as a living sacrifice that is pleasing to God?

Maybe the people did not want to think about sin on this special day. But there is also hope. We can come back to God with all our hearts after we sin. And He hears our prayers when we do. He answers our prayers and helps us. And most important of all, God forgives sin. All our sin is really against God. We hurt our nation, our church, our family, and ourselves when we sin. But most of all, we hurt God. What amazing love and kindness that God waits for us to come back over and over again. He hears our prayers and answers our cries for forgiveness.

### **Things to Remember**

Today we do not like to talk about sin. We do not want to say that bad things happen because of sin. We like to think that bad weather is just part of life. We point to the sin of our enemies and blame them for crime, war, and attacks. We think someone else’s sin causes these hard times. But we must look at ourselves first and confess our own sin.

Today, believers in Christ are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16). We are the reminder to the world that God is with us. Our lives and our bodies are the sacrifices God wants (Romans 12:1-2). If we are not careful, we can become comfortable with sin. And that is a dangerous place to be. When we live for God in every moment of every day, we are blessed by His love and kindness, and

we please Him. The world around us is blessed when we turn from our sin and ask for forgiveness. God never leaves us. He waits for us to turn back. He is always ready to forgive and bless us.

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**2 Chronicles 6:12-14, 18, 38-39**

**12** Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord, in front of all the people of Israel, and spread out his hands.

**13** Solomon had made a special place to stand, out of brass. It was as long and as wide as three steps, and as high as a man's chest. And he had put it in the center of the open space. He stood on it, then got down on his knees in front of all the people of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven.

**14** He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven or on earth. You keep Your promises and show loving-kindness to Your servants who walk with You with all their hearts."

...

**18** "But is it true that God will live with man on the earth? See, heaven and the highest heaven cannot hold You. How much less can this house hold You which I have built!"

...

**38** "If they come back to You with all their heart and soul in the land where they have been taken and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers and toward the city You have chosen and toward the house I have built for Your name,

**39** then hear from heaven where You live. Hear their prayer and what they ask for, and help them. Forgive Your people who have sinned against You."



# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 10: Changed by God's Fire

#### Bible Text

2 Chronicles 7:1-7

#### Memory Verse

"Since we have received a holy nation that cannot be moved, let us be thankful. Let us please God and worship Him with honor and fear. For our God is a fire that destroys everything."  
(Hebrews 12:28-29)

#### Word List

**consume:** to eat or drink; to use completely; to destroy; to take all of one's attention

**generous:** freely giving or sharing money and other valuable things

It is so peaceful to sit and watch the flames of a controlled fire. It warms us. It gives us light. A campfire protects us from wild animals and calms us. But we know to respect fire because it can also destroy. It burns away what is not pure. It makes steel stronger. Fire can also bind things together. And often things are strongest in the place where they are joined by fire.

God showed Himself as fire in the Bible many times. Hebrews 12:29 says, "Our God is a fire that destroys everything." That can also be said another way: "Our God is a **consuming** fire." Moses saw God in a burning bush in Exodus 3. But that bush was not consumed. It was Moses' life that was consumed by God. God burned away what was not pure in his life. From that day on, his life was dedicated to God. He was set apart and used by God to lead the people out of slavery into a new land.

#### Fire from Heaven

#### (2 Chronicles 7:1-3)

**1 When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and burned up the burnt gift and gifts of worship. And the shining-greatness of the Lord filled the house.**

**2 The religious leaders could not go into the house of the Lord because it was filled with the Lord's shining-greatness.**

**3 All the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the shining-greatness of the Lord upon the house. So they bowed their faces to the ground and worshiped. They gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "He is good. For His loving-kindness lasts forever."**

Solomon did not have to wait and

wonder if God had heard his prayer. Fire came down out of heaven when he finished praying. It consumed the burnt offering and the gifts of worship. God's fire is never out of control. It came directly down on the altar. It did not catch the temple on fire. This fire from heaven showed that God was pleased with the temple and the offerings the people had given.

The priests had planned to do some things on this first day in the temple. But all their plans had to be changed. God filled the temple with His glory. The fire of God made the worship on this day completely pure. It destroyed any wrong reasons for coming to the temple. God's glory was not just for the priests or the king. His glory was for everyone. All of the people bowed their faces to the ground and worshiped. God changed every heart that day.

### **Pure Worship Unites Us in Joyful Giving (2 Chronicles 7:4-6)**

**4** Then the king and all the people gave gifts to the Lord.

**5** King Solomon gave a gift of 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people set apart the house of God.

**6** The religious leaders stood in their places while the Levites were praising the Lord using objects King David had made. They were

playing, "For His loving-kindness lasts forever." As the religious leaders blew horns on the other side, all Israel stood.

When we see God's glory, we want to be **generous**. The richest man in the land gave the most. But *everyone* brought gifts to the Lord. *Everyone* sang songs of joy. They made music on things David had made. They were united in singing an old, very familiar song. Seven times the Bible repeats this verse: "Give thanks to the Lord for His loving-kindness lasts forever" (I Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 106:1, Psalm 107:1, Psalm 118:1, 29, Psalm 136:1, Jeremiah 33:11). Praise God. His holy nation lasts forever. That is because His loving-kindness never ends. Since His nation cannot be moved, we rejoice in the Lord. We give freely because we trust that He will take care of us. Our worship should always be a joyful gift to God.

### **Pure Worship Is in Truth (2 Chronicles 7:7)**

**7** Then Solomon set apart the center of the open space in front of the Lord's house. There he gave the burnt gifts and the fat of the peace gifts. The brass altar Solomon had made could not hold the burnt gift, the grain gift and the fat.

All the people knew the truth that they needed forgiveness of their sins. People would

give burnt offerings when they were sorry for their sin. And on this day, many people brought gifts. So, Solomon had to make a bigger space for their gifts.

A perfect animal had to be killed and burned up completely as a burnt offering. The priests stood ready to do their work while the giver put his hand on the head of the animal. The giver had raised this animal and made sure it was pure. But he gave it to God completely. He knew the truth about himself and his family. Sin was the reason this perfect animal had to be killed. The priest held a bowl to catch all the blood. He then put it on the sides of the altar. The giver skinned the animal and took out all the insides. Then he cut the animal in pieces. The pieces were washed. Then the priest put them on the altar to be burned. A burnt offering did not become a feast. It was a complete offering to God.

All of us have sinned and need to admit the truth. Jesus is the truth, the way to forgiveness, and the life we all need. He was

perfect in every way. But He died and was completely used by God to bring us forgiveness. Each of us must do the work of making ourselves dead to sin. We have to know the truth. We have to be sorry for the high price Christ paid for our sin. The truth is that only God's gift of Jesus brings us forgiveness and makes us clean.

### Things to Remember

"Our God is a consuming fire." When we are dedicated to God, He burns away our sin. He brings peace between us and Himself. He warms our hearts so that we live in peace with all His children. His light guides us to live pure lives. He unites us together as God's people. He makes us stronger than we could ever be alone.

Because we respect God, our worship must also be pure. We joyfully worship because He sent His Son to live among us. We have a holy nation that can never be shaken. So, we give generously to the work God has planned for us. We rejoice in the truth that God's loving-kindness lasts forever. Our happy hearts are filled with joy because of our relationship with holy God.

### Things to Think About

1. How has the fire of God burned away the sin from your life?
2. How do you joyfully and freely give back to God?
3. How does your life show that you are at peace with God and with His people?
4. What do you do to remind yourself of the truth of God's loving-kindness for you?

**2 Chronicles 7:1-7**

**1** When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and burned up the burnt gift and gifts of worship. And the shining-greatness of the Lord filled the house.

**2** The religious leaders could not go into the house of the Lord because it was filled with the Lord's shining-greatness.

**3** All the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the shining-greatness of the Lord upon the house. So they bowed their faces to the ground and worshiped. They gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "He is good. For His loving-kindness lasts forever."

**4** Then the king and all the people gave gifts to the Lord.

**5** King Solomon gave a gift of 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people set apart the house of God.

**6** The religious leaders stood in their places while the Levites were praising the Lord using objects King David had made. They were playing, "For His loving-kindness lasts forever." As the religious leaders blew horns on the other side, all Israel stood.

**7** Then Solomon set apart the center of the open space in front of the Lord's house. There he gave the burnt gifts and the fat of the peace

gifts. The brass altar Solomon had made could not hold the burnt gift, the grain gift and the fat.

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### **Lesson 11: Trust and Obey**

#### **Bible Text**

2 Chronicles 7:11-16

#### **Memory Verse**

"If My people who are called by My name put away their pride and pray, and look for My face, and turn from their sinful ways, then I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14 )

#### **Word List**

**covenant:** a formal and serious agreement or promise between two people or groups

Philip walked to the back door of his friends' home and pressed his nose against the screen door. He looked outside and then turned back inside toward his friends. Then his friends started laughing. Philip did not know why they were laughing. One friend reached forward to wipe at Philip's nose, but Philip pulled away. Finally, someone told him to look in the mirror. His nose was black! Dirt that no one could see on the screen door had made a grid of black on his nose.

We are all like Philip and his friends sometimes. It is easy for us to see the sin in the lives of other people. But we cannot always see our own sin. Spending time with God helps us to see ourselves as we really are. He warns us that He will always punish sin. He promises to bless our lives when we do the work to clean away sin. But we must come close to Him to be cleaned and made new.

#### **Honor Our Covenant with God**

**(2 Chronicles 7:11-12)**

**11 Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the Lord's house and in his own house was well done.**

**12 Then the Lord came to Solomon during the night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer. And I have chosen this place for Myself as a house of gifts given in worship."**

God came to Solomon with great news. He had heard Solomon's prayer. He had chosen the temple for Himself. We all want to know that God hears our prayers. And God hears our prayers today, too. Most churches today are not as beautiful as Solomon's temple was. But we do not need beautiful churches. God promised to be with us even if only two or three of us come together in His name (Matthew 18:20).

The glory of the temple was amazing. God's glory in Solomon's bedroom must have been just as amazing. God in all His glory is anywhere His people gather to worship Him.

**Trust God's Warnings and Obey  
(2 Chronicles 7:13-14a)**

**13 "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, and if I tell the locust to destroy the land, or send disease upon My people,  
14 if My people who are called by My name put away their pride and pray, and look for My face, and turn from their sinful ways ..."**

God reminded Solomon of the **covenant** He had with His people. He promised to bless them and punish sin. The people promised to trust God completely and obey Him. We can no longer walk the steps of Solomon's temple. It was destroyed. The king's house is gone, too. But the covenant God made with His people is for us today just like it was then. It will last forever.

God keeps His promise to punish sin. He knew the people would break their promises. He knew hard times would come because of their sin. But He planned in advance to forgive and bless them.

This blessing is for God's people. As Christians, we have taken the name of Christ.

We are the people called by God's name. We are in a covenant with God to trust and obey Him. There are four things we must do to come back to Him.

First, we must humble ourselves. That means we must realize that we have sinned. We must admit that only God can cleanse us from sin. Waiting for God to humble us is painful. We are blessed when we choose to humble ourselves.

Second, we must pray and open ourselves up to God. We talk with Him and listen to what He says. Solomon prayed a beautiful prayer. But power comes when we listen to God. When God points out your sin, listen. Agree and trust Him. Allow Him to remove sin from your life. Pray for forgiveness. Pray for wisdom to live in a sinful world without becoming sinful.

Then, we must look for God's face. A baby in his mother's arms will often pull her face to his. That's the picture of longing to be so close to God that we feel His breath. We long to see His smile. We turn our eyes to what God sees. We do not wait to do His will. We experience His power as we become one with Him. We respond to the world around us like our Father responds.

Finally, if we trust God's warnings, we reject evil. We filter what we watch, read, listen to, and speak. We seek to become holy because God is holy. This world is filled with

evil that keeps good from being in control. This is true in each of our lives. It is true in neighborhoods and in nations around the world. And sadly, it is true in churches when God's people have not turned away from evil.

**Trust God's Promises and Obey  
(2 Chronicles 7:14b-16)**

**14 "... then I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**

**15 Now My eyes will be open. And My ears will hear the prayer that is made in this place.**

**16 For I have chosen this house and have made it holy, that My name may be there forever. My eyes and My heart will always be there."**

There are three things God promises to do when we repent of our sin. First, He hears our prayers. Then He forgives our sin. No matter how deep the sin is, God's forgiveness is deeper. Then notice that the entire nation is

healed when God forgives His people. We cannot point to the sin in the lives of other people. We cannot blame people who do not belong to God. It is the sin of God's people that hurts the land. We must trust God's warning enough to turn away from sin. And we must trust God's promises enough to turn back to Him and see our lands healed.

**Things to Remember**

God promised to always be in the temple. But He also promised to punish sin. The day He warned them about finally came. The people did not trust God's warnings. They fell so far into sin that He could no longer be with them. They claimed the temple was theirs. They did not seek God's face. They were proud. Their prayers were for other people to hear and not for God's ears. They thought they could do anything they wanted to do. So, God in all His holiness left the temple. He let sin take its course. And then the land suffered. The people were taken away as slaves.

God never breaks His promises.

Forever is something only God can promise. As His people, we promise to trust Him and obey His word. But we are not like God. We cannot promise forever. But we can promise one day, one moment at a time. It takes an every-day walk with Christ to be as faithful and true as God is. We must trust God's

**Things to Think About**

1. When have you trusted God's warning enough to walk away from evil?
2. When have you trusted God's promises enough to step out in faith and do what He says?
3. How has God shown you His glory in your quiet time at home?
4. What trouble in this world might be caused by the sin of God's people?

promises enough to obey His Word every day. The promise of a healed land, of answered prayer and of forgiven sin is ours today, too. It is our part of the covenant to trust enough to obey every day.

## **2 Chronicles 7:11-16**

**11 Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the Lord's house and in his own house was well done.**

**12 Then the Lord came to Solomon during the night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer. And I have chosen this place for Myself as a house of gifts given in worship.**

**13 If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, and if I tell the locust to destroy the land, or send disease upon My people,**

**14 if My people who are called by My name put away their pride and pray, and look for My face, and turn from their sinful ways, then I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**

**15 Now My eyes will be open. And My ears will hear the prayer that is made in this place.**

**16 For I have chosen this house and have made it holy, that My name may be there forever. My eyes and My heart will always be there."**



# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

## *The Special Wisdom of Solomon*

### Lesson 12: Wise Words and Living Proof

#### Bible Text

2 Chronicles 9:1-8

#### Memory Verse

"We are His work. He has made us to belong to Christ Jesus so we can work for Him. He planned that we should do this." (Ephesians 2:10)

#### Word List

**circumstance:** the way something happens; the specific details of an event

**hard:** (1) physically or mentally difficult; not easy  
(2) able to be clearly seen and measured; not able to be questioned or doubted

Where do you go when you have **hard** questions? Is there someone you trust when the questions are not easy to answer?

I used to teach young children. They would ask me hard questions sometimes. Many times, a child would ask a question that did not seem important. I knew that the real question was often another one. The child had a much harder question but did not know how

to ask it. Sometimes I would ask the child, "What is it you really want to know?"

#### Wise Words

(2 Chronicles 9:1-2)

**1** The queen of Sheba heard how well Solomon was known in all the lands. So she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions. She came with many servants and camels carrying spices and much gold and stones of much worth. When she came to Solomon, she talked with him about all that was on her heart.

**2** And Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing hidden from him which he could not make clear to her.

Solomon was a very wise man. He was also rich and powerful. The Queen of Sheba was rich and powerful, too. But she had questions on her heart that needed answers. She had heard about the wisdom of Solomon. So, she made a long trip across the desert to talk with him. The roads were dangerous and rough. She took many servants with her. She brought very heavy gifts with her. It took many camels to carry the spices, gold, and precious stones. Her questions must have been very important.

Maybe the queen wanted to make a trade agreement. Maybe she wanted to be sure that Solomon did not want to take her country

away from her. Maybe she just needed to know how to be a better ruler. Solomon did more than give her facts. God helped him see what she really wanted to know. The queen wanted to know the reason for Solomon's greatness. Nothing on her heart was hidden from the king. And God gave him the answers that satisfied her heart.

I wonder if he asked the queen, "What is it you really want to know?" He listened to her. It would have been easy for a king to talk about ruling. But Solomon must have seen that what the queen really needed was a relationship with holy God. Surely, he talked with her about how the Lord had blessed him. Solomon made it clear that his wisdom was a gift from God.

### **Living Proof**

**(2 Chronicles 9:3-7)**

**3 Then the queen of Sheba saw the wisdom of Solomon and the house he had built.**

**4 She saw the food at his table, and all his captains sitting there. She saw all those who were bringing in the food, and how they were dressed. She saw those who carried the cups, and their clothing. And she saw the burnt gifts that Solomon gave at the house of the Lord.**

**After that, there was no more spirit in her.**

**5 She said to the king, "The news was true which I heard in my own land about your**

**words and your wisdom.**

**6 But I did not believe the news until I came and saw it with my own eyes. See, half the greatness of your wisdom was not told to me.**

**You are greater than what I had heard.**

**7 Happy are your men! Happy are your servants who stand in front of you all the time hearing your wisdom!"**

The queen must have been surprised when Solomon told her about the Lord. She came from a country that did not believe in the one true God. But Solomon did more than talk. He showed the queen **hard** proof that could not be questioned. She saw the wisdom in the way he lived. She must have been surprised to see that even his servants were well-dressed and happy. The way he treated his captains and servants was hard proof of his relationship with God. The queen could not question Solomon's God because she saw proof with her own eyes.

Solomon did more than talk and show her his home. He took the queen to worship with him. It was unusual for a woman who was not a Jew to be in the temple. He must have explained to her how sin separates us from God. He showed her how the perfect life was given so that sin could be forgiven. The queen's spirit was touched by Solomon's worship. What she really wanted to know was

what made Solomon wise. When she saw that God was the reason for his wisdom, she began to tell what she had seen and heard.

### **An Amazing Plan (2 Chronicles 9:8)**

**8 “Praise be to the Lord your God Who was pleased with you! He set you on His throne as king for the Lord your God. Your God loved Israel and would have them last forever. So, He made you king over them to do what is fair and right and good.”**

The queen’s life was changed by what she heard and saw in Solomon. She could not help but praise God for His plan for Solomon’s life. This woman came with hard questions, and she discovered answers for more than how to be a better queen. She learned that God has a plan for our lives. She

knew that it was God who made Solomon king. God chose Solomon for Himself. His plan was to use Solomon to bless the nation that He loved. He planned for Solomon to do what was fair, right, and good.

The queen must have gone home believing that God had a plan for her life, too. Surely, she believed that God put her on the throne of Sheba for His reasons. Jesus spoke of the queen of the south being in heaven with us on the day God judges us. Jesus said that she would say, “There is one greater than Solomon” (Matthew 12:42).

### **Things to Remember**

Our lives are not accidents. Our **circumstances** do not happen by chance. God has a plan for our lives. He wants to use us to bless those around us. How we live and how we speak makes a difference in this world. King Solomon could have played the part of the important king. He could have had little time for a woman from a distant land. He could have talked only about how to rule a nation. But Solomon belonged to God. He made it clear that God was the reason his life was so blessed.

The Good News of Jesus sounds foolish to those who have never heard. But we must never be afraid or ashamed or too busy to tell how Christ has changed our lives. The way we live is living proof that we

### **Things to Think About**

1. Is there someone in your life whom you trust to give you godly advice? If so, describe that person.
2. Do other people ever come to you for advice? How do you know what to say to them?
3. How do you see the plan of God working out in your life? Where has He put you to be fair, right, and good?
4. Have you invited someone to come worship with you? Have you explained the meaning of worship to someone who does not yet believe?

belong to God. We must never think that our knowledge or our wisdom is the answer. God's plan to save us from our sins through Jesus is the wisest thing that has ever happened. His tender heart and loving ways may seem weak, but they are stronger than the strongest plans of men. God put us in the lives we live for His purpose. He intended from the beginning that His people would do good works.

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### 2 Chronicles 9:1-8

**1** The queen of Sheba heard how well Solomon was known in all the lands. So she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions. She came with many servants and camels carrying spices and much gold and stones of much worth. When she came to Solomon, she talked with him about all that was on her heart.

**2** And Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing hidden from him which he could not make clear to her.

**3** Then the queen of Sheba saw the wisdom of Solomon and the house he had built.

**4** She saw the food at his table, and all his captains sitting there. She saw all those who were bringing in the food, and how they were dressed. She saw those who carried the cups,

and their clothing. And she saw the burnt gifts that Solomon gave at the house of the Lord.

After that, there was no more spirit in her.

**5** She said to the king, "The news was true which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

**6** But I did not believe the news until I came and saw it with my own eyes. See, half the greatness of your wisdom was not told to me. You are greater than what I had heard.

**7** Happy are your men! Happy are your servants who stand in front of you all the time hearing your wisdom!

**8** Praise be to the Lord your God Who was pleased with you! He set you on His throne as king for the Lord your God. Your God loved Israel and would have them last forever. So He made you king over them to do what is fair and right and good."

### Matthew 12:42

**42** "The queen of the south will stand up with the people of this day on the day men stand before God. She will say that these people are guilty because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wise sayings of Solomon. And see, Someone greater than Solomon is here!"

# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*The Special Wisdom  
of Solomon*

## Lesson 13: You Can't Take It With You

### Bible Text

2 Chronicles 9:13, 15, 17, 19-20, 22-23,  
25-26, 28, 30-31

### Memory Verse

"For what does a man have if he gets all the world and loses his own soul? What can a man give to buy back his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

### Word List

**legacy:** something given to children or other people when a person dies

**shield:** a piece of metal or wood that is carried by a soldier to protect himself

My wife is from another country. That country teaches its people that there is no God. She came to America to study. One of the first things that impressed her was our money. She noticed a phrase printed on every bill and every coin: "IN GOD WE TRUST." She had never heard of Jesus before she came to America. About three months after coming here, she became a Christian.

Our money says, "IN GOD WE TRUST," but a lot of people trust in their money instead. Some think if they can just

make more money, then they will be happier.

Doctors have studied the relationship between money and depression. They found that people who are very poor are often depressed. They also found that those who are rich are also often depressed. People think money will make them happy but only God can give us true joy.

Our lesson today looks at the riches of Solomon. King Solomon discovered money does not bring happiness. In Ecclesiastes 2:11, he wrote, "Then I thought about all that my hands had done, and the work I had done. I saw that it was all for nothing. It was like trying to catch the wind, and there was nothing to get for it under the sun." His riches did not bring him happiness. And as we will see, King Solomon was very, very rich.

### Gold, Gold, and More Gold

(2 Chronicles 9:13, 15, 17, 19-20, 22-23)

**13** The gold that came to Solomon in one year weighed as much as 666 men....

**15** King Solomon made 200 battle-coverings of beaten gold. The beaten gold he used to make each large covering was as much as 600 gold pieces....

**17** The king made a great throne of ivory and covered it with pure gold....

**19** Twelve lions were standing on each side of the six steps. Nothing like it had ever been made for the king of any other nation.

**20 All King Solomon's cups were made of gold. And all the cups of the House of the Trees of Lebanon were made of pure gold. Silver was not thought of as having much worth in the days of Solomon...**

**22 So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.**

**23 And all the kings of the earth wanted to be with Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put into his heart....**

Every year, the income of King Solomon weighed as much as 666 men. That works about to be almost 25 tons of gold (22.6 metric tons). At the price of gold today, that is about \$1.4 billion every year!

Solomon had 200 **shields** made out of gold, each weighing about 17 pounds (8 kg). Each shield would be worth about \$15,000 at today's price of gold.

He had a great throne built and covered it with more gold. Nothing like it had ever been made for the king of any other nation. Even his drinking cups were made of gold. There was so much gold that silver was not very important or worth much.

Gold looks very nice, but it is very soft. It is also very heavy. Gold is not a good material for making a shield for battle. The 200 shields were made just to show off his wealth. His throne was made to show how rich he was.

Rulers came from other lands to see Solomon's wealth. They also came to hear Solomon speak. Solomon was well-known for his wisdom. The Queen of Sheba traveled 1,400 miles to hear the wisdom of Solomon (see Lesson 12). Verse 23 tells us that many other kings also came to Solomon for his wealth and his wisdom.

Back in 2 Chronicles 1 (Lesson 4), God told Solomon to ask for a gift from God. Solomon did not ask for riches; instead, he asked for wisdom and understanding so he could be a good leader. God granted his wish and gave him wisdom. But God blessed him even more — with riches and honor: “And I will give you riches and much money and honor. You will have more than all the kings who were before you, and more than all who will come after you” (2 Chronicles 1:12).

God honored His promises to Solomon over the years that he ruled Israel. The writer of Chronicles listed much about Solomon's wisdom and riches so we would know that God keeps His promises.

### **A Great Ruler of Rulers (2 Chronicles 9:25-26, 28)**

**25 Solomon had 4,000 rooms for horses and war-wagons, and 12,000 horsemen. He put them in the war-wagon cities and with the king in Jerusalem.**

**26 He was the ruler over all the kings from the**

**Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines,  
and as far as the land of Egypt....**

**28 And horses were brought in for Solomon  
from Egypt and from all countries....**

The writer of Chronicles continues to talk about the riches of Solomon. A king's riches also included his horses. Solomon had thousands of horses. Those horses meant a strong army. Because of that power, Solomon became a strong ruler over many lands.

In the book of Deuteronomy, God warns that the king “must not take many horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get many horses. Because the Lord has told you, ‘You must never again return that way.’ He must not take many wives for himself or his heart may turn away. And he must not gather much silver and gold for himself” (Deuteronomy 17:16-17). The writer of Chronicles reminds us that Solomon was doing all the things that God warned the kings of Israel not to do. At the end of his life, Solomon was not a very happy man.

### **Things to Think About**

1. Are you using God's blessings for His glory or for yours?
2. What legacy are you leaving for others?
3. In what ways do your possessions define you?
4. Are you prepared to meet God?

### **The End of King Solomon's Rule (2 Chronicles 9:30-31)**

**30 Solomon ruled forty years in Jerusalem  
over all Israel.**

**31 When he died he was buried in the city of  
his father David. And his son Rehoboam ruled  
in his place.**

Solomon had been richly blessed by God. Under his rule, Israel became wealthy. Under his rule, there was peace. Under his rule, God gave Israel more land than it had ever had before—or would ever have again. Kings from around the world came to hear his wise words. Some, like the Queen of Sheba, learned about God and praised Him.

Despite his success, Solomon still died. It is God's plan that we all die and then stand before God and be judged (Hebrews 9:27). Solomon died, and his son became king.

### **Things to Remember**

David was Solomon's father. David used his riches to prepare to build the Temple to honor God. David asked the people to give freely to help build it. Solomon then built the Temple. Solomon was richly blessed by God in many ways.

David left a great **legacy** to his son. The legacy that Solomon left his son was partly good and partly bad. David gathered

riches to honor God. But Solomon used his riches to show how rich he was.

David was a king who was called a man after God's own heart. Solomon was given wisdom by God, yet he did what Scripture warned the king of Israel not to do.

David set a good example for his son by caring for the people. Solomon demanded great taxes from the nation. His son, Rehoboam, was asked to make things easier on the people. Instead, he made things even harder on them. The nation split in two and was never whole again.

God blessed Solomon with wisdom, riches, and power. But Solomon often used those blessings for his glory instead of God's glory. Solomon was more interested in his riches than in the God who provided them.

Let us be wise and learn from Solomon: We need God more than we need riches or power. Let us leave our children a legacy of our love for God.

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25-26, 28, 30-31**

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# Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Easter Lesson*

## Seeing Jesus On the Road

### Bible Text

Luke 24:13-17, 19b-23a, 25-27, 30-33, 35

### Memory Verse

“For sure the Lord is risen.” (Luke 24:34b)

### Word List

**disappear:** to stop being able to be seen

**optical illusion:** an image that looks different from the way it really is or an image that can be seen in more than one way

**resurrection:** a person coming back to life after he or she has died

Do you like **optical illusions**? You can look at a picture or a video and sometimes what you think you see is not what you really see. There are many types of illusions. You might not be able to tell if an object is big or small. You might look at a picture and easily see something. But a friend might look at the same picture and see something else. Often, what you see depends on what you are thinking of and what you expect to see.

Our lesson today is about two followers of Jesus and what they saw.

### The Road to Emmaus

(Luke 24:13-17, 19b-23a)

13 That same day two of His followers were going to the town of Emmaus. It was about a two-hour walk from Jerusalem.

14 They talked of all these things that had happened.

15 While they were talking together, Jesus Himself came and walked along with them.

16 Something kept their eyes from seeing Who He was.

17 He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk?” They stood still and looked sad....

19b They answered, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. He was the great One Who spoke for God. He did powerful works and spoke powerful words in the sight of God and the people.

20 And the religious leaders and the leaders of the people gave Him over to be killed and nailed Him to a cross.

21 We were hoping He was the One Who was going to make the Jewish people free. But it was three days ago when these things happened.

**22 “Some of the women of our group have surprised us and made us wonder. They went to the grave early this morning.**

**23 They did not find His body....**

Jesus had died on the cross on a Friday afternoon. Now, it was Sunday morning. Jesus’ followers did not know what amazing things had happened. But they were about to find out.

Early Sunday morning, some women went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. They saw that the tomb was empty. Some men in shining clothes said Jesus had risen from the dead. He was alive again! In the Greek language, the Bible says the women were amazed. They were besides themselves with wonder.

Many of those who followed Jesus did not believe the women’s story. They could not believe that Jesus had risen. The women’s words sounded like foolish talk to them (Luke 24:11).

Later that day, two followers of Jesus were walking from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. It was about seven miles (11 km) from Jerusalem. They were talking about what had happened to Jesus. One week before, they had seen Jesus enter Jerusalem like a king. Then Jesus was arrested and killed. Now, some women were saying Jesus’ tomb was empty. The two men did not

understand what it all meant. They were still sad about the death of Jesus.

While they were talking, Jesus came and began to walk with them. This is a great little verse! While they were hopeless, Jesus came to them and talked with them. He helped them to understand. But they did not recognize Jesus. Perhaps that was because of their sorrow. Perhaps it was God keeping them from seeing who Jesus really was.

Jesus asked what they were talking about. They were amazed that this man had not heard what had happened to Jesus. They tried to explain who they thought Jesus was. They said He was a “great One Who spoke for God. ... We were hoping He was the One Who was going to make the Jewish people free.”

Notice that everything they said about Jesus was in the past. Their hope was in the past. Jesus had been killed, and they were sad because they thought that was the end of Jesus. Then, they told about what the women had seen at the tomb.

But the two men still thought that Jesus was gone forever.

### **Jesus Teaches Them**

**(Luke 24:25-27)**

**25 Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish men. How slow you are to believe what the early**

preachers have said.

**26 Did not Christ have to go through these hard things to come into His shining-greatness?"**

**27 Jesus kept on telling them what Moses and all the early preachers had said about Him in the Holy Writings.**

Jesus began to teach them. He started by calling them foolish and slow. They had seen what had happened to Jesus but did not understand what it meant.

The men probably thought that they understood what the early preachers had said about Christ. They had been taught growing up that Christ would save the Jews. They thought that Christ would win wars and make the Jewish people free and powerful.

Jesus told them why Christ had to **suffer** and go through hard times. They had read in the Holy Writings how great Christ would be. They had missed the parts that told of His suffering and His death.

### Things to Think About

1. When you are sad, how do you seek God's help?
2. Do you believe in the **resurrection** of Jesus? Has your life changed because of the resurrection?
3. Who do you know who needs to know the joy of the resurrection?
4. How do you try to see things from God's point of view?

Jesus used what Moses and all the early preachers had said about Christ to help these two men understand.

Jesus explained that everything that had happened was part of the plan of God.

### Their Eyes Are Opened

**(Luke 24:30- 33, 35)**

**30 As He sat at the table with them, He took the bread and gave thanks and broke it. Then He gave it to them.**

**31 And their eyes were opened and they knew Him. Then He left them and could not be seen.**

**32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts filled with joy when He talked to us on the road about what the Holy Writings said?"**

**33 Then they got up at once and went back to Jerusalem....**

**35 Then they told what had happened on the road and how they came to know Him when He broke the bread.**

We skipped a few verses. In the verses that we skipped, the two men and Jesus arrived at Emmaus. Jesus acted as if He would continue walking on down the road. But the two men asked Him to stay since it was about to get dark. Perhaps they were just being friendly. Perhaps they wanted to hear more from Him. Remember that they still did not recognize Jesus for who He was.

At the dinner table, Jesus took the bread and gave thanks. At that very moment, their eyes were opened! They knew it was Jesus. Then, Jesus **disappeared**.

We do not know if there was a special way that Jesus gave the blessing or broke the bread or if God just opened their eyes. The result was like seeing an optical illusion. All at once, they could see what they could not see a second before.

They remembered how they felt when Jesus was teaching them. The sadness they had earlier now changed to joy. They had been sad because Jesus had died. Now, with the right understanding of the Holy Scriptures, they were filled with joy.

Before, they were afraid that it was almost dark. Now, the darkness did not scare them. They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. They met the other followers of Jesus and told them what had happened. They told how they came to know it was Jesus when He broke the bread.

### Things to Remember

There are a lot of important things to remember in today's lesson. The most important is this: Christ is risen. This truth changes everything! Death no longer wins. Sin no longer holds us captive. Jesus Christ died for to pay for our sins, but He also rose again to conquer death forever.

The second thing is how Jesus came to His followers when they were sad. The followers were sad because they thought Jesus was dead. There are many reasons people are sad today. The Bible tells us that Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to be with His followers. The Holy Spirit came to help us — to be with us — to teach us. The Holy Spirit walks with us along life's roads. The Holy Spirit teaches us and helps us.

The third thing is that we must remember that God has a plan. We might not be able to see the plan, but we can know that God is in control. We can see some of His plan by reading the Bible. The Bible tells of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

When we have good news, we want to share it with others. Just like the two men who left dinner on the table and hurried back to Jerusalem. They wanted to tell others what they had seen. Their news was too good to wait!

Have you seen the truth of the Good News of Jesus Christ? Have your eyes been opened? See Jesus for who He is this Easter — the Son of God who died for your sins and who rose to life again!

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**25-27, 30-33, 35**

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