

2 Chronicles 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee.

Analysis

God's question to Solomon 'Ask what I shall give thee' represents extraordinary grace - God invites petition, essentially offering a blank check. This divine initiative tests Solomon's heart: will he ask for selfish gain or kingdom needs? The nighttime setting at Gibeon's high place, following extensive sacrifices (1:6), suggests private divine revelation after public worship. This pattern - God speaking after costly worship - appears throughout Scripture. Reformed theology emphasizes that God's invitation to prayer is itself gracious enablement, creating the desire for right requests. Christ invites similar asking 'in His name' (John 14:13-14), with the Spirit shaping requests to align with God's will.

Historical Context

This encounter occurred early in Solomon's reign (c. 970 BCE) at the tabernacle in Gibeon, before the temple was built. God's appearance validated Solomon's kingship and established the kingdom's priorities - wisdom for governance over personal enrichment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. If God asked 'What shall I give you?' today, what would your request reveal about your heart's priorities?
2. How does Solomon's request for wisdom challenge you to seek spiritual rather than material gifts in prayer?

Interlinear Text

בַּלַּיְלָה	הָהוּא	נִרְאָה	אֱלֹהִים	לְשֹׁלֹמֹן	וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹ
In that night	H1931	appear	did God	unto Solomon	and said	H0
H3915		H7200	H430	H8010	H559	
שָׂא ל	מָה	אֶתֵּן	לָרִי:			
unto him Ask	H4100	what I shall give	H0			
H7592		H5414				

Additional Cross-References

John 16:23 (Parallel theme): And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

Mark 10:51 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.