

Theme: Solomon desired a heart of wisdom to govern with justice and honor. The blessing of wisdom was peace and provision for the people. Solomon points to one whose wisdom far surpasses the wisdom of men, and whose peace and provision is far greater than any earthly king could achieve.

Background: The kingdom was now in Solomon’s hands. How would it fare?

Introduction: TV show – *Three Wishes*

I. Requesting Wisdom (3:3-15)

- A. Solomon’s invocation (3:3-4)
 - 1. He loved the Lord! (3a)
 - Comes to worship
 - 2. God’s covenant faithfulness recounted! (3:6)
 - Covenant Faithfulness!!
 - The promise to David (2 Samuel 7:12-14)
 - The Promise to Abraham (Genesis 17:6)
- B. God’s invitation (3:5)
 - Ask anything!!
- C. Solomon’s desire (3:7-9)
 - 1. To discern (judge) good and evil
 - 2. Wisdom to lead well!

APPLICATION: What would you ask for?
- D. God’s delight (3:10-14)
 - 1. What you asked for (12)
 - 2. What you didn’t ask for (13)
 - 3. What you must remember (14)

II. Revealing Wisdom (3:16-28)

- A. A famous account
 - 1. The problem
 - The classic “He said/She said”
 - 2. The solution?
 - Divide the child!
 - Their hearts are revealed
- B. Justice prevails (3:26)
 - 1. Wisdom demonstrated
 - 2. Wickedness exposed
 - 3. Righteousness rewarded
- C. A people in awe
 - Justice would be hard to avoid under Solomon

III. Ruling in Wisdom (4:1-19)

A. Wise administration

1. His cabinet, trusted advisors
2. His regional managers!
 - Providing for the “needs” of the royal household (I Samuel 8:10-14)

B. Order without oppression

1. Clear authority structure – accountability
2. Efficient administration

IV. Rejoicing in Wisdom (4:20-34)

A. Wisdom blesses the nation (4:20)

1. Covenant promises upheld
 - a. A great people (like the sand by the sea) (4:20a)
 - Genesis 22:17; 32:12
 - b. A great nation (4:21)
 - Genesis 15:18-21

B. Wisdom blesses the nations

1. The nations “served” them (4:21)
2. The nations “sought them out” (4:34)
 - Genesis 18:17
 - The nations were blessed!

V. The Revelation of Wisdom

A. God is the source of wisdom (4:29)

1. God gives wisdom (Proverbs 2:3-6)
2. We *ask* for wisdom (James 1:5)

B. Wisdom in it’s fullness!

1. Solomon’s path to wisdom
2. The surpassing nature of God’s gift (4:30,31)
 - a. For justice
 - b. For government/order
 - c. For life and godliness

NOTE: Solomon’s wisdom would express the heart of man – and the fear of the Lord

3. Fulfillment of God’s covenant promise?
 - The “cracks in the foundation” are already evident
4. Perfect wisdom revealed in Jesus Christ
 - a. The Holy Judge (Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 2:23)
 - b. The true embodiment of wisdom (Colossians 2:3; Isaiah 11:1-4)
 - c. With greater wisdom – and a greater kingdom (1 Corinthians 1:24, 30)

Therefore: Ask – then receive wisdom from the true fount of wisdom and life (James 1:5)