

## What Shall God Give You?

What the Lord said to Solomon, the Lord has also said to us  
Second Chronicles 1–2

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • October 31, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Billy Henshall – Mark 10.35–37

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Prayer

### I. Second Chronicles 1.1 • When God Is with You

**1.1 Now Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly.**

A. Is that not everything that matters,

1. having God with you?
2. In Solomon's case that meant:
  - a) that he was strengthened in his kingdom and
  - b) that he was exalted exceedingly.

B. That does not mean

1. that everyone can be a king, for
2. only one can be king, but
  - a) it does mean
  - b) that if you follow the Lord your God with all your heart,
    - (1) he will exalt you somehow.
    - (2) Leave that up to him, and
      - (a) you will not be disappointed.

### II. Second Chronicles 1.2 • Leaders Work Together

**1.2 And Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' houses.**

A. Solomon was not a dictator.

B. He knew that he could not do everything.

1. He needed others and
2. he needed cooperation, and
  - a) so he cooperated.
  - b) He was the main leader,
    - (1) so he organized this meeting but
    - (2) he let them do their part while he did his.

### **III. Second Chronicles 1.3–6 • Offering to God**

**1.3 Then Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for the tabernacle of meeting with God was there, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness. 4 But David had brought up the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim to the place David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem. 5 Now the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD; Solomon and the assembly sought Him there. 6 And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.**

- A. Interestingly, two tabernacles existed for a while in Israel:
1. The one that Moses had made, and
  2. one that David had made.
- B. In this instance, Solomon went to Gibeon, because
1. he wanted to make burnt offerings and
  2. the bronze altar still existed at Gibeon.
- C. Ezra recorded this to show that they could only have one temple.

### **IV. Second Chronicles 1.7–10 • What Do You Want?**

**1.7 On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, “Ask! What shall I give you?” 8 And Solomon said to God: “You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. 10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can**

**judge this great people of Yours?"**

- A. What would you say if the Lord asked you what he should give you?
- B. The Lord has said that to you:

**Mark 10.35–37**

**35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." 36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."**

**Mark 10.51**

**51 So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."**

**John 15.7**

**7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."**

**First John 5.14–15**

**14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**

**James 1.5**

**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

- C. Solomon learned from his father
  - 1. that it was not about himself, but
  - 2. it is about the Lord.
    - a) That led Solomon to ask for the thing he needed
    - b) to do the job that God had assigned to him: Wisdom.

**V. Second Chronicles 1.11–12 • God Gives More than We Ask For**

**1.11 Then God said to Solomon: “Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king— 12 wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.”**

A. It impressed the Lord

1. that Solomon did not ask for personal things, but
2. that he wanted to be a blessing to God’s people.

B. Since that is all he wanted,

1. since it was a humble request,
2. initiated by the Lord,
  - a) the Lord gave Solomon
  - b) much more than he requested.

C. In Mark 4,

1. Jesus declared that this is how things work:

**24 Then He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. 25 For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”**

**– Mark 4.24–25**

2. Do your best to do what the Lord wants you to do, and
  - a) he will take care of the resources,
  - b) blessing you in ways you never imagined.

## **VI. Second Chronicles 1.13–17 • Horses and Chariots**

**1.13 So Solomon came to Jerusalem from the high place that was at Gibeon, from before the tabernacle of meeting, and reigned over Israel. 14 And**

Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem. 15 Also the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland. 16 And Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king's merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price. 17 They also acquired and imported from Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for one hundred and fifty; thus, through their agents, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.

A. God blessed Solomon and Israel with wealth.

B. What about Deuteronomy 17.16–17?

**16 “But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ 17 Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.”**

**– Deuteronomy 17.16–17**

1. So this reference in Second Chronicles was not a casual one, but
2. Ezra showed how Solomon started to drift slowly.

## **VII. Second Chronicles 2.1–2 • Workers**

**2.1 Then Solomon determined to build a temple for the name of the LORD, and a royal house for himself. 2 Solomon selected seventy thousand men to bear burdens, eighty thousand to quarry stone in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred to oversee them.**

A. The first thing that I thought about when I read this was

1. if that many men were needed
2. for building the temple and Solomon's palace,
  - a) both of which were considerably smaller than the Pyramids of Giza,
  - b) how many workers did the Pharaohs hire to build those pyramids?

B. This was a mighty work force for a mighty work.

### **VIII. Second Chronicles 2.3–10 • Working with Friends**

**2.3 Then Solomon sent to Hiram king of Tyre, saying: “As you have dealt with David my father, and sent him cedars to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me. 4 Behold, I am building a temple for the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread, for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, on the New Moons, and on the set feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel. 5 And the temple which I build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods. 6 But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? Who am I then, that I should build Him a temple, except to burn sacrifice before Him? 7 Therefore send me at once a man skillful to work in gold and silver, in bronze and iron, in purple and crimson and blue, who has skill to engrave with the skillful men who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided. 8 Also send me cedar and cypress and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your servants have skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and indeed my servants will be with your servants, 9 to prepare timber for me in abundance, for the temple which I am about to build shall be great and wonderful. 10 And indeed I will give to your servants, the woodsmen who cut timber, twenty thousand kors of ground wheat, twenty thousand kors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.”**

A. Solomon not only knew

1. that he could not do everything himself, but
2. even Israel did not have everything that it needed.

B. Therefore, Solomon appealed to his father’s friend, King Hiram of Tyre.

1. He reminded Hiram of how he blessed David with cedar, and
2. now Solomon had a building project for which he needed Hiram’s help.

C. In verse 4,

1. he explained what the temple was,
2. that it was for offering sacrifices for the God of heaven.
  - a) This would also appeal to King Hiram, because
  - b) he accepted the God of Israel as the one true and living God.

D. In verse 5,

1. he revealed that this would not be a shabby work, but
2. it would be a great work for the great God.

E. However, Solomon added quickly in verse 6,

1. that really no one can build a proper temple for God because
2. heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain him.
  - a) This also undoubtedly appealed to King Hiram, because
  - b) he knew how God had blessed David and would agree.

F. Solomon then specified what he wanted.

1. Ask and you shall receive.
2. In all that Solomon said,
  - a) Hiram would have agreed, but
  - b) up to this point,
    - (1) Solomon had not expressed
    - (2) why he wrote to King Hiram.

G. In verse 9,

1. Solomon said that the temple would be great and wonderful, and
2. surely King Hiram would want to have a part in such a project.
  - a) He would be honored.
  - b) Hiram knew that his cedars were valuable and would gladly give them.

H. Finally, Solomon would not be stingy, but

1. offered to pay the king of Tyre liberally.
2. If we want something good,
  - a) we must be willing to pay the price for it.
  - b) Why do we want as much as we can get but will not return the favor?

## **IX. Second Chronicles 2.11–16 • Friends Are Generous**

**2.11 Then Hiram king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon: “Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them.” 12 Hiram also said: “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, for He has given King David a wise son, endowed with prudence and understanding, who will build a temple for the LORD and a royal house for himself! 13 And now I have sent a skillful man, endowed with understanding, Hiram my master craftsman 14 (the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre), skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple and blue, fine linen and crimson, and to make any engraving and to accomplish any plan which may be given to him, with your skillful men and with the skillful men of my lord David your father. 15 Now therefore, the wheat, the barley, the oil, and the wine which my lord has spoken of, let him send to his servants. 16 And we will cut wood from Lebanon, as much as you need; we will bring it to you in rafts by sea to Joppa, and you will carry it up to Jerusalem.”**

A. See King Hiram’s belief?

1. He recognized that Solomon as the king of Israel
2. was a sign that God loved Israel.

B. Therefore, King Hiram blessed the Lord God of Israel,

1. stating that David was wise and
2. prudent and understanding.

C. Hiram then explained what he would do:

1. He would send a skillful man who was part Israelite
  - a) to work in the precious metals and
  - b) all the other materials that Solomon would use.
2. He wanted to be as liberal with Solomon as Solomon was with him.

## **X. Second Chronicles 2.17–18 • Aliens**

**2.17 Then Solomon numbered all the aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census in which David his father had numbered them; and there were found to be one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred. 18 And he made seventy thousand of them bearers of burdens, eighty thousand stonecut-**

**ters in the mountain, and three thousand six hundred overseers to make the people work.**

- A. Solomon did a census to see how many aliens lived in the land of Israel, and
  - 1. he counted 153,600.
  - 2. From them, he made his work force.
- B. They would not live as welfare recipients of the state, but
  - 1. would do their part in making Israel great.
  - 2. In God's plan, everyone works.