

2 Chronicles 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:

Analysis

God's commendation of Solomon's request: 'And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king.' God evaluates the heart, not just the request. Solomon could have asked for personal benefit but sought kingdom good. The fourfold negative (not riches/wealth/honor/life) contrasts with the positive (wisdom/knowledge). God's response demonstrates He delights in prayers prioritizing His kingdom over personal gain, echoing Jesus's teaching 'seek first the kingdom' (Matthew 6:33).

Historical Context

God's approval (c. 970 BCE) validated Solomon's priorities and established the basis for his legendary wisdom. This encounter shaped Solomon's entire reign, though his later requests for personal gain (many wives, excessive wealth) showed even wise beginnings don't guarantee faithful endings.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What do your prayers reveal about your heart's true priorities - kingdom purposes or personal comfort?
2. How can you cultivate Solomon's early wisdom of seeking spiritual gifts over material benefits?

Interlinear Text

עִם זֶה אָתָּה בְּיַתְהִימָּן וְאַתָּה
 said And God to Solomon H3282 H834 H1961 H2063 H5973
 H559 H430 H8010

לְבָבְךָ וְלֹא תְּשַׁאֲלָה
 Because this was in thine heart H3808 and thou hast not asked H7592 riches wealth
 H3824 H6239 H5233

לֹא בְּבָבְךָ יְכֹבֵד
 or honour H853 nor the life of thine enemies H1571 life long H3808
 H3519 H5315 H8130 H3117 H7227

וְתַשְּׁאַל וְתַשְּׁאַל לְבָבְךָ וְתַחַם
 and thou hast not asked and thou hast not asked H0 wisdom and knowledge
 H7592 H7592 H2451 H4093

אַשְׁר תְּשֻׁפֹּת אַתָּה אַשְׁר רְעֵבִי
 for thyself that thou mayest judge H853 my people H834
 H834 H8199 H5971

עֲלֵיכֶם הַמֶּלֶךְ יְהֹוָה
 over whom I have made thee king H5921
 H4427

Additional Cross-References

James 3:17 (Parallel theme): But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Proverbs 23:7 (Parallel theme): For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

1 Samuel 16:7 (Parallel theme): But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the

LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

James 3:13 (Parallel theme): Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

1 Kings 3:28 (Judgment): And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

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