



How Wise People Can Have Foolish Problems

August 23, 2020

Text: I Kings 3:3-12 (NKJV)

Big Question: How can wise people fall into foolish problems?

1. Romantic fantasies (He had 1,000 women in his life, **25 weddings a year**, I Kings 11:1)
2. Comfort with compromise (He never tore down the high places, I Kings 3:1-3)
3. Excessive extremes (Expansion was his thing, build, build, I Kings 7)
4. Ignoring painful family lessons (David's moral failure, II Samuel 11)
5. Waiting until they are older to fear God (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

I. Five Observations About Solomon

1. He walked on both sides of the moral line naively (I Kings 3:3)

- 3 And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, **except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.**

2. He was sincerely seeking to grow (but had obvious blind spots)

- 1 Kings 3:6–12 (NKJV): 7 Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but **I am a little child**; I do not know how to go out or come in.

Note: He is probably about **20** years old and died at **60** years old (I Kings 11:41-43)

- Source: <http://bibleq.net/answer/887/>

3. He had great responsibility at an early age

- 8 And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.

4. He prayed for wisdom

- 9 Therefore **give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge** Your people, that I may **discern** between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

5. He was rewarded for his attitude with abundant wisdom

- 10 **The speech pleased the Lord**, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 Then God said to him: **"Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,** 12 behold, I have done according to your words; see, **I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you**



II. Proof of Solomon's Amazing Wisdom

1 Kings 10:1–9 (NKJV)

(The Queen of Sheba Test)

- 10 Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, **she came to test him with hard questions.**
- 2 She came to Jerusalem **with a very great retinue (or entourage)**, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, **she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.**
- 3 So **Solomon answered all her questions**; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her.
- 4 And **when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon**, the house that he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.
- 6 Then she said to the king: **"It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.** 7 However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.
- 8 **Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!**
- 9 Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because **the Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."**

Note: She was so blinded by his wisdom that she missed his foolishness

- cp I Kings 12:4, (his staff struggled with him and their working conditions)

III. Solomon's Foolish Season Described

1 Kings 11:1–4 (NKJV): 11 But **King Solomon loved many foreign women**, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—2 from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, **"You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods."** Solomon **clung to these in love.** 3 And he had **seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines**; and **his wives turned away his heart.** 4 For it was so, **when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods**; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.



IV. Four Question That Will Help You Test Your Wisdom

1. Am I experiencing the **results** of wisdom or foolish choices?
2. **What** was wise when I started but became **unwise over time**?
3. **Who** was wise in your youth but became **foolish as you both aged**?
4. Can you name one wise thing **God said no to you about, that you demanded** he say yes to

Closing: A Few Loose End Thoughts

Four random thoughts about wisdom

1. You can't be **afraid** to be unwise (Being unwise is a part of growth)
2. You can't live without having a **sincere but wrong season**
3. You can't let **Mr. Guilt** hold your learning season against you?
4. I am often a **wise man** heading to a **wiser place**

How did I gain more wisdom?

1. I must gain **experience**
2. I must gain **exposure**
3. I must learn from my **failures**
4. I must **forage** for knowledge (to search for something over a wide area)