

Focus passage: 2 Chronicles 1:7-17

7 In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you." 8 And Solomon said to God, "You have shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and have made me king in his place. 9 O Lord God, let your word to David my father be now fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. 10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?" 11 God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king, 12 wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like." 13 So Solomon came from the high place at Gibeon, from before the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem. And he reigned over Israel.

14 Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem. 15 And the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stone, and he made cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephelah. 16 And Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Kue, and the king's traders would buy them from Kue for a price. 17 They imported a chariot from Egypt for 600 shekels of silver, and a horse for 150. Likewise through them these were exported to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.

What stands out to you from this passage?

If you were surprised by God in a vision and he said, "Ask what I shall give you", what do you think you'd say?

Why is Solomon's request so pleasing to God?

*What sort of things do you ask God for when you pray? Do you request his wisdom and guidance more than "possessions, wealth, honor"? Do you feel like you have a right to ask for such things? **Read James 1:5-8 and 1 John 5:13-15.***

*Is wisdom and understanding enough to be a good leader? **Read 1 Kings 11:9-13***

Solomon often knew the right thing to do, but ended up with his heart turned away from God. Where did he go wrong?

*In Deuteronomy 17 the law describes requirements of a king, including avoiding certain temptations of power, wealth, and of the heart. **Read Deuteronomy 17:16-17.** How does Solomon line up? Are these types of temptations ones we face today, and if so, what can we do to avoid such temptations?*

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

