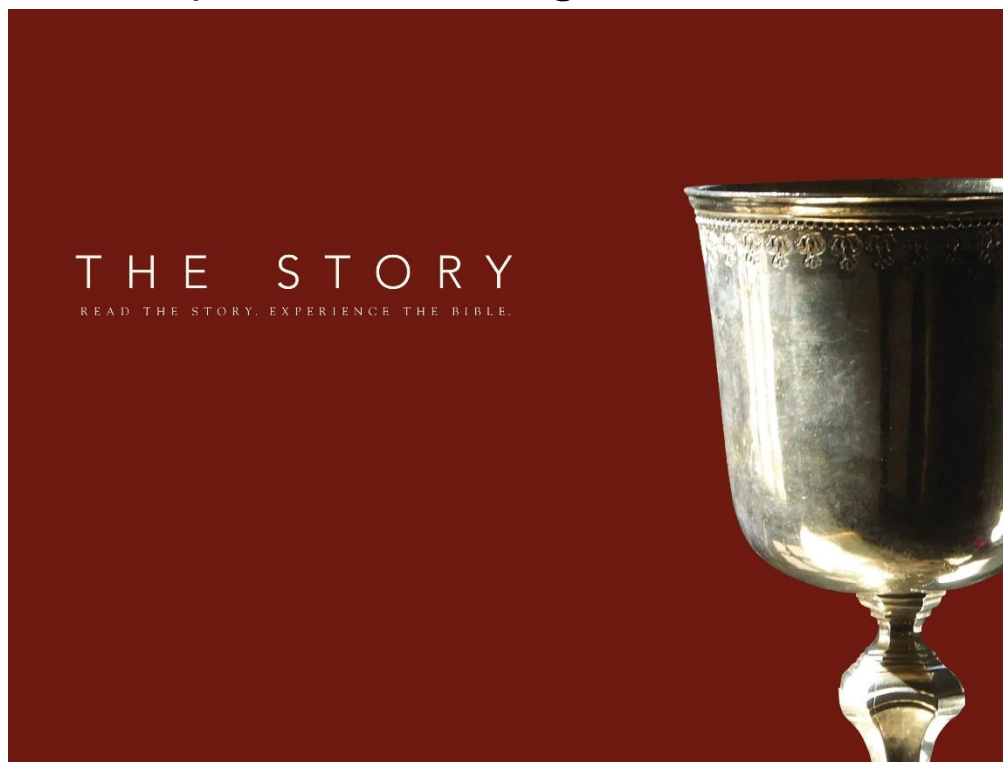


Chapter 13: The King Who Had It All



1. Solomon was the third king of Israel and the first to inherit the kingdom from his father. What did David have to do to ensure that Solomon, not his firstborn, would become king?
2. What was David's charge or instruction to Solomon? What in particular was Solomon to pay closest attention to?
3. What ways were the Israelites worshipping God when Solomon took the throne? Was this as God had instructed?
 - a. When we compare the thought of worship today as not being confined to a certain or particular location, yet corporate worship of God's people is always required, what are the similarities and differences that you see?
 - b. Also there are many pagan worship 'styles' that utilize high places both then and now, What kind of confusion can be sown when holy and unholy worship are so similar?
4. When Solomon was at Gibeah he had a dream where God asked him what he would like?
 - a. This holy "jackpot" was Solomon's and what did he as king, ask for?
 - b. What did God say he could have asked for?
 - c. What would YOU have asked for in Solomon's sandals?
 - d. What does Solomon's request show about his character?
 - e. What did God ultimately give to Solomon?
 - f. What does this reveal about God's character?
5. What is the difference between Knowledge and Wisdom? Can someone know a lot and be unwise? Be wise and know little? Be highly intellectual and also wise?
6. What was the way that Solomon's wisdom was initially shown to be wiser than others?

7. The king in ancient times was the one who did render final judgement, Have you ever had situations where you had to rely on the wisdom of God to solve a thorny situation?
 - a. What was it?
 - b. How did it go?
 - c. What ways did God receive glory?
 - d. Was everyone pleased with your decision? How did you navigate their disappointment?
8. Solomon's wisdom is recorded for us today in the poetic books of Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. The Story focuses on Solomon's proverbs, and in what way does someone who is able to speak so wisely reflect the will of God?
9. What ways would you say is the best way or source to gain wisdom?
10. What does wisdom bring to a person's life?
11. What is your favorite proverb from the pages recorded in the Story?
12. Which one is most confusing to you?
13. Sometimes the wisdom of God can seem to be counter intuitive, meaning the path of wisdom is not always the one we would seem to benefit most from. Have you experienced times where you followed godly wisdom and it didn't make the most sense initially? How did the situation turn out in the long run?
14. Solomon did follow his father's instructions in building the temple, the story records the agreement made between Solomon and Hiram (as an example of the many that Solomon must have had) to bring timber for the temple — What kind of wisdom is seen in this kind of agreement?
15. What did God, through David and Solomon's preparations provide to build His temple in Jerusalem. What is the basic layout of this place of worship?
16. What did Solomon do when the temple was finished?
17. What kind of celebration followed the dedication of the temple?
18. What was the response of God to the dedication of His temple? How would you have responded to seeing this kind of spectacle?
19. God's desire for Solomon (and for everyone really) is to live "faithfully with integrity of heart." What are some characteristics of this kind of life?
20. What, ultimately, negated the effects of wisdom of Solomon's life?
21. We too, living in 2019 (and all our years up to this one) have ample opportunity for our hearts to be turned away from following God wholly. What would you say are the most prominent distractions in our culture? In your own life?
 - a. What ways do you seek to put real wisdom into effect to prevent full scale defection away from loving what God loves?
22. Solomon's behavior did not happen in a vacuum, it was noticed (by God) and it affected his reign and the reign of those who came after him. What were the consequences that God brought on Solomon?
 - a. What way did God have mercy on Solomon's descendants?
23. When God promised that there would always be someone seated on David's throne, within one generation that promise looked drastically different (and would continue to morph in the centuries to come). What ways do we presume God will answer, or keep His word, yet we often are disappointed by the result?
24. How do we, as those who have the Holy Spirit, keep from becoming like Solomon, wealthy beyond imagination, yet spiritually anorexic?