

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 4

Law/Gospel

The fear of the Lord—reverence for God and trust in Him—is the beginning of wisdom, yet, in my sin, I am unwise, failing to trust in the Lord above all things. **Jesus, Wisdom personified, gives to me and all who believe in Him a share of His wisdom, that is, Himself.**

Bible Words

The LORD gives wisdom.
Proverbs 2:6

Fun Facts

God blessed King Solomon with much wealth.

- 40,000 horses for 1,400 chariots driven by 12,000 horsemen
- large army and fleet of ships
- vast amounts of gold, precious stones, and spices
- an ivory throne overlaid with gold that had six steps and fourteen lions decorating it
- gold tableware and cups
- peacocks and apes

Each day, his household needed:

- 180 bushels of flour
- 360 bushels of meal
- 10 head of stall-fed cattle
- 20 head of pasture-fed cattle
- 100 sheep, plus deer and other meats

Solomon's businesses brought in a yearly revenue of 666 talents of gold (about 25 tons).

SOURCES: 1 Kings 4:22–23, 26; 10:14, 18–22, 26

The Wisdom of Solomon

1 Kings 3

After David died, his son Solomon became king. The Lord promised to give Solomon anything he asked for. He requested wisdom and the Lord gladly gave this gift. The Bible credits 3,000 wise proverbs and more than 1,005 songs to Solomon (1 Kings 4:32). He authored or coauthored three books in the Bible: Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes.

Solomon became known throughout the world. His kingdom thrived. Enjoying peace and prosperity, the people “ate and drank and were happy” (1 Kings 4:20).

Sadly, Solomon unwisely turned away from the Lord. He married 700 princesses, probably in peace alliances with other nations, and had 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1–3). Most of these wives worshiped idols and “when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father” (1 Kings 11:4).

Solomon broke God's First Commandment, which says to have no other gods. Instead, “we should fear, love, and trust in God above all things” (Meaning of the First Commandment, Luther's Small Catechism).

We may not worship statues, but we often misplace our trust in God. We seek identity, meaning, comfort, and help in other things, such as wealth, ambition, other people, and ourselves. Ultimately, these things disappoint us and fail to fulfill our deep desire to know and be known by God.

Born in sin, none of us can keep God's Law perfectly. That's why God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth as our Savior. He “justified [us] by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith” (Romans 3:24–25). Jesus did the hard work to redeem us; we receive this gift by faith in Him, the true wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24–25).

Prayer

Dear Lord, make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

cph.org/SundaySchool

Permission to copy for the Old Testament 4 quarter.
Scripture: ESV®. Catechism quote: © 1986, 1991 CPH.
Copyright © 2017 Concordia Publishing House.

