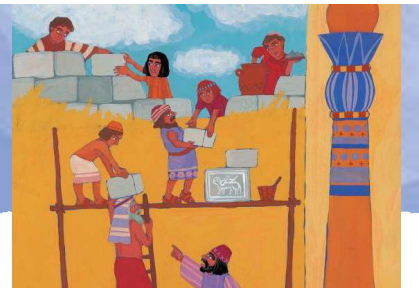


20 Godly Wisdom – Solomon



SOLOMON'S PRAYER

1 Kings 1–3

When David had grown old, he appointed his son, Solomon, to be king.

God appeared to Solomon one night in a dream and told him, “Ask! What shall I give you?” Solomon asked the Lord for an understanding heart for the great task of judging and ruling the people of Israel.

This prayer pleased God. Solomon could also have asked for a long life or riches. God gladly gave him a wise and understanding heart, but over and above that, He also promised him great riches and honour.



SOLOMON, THE WISE JUDGE

1 Kings 3:16–27

Two women come before King Solomon.

King: Ladies, what do you want?

Women (both): My Lord and King!

King: Stop! Don't talk at once! (The king points to one of them) You start!

First woman: My Lord and King, this woman and I live in the same house. Both of us were expecting a child. My child was born first. Three days later her child came into this world (First woman points at the other woman). And during the night her son died because she crushed him while he slept. Then she got up, took my son from the bed, and placed her dead baby beside me. When I woke up in the morning, I was shocked that my son was dead! But when I looked at him carefully, I noticed that it was not my son!

Second woman: Your Royal Highness, this woman is lying! My son is alive! Her son is dead!

Women (both): No! My son is alive! Your son is dead!

King: Stop! Both of you say that your son is alive! Bring me a sword! If you cannot reconcile, we will divide the living child in two and give each one of you half!

First woman: Yes, that is just!

Second woman: No, my king! Please do not kill the child! If nothing else is possible, rather give it to this woman, but let it live!

King: This answer proves to me that this woman is the real mother. She loves the child and does not want it to die. Give the child to her!



THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

1 Kings 5–8



Already King David wanted to build a temple for the Lord. God, however, passed this responsibility on to David's son, Solomon.

Solomon bought cedar trees out of Lebanon from King Hiram of Tyre who had already been David's friend. This wood is very durable and repels insects.

The temple was 31.5 m long, 10.5 m wide and 15.75 m high. Since Solomon only had the most precious materials used, the temple was an exceedingly magnificent building. The interior walls were covered with cedar panelling. All walls, doors, and gates were decorated with wood carvings, and these as well as the wooden floor were gold-plated. 3,300 supervisors and foremen directed over 150,000 labourers from the people of Israel who built the temple within seven years.

When the edifice was completed, it was dedicated. All distinguished Israelites came to Jerusalem. The ark of the covenant and temple accessories were brought into the place of worship. A cloud filled the house of the Lord as a visible sign that the glory of God was coming into the temple. Then Solomon prayed with the people of Israel, and 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep were sacrificed as thank-offerings.

The people had a big celebration for two weeks. Happy and thankful everyone finally went home again.

BOARD

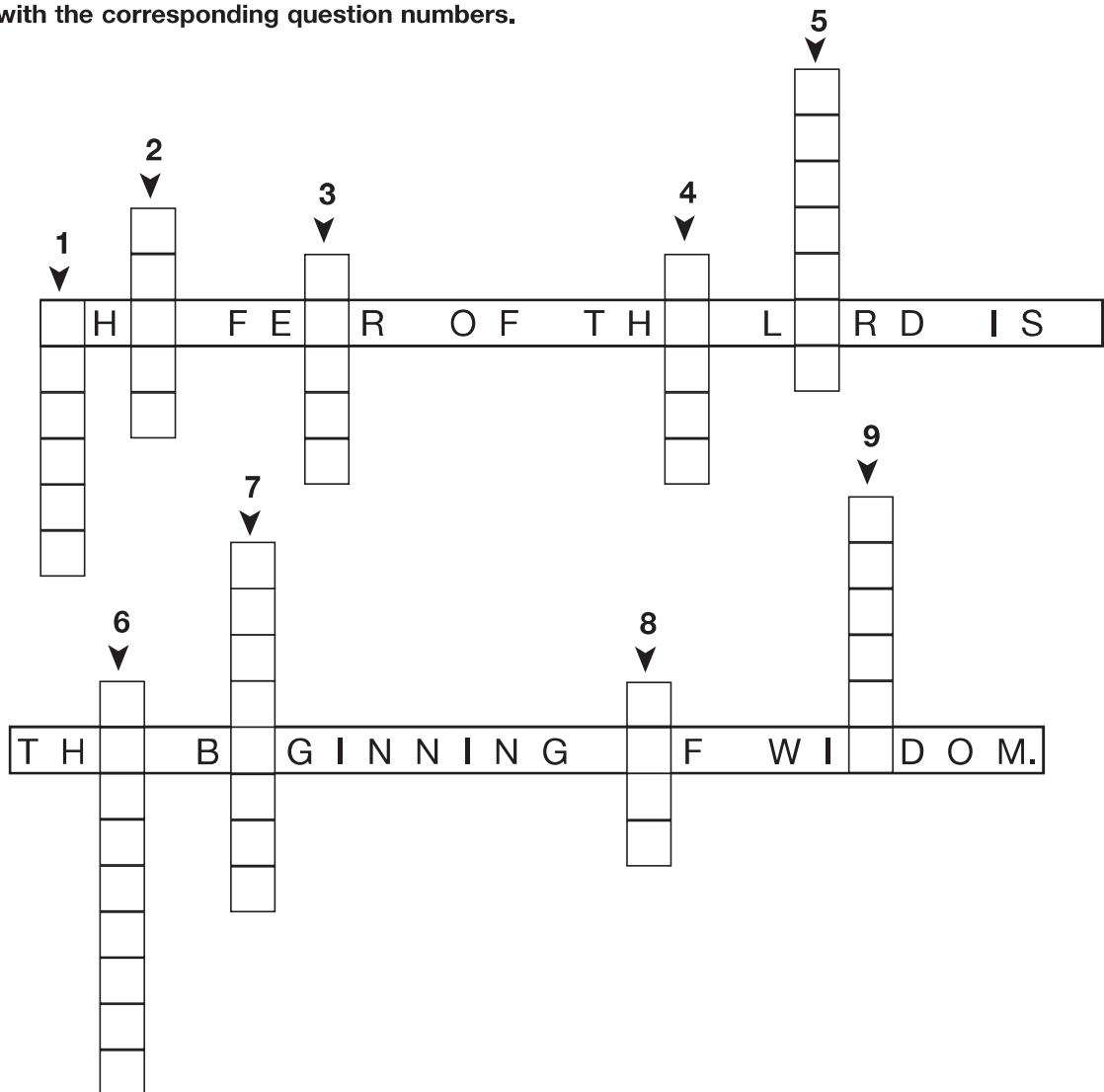
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EXERCISE



What is the prerequisite for receiving godly wisdom?

You will obtain the answer by entering the correct responses to the questions in the vertical rows with the corresponding question numbers.



1. What did Solomon have built? The ...
2. One night, God appeared to Solomon in a ... and said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"
3. What was the name of Solomon's father?
4. What type of wood was used in the construction of the temple?
5. From which country was the wood used in the construction of the temple?
6. In which city was this building constructed?
7. One of the books of the Bible written by Solomon is called ...
8. The walls, doors, gates, and floor of the temple were all covered in ...
9. What did God give King Solomon in addition to an understanding heart?