

WISE KING SOLOMON

Why was Solomon known as the wisest man on earth? Initially, Solomon followed the ways of his father, King David, who was considered a "man after Yahweh's own heart." He worshiped Yahweh and honored Him with many sacrifices. One night, Yahweh came to Solomon in a dream saying, "Ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you."

Solomon's reply pleased Yahweh. Instead of selfish requests, Solomon asked for wisdom. He admitted that he did not know enough to be a good leader for Yahweh's people. So Yahweh gladly gave Solomon his request for wisdom. He also blessed him with riches and honor too.



We are told that people came to Solomon to ask him to decide matters of great importance. One example we are shown is a decision concerning a baby. Two women came to Solomon, both claiming to be mother of an unnamed baby boy. The women argued back and forth. Solomon listened

them, then asked for a sword. He said gravely, "There is only one way to be fair. The baby will be cut in half and each woman shall have a piece of the child."

"No!" screamed one of the women, "Don't hurt the baby!"

But the other woman said, "Yes, that seems fair. Cut the baby in half."

Solomon knew who the real mother was, the woman who didn't want to see the baby hurt.

Word of Solomon's wisdom had spread far and wide. The Queen of Sheba decided to test Solomon's wisdom and wealth for herself. She travelled over 1,000 miles to Israel. And she was not disappointed!

"Your wisdom is even greater than your wealth!" the queen exclaimed, "The Elohim of Israel is indeed a powerful Elohim!" Sadly, later we read that Solomon's heart eventually turned away from Yahweh. But we can follow Solomon's early example and ask Yahweh for wisdom.

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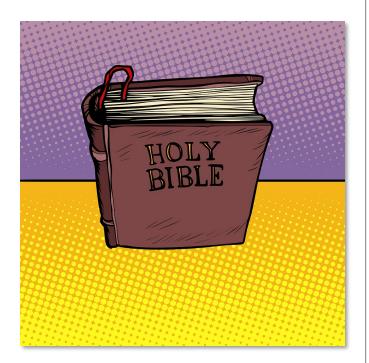
"Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of Yours?" Elohim said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and

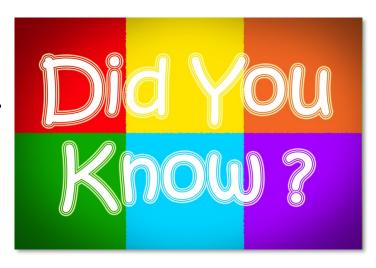
knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have." 2 Chronicles 1:10-12 (NIV)

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See if you know

- 1. Initially, who did Solomon pattern his life after?
- A. His father, King David.
- B. King Nebuchadnezzar.
- C. The Apostle Paul.
- D. Peter.
- 2. What was said of David?
- A. He was a man after Yahweh's own heart.
- B. He was the best warrior ever.
- C. He was the best palace-builder.
- D. He was a brilliant scientist.
- 3. What did Solomon request of Yahweh?
- A. Wealth.
- B. A large empire.
- C. Wisdom.
- D. Humor.
- 4. What else did Yahweh bless Solomon with?
- A. Riches.
- B. Honor.
- C. Selfishness.
- D. A. and B. are correct.
- 5. Which great queen came to visit Solomon?
- A. Queen Esther.
- B. Queen Athalia.
- C. Queen of Sheba.
- D. Queen of Greece.





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THE WISE KING SOLOMON

QUEEN SHEBA REQUEST SOLOMON

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About the Bible

See how many of the following you can answer. Use your Bible to find the answers.

- 1. Name the two divisions of the Bible.
- 2. How many books are in the Bible?
- 3. How many books in the Old Testament?
- 4. How many books in the New Testament?
- 5. What is the first book of the Old Testament?
- 6. What is the first book of the New Testament?
- 7. What is the last book of the Old Testament?
- 8. What is the last book in the Bible?
- 9. What language was the Old Testament originally written in?
- 10. What language was the New Testament originally written in?
- 11. How many letters did Paul write?
- 12. What four books are called the gospel?
- 13. What two books are named after women?



