

Solomon didn't get
what he was asking for

One night at Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "Ask, and I will give it to you!" Solomon replied, "You have shown much loving devotion to Your servant, my father David, because he walked before You in faithfulness, righteousness, and uprightness of heart. And You have maintained this loving devotion by giving him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

1 Kings 3:5-6

And now, O LORD my God, You have made
Your servant king in my father David's place.
But I am only a little child, not knowing how to go
out or come in. Your servant is here among the
people You have chosen, a people too
numerous to count or number. Therefore give
Your servant an understanding heart to judge
Your people and to discern between good and
evil. For who is able to govern this great people
of Yours?"

1 Kings 3:7-8

Solomon asks for an
understanding heart?

The words translated as
understanding in this verse is

שָׁמַע Shama ... he asks for a
heart to hear

Now look at what he was given...

Now it pleased the Lord that Solomon had made this request. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this instead of requesting long life or wealth for yourself or death for your enemies—but you have asked for discernment to administer justice—behold, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has never been nor will ever be another like you.

1 Kings 3:10–12

He was given a wise and discerning heart, more than he asked for —

A heart of wisdom that would act wisely, be understanding, clever, observant, skilled and able to teach.

All of these adjectives describe the word for discernment but I want to focus on wisdom.

In the morning his spirit was troubled, so he summoned all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

Genesis 41:8

This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, in whom the Spirit of God abides?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.

Genesis 41:37-39

This should raise a
very important question —

What is wisdom?

Proverbs 8:1

Does not wisdom call out,
and understanding raise
her voice?

Proverbs 8:4—6

“To you, O men, I call out, and
my cry is to the sons of men. O
simple ones, learn to be shrewd;
O fools, instruct your minds.
Listen, for I speak of noble
things, and the opening of my
lips will reveal right.

Proverbs 8:22—23

Yehovah Possessed me at
the beginning of His way
before His works of old.

From everlasting I was
established, from the
beginning, before the
earth began.

Proverbs 8:27–29

I was there when He established the heavens, when He inscribed a horizon on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when the fountains of the deep gushed forth, when He set a boundary for the sea, so that the waters would not surpass His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth.

Proverbs 8:30-31

Then I was a skilled
craftsman at His side, and
His delight day by day,
rejoicing always in His
presence. I was rejoicing in
His whole world, delighting
together in the sons of men.

Proverbs 8:32-34

Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, for blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at the posts of my doorway.

Proverbs 8:35-36

For whoever finds me
finds life and obtains the
favor of the Yehovah.
But he who fails to find
me harms himself; all who
hate me love death.”

Proverbs 9:10-11

The fear of the Yehovah is
the beginning of wisdom, and
knowledge of the Holy One
is understanding. For
through Me (wisdom) your
days will be multiplied and
years will be added to
your life.

What is wisdom now that we know:

1, Yehovah possessed it before
He spoke and created

2, From everlasting it was
established

3, Wisdom was there when the
heavens were created and the earth
was formed

4, Wisdom is a skilled craftsman

5, Wisdom rejoiced when the world
was made

6, Wisdom delights in the sons
of men

7, If we listen to it we will be wise
and blessed

8, Whoever finds wisdom finds life
and the favor of Yehovah

9, The fear or respect of
Yehovah is the beginning
of wisdom

10, Through Wisdom your
days will be multiplied and
years will be added to
your life

Wisdom is the
mind or the very
thoughts of
Yehovah

Exodus 36:2

Then Moses summoned
Bezalel, Oholiab, and
every skilled (wise) person
whom Yehovah had gifted
— everyone whose heart
stirred him to come and do
the work.

1 Kings 3:12

Behold, I will do what you
have asked. I will give you a
wise and discerning heart, so
that there has never been
nor will ever be another
like you.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Proverbs 8:20–21

I walk in the way of
righteousness, along the
paths of justice, bestowing
wealth on those who love
me and making their
treasuries full.

Deuteronomy 4:40

Keep His statutes and
commandments, which I am
giving you today, so that you
and your children after you
may prosper, and that you may
live long in the land that the
LORD your God is giving
you for all time.

