

1&2 KINGS

A Leadership Series



THE WISE LEADERSHIP OF SOLOMON

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶ Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart.

1 Kings 3:5-28

You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. ⁷ “Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.

1 Kings 3:5-28

⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

1 Kings 3:5-28

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice,

1 Kings 3:5-28

¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. ¹³ Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.

1 Kings 3:5-28

¹⁴ And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” ¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord’s covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all in his court. ¹⁶ Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.

1 Kings 3:5-28

17 One of them said, “Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. 18 The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us. 19 “During the night this woman’s son died because she lay on him.

1 Kings 3:5-28

²⁰ So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast.

²¹ The next morning, I got up to nurse my son —and he was dead!

1 Kings 3:5-28

But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne." ²² The other woman said, "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours." But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued before the king.

1 Kings 3:5-28

23 The king said, “This one says, ‘My son is alive and your son is dead,’ while that one says, ‘No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.’” 24 Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword for the king. 25 He then gave an order: “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

1 Kings 3:5-28

²⁶ The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, “Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!” But the other said, “Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!” ²⁷ Then the king gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman.

1 Kings 3:5-28

Do not kill him; she is his mother.”²⁸ When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

1 Kings 3:5-28

22 “The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; 23 I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. 24 When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water;

Proverbs 8:22-31

²⁵ before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth,
²⁶ before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. ²⁷ I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,

Proverbs 8:22-31

28 when he established the clouds above and
fixed securely the fountains of the deep,
29 when he gave the sea its boundary so the
waters would not overstep his command, and
when he marked out the foundations of the
earth. 30 Then I was constantly at his side.

Proverbs 8:22-31

I was filled with delight day after day,
rejoicing always in his presence,
³¹ rejoicing in his whole world and
delighting in [humankind].”

Proverbs 8:22-31

**Even in gray areas, we can
determine right from wrong
and good from evil with
discernment**

1) THE ASK FOR DISCERNMENT

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶ Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart.

1 Kings 3:5-9

You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. ⁷ “Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.

1 Kings 3:5-9

⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

1 Kings 3:5-9

“But I am only a little child.”

1 Kings 3:7a

“[I] do not know how to carry out
my duties.”

1 Kings 3:7b

**There are no prodigies,
savants or geniuses when it
comes to wisdom. Wisdom and
discernment is a gift
exclusively given by God.**

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Matthew 7:7-8

2) THE ADDITIONS TO DISCERNMENT

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked.

1 Kings 3:10-15

I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. ¹³ Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.

1 Kings 3:10-15

¹⁴ And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”

¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

1 Kings 3:10-15

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.

1 Kings 3:10

**1 Kings 3 tells us that God is a
generous giver**

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

A) WEALTH

¹⁶ Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue—the royal merchants purchased them from Kue at the current price. ¹⁷ They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a hundred and fifty. They also exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and of the Arameans.

2 Chronicles 1:16-17

B) HONOUR

⁴ When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵ the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

1 Kings 10:4-9

⁶ She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷ But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard.

1 Kings 10:4-9

⁸ How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! ⁹ Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

1 Kings 10:4-9

Have you utilized your wisdom and discernment to the point that the people around you desire to spend time and partner with you?

C) LONG LIFE

¹⁴ And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”

1 Kings 3:14

**Long life is determined by our
ability to keep God's decrees and
commands**

**Long life is exemplified by good
previous examples**

⁴² Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.

1 Kings 11:42

¹⁰ Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures.

Psalm 90:10

**It is approximated that Solomon
died before he turned sixty**

From everyone who has been given much,
much will be demanded; and from the one
who has been entrusted with much, much
more will be asked.

Luke 12:48

3) THE ADMINISTRATION OF DISCERNMENT

²⁴ Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword for the king. ²⁵ He then gave an order: “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

²⁶ The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king,

1 Kings 3:24-28

“Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!” But the other said, “Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!”
²⁷ Then the king gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.”

1 Kings 3:24-28

28 When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

1 Kings 3:24-28

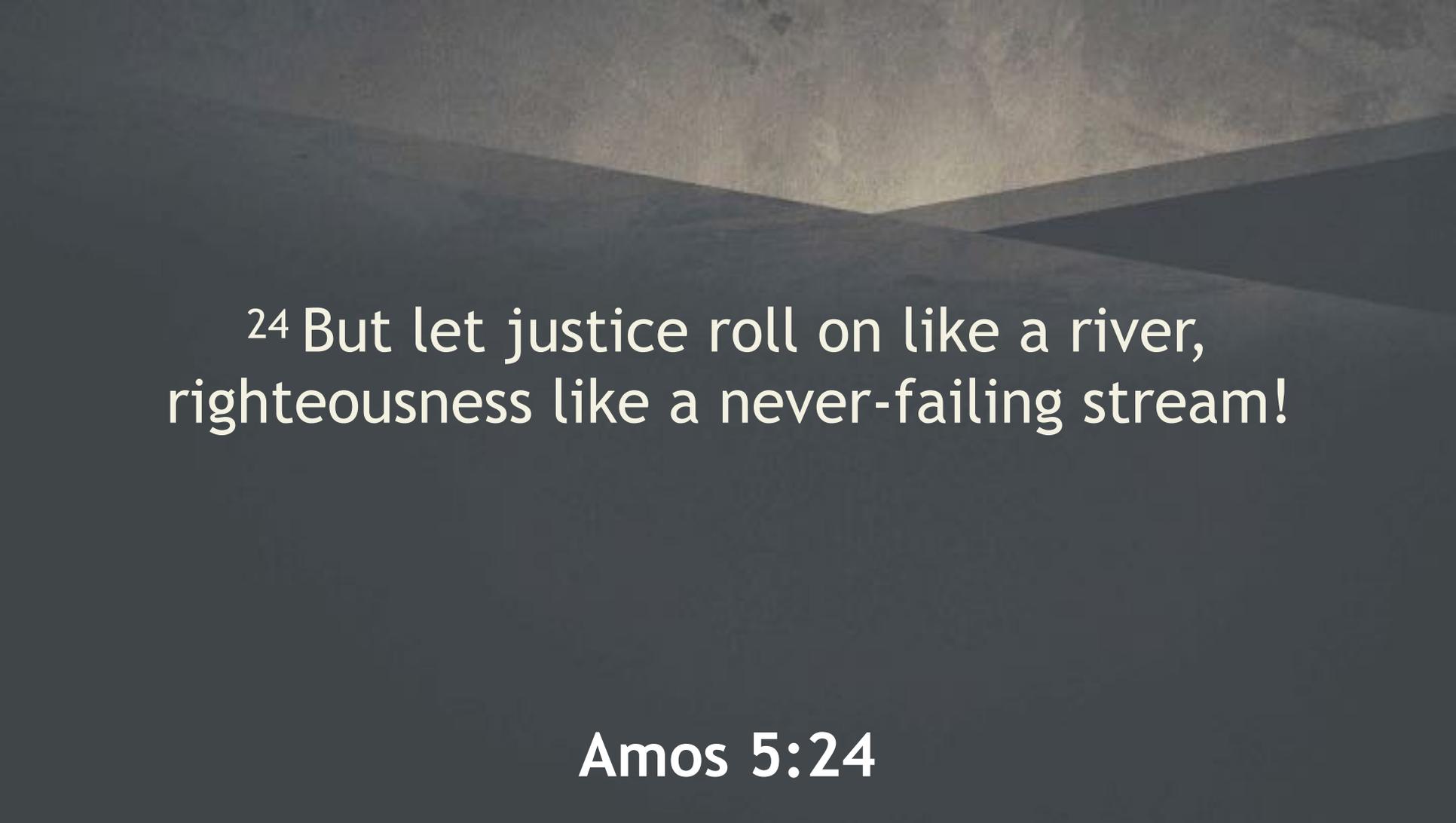
**God's gift of discernment can solve
the most difficult of problems.
You don't have to become a lawyer
or judge to be used of God to
administer justice.**

“Distinguishing between spirits”

1 Corinthians 12:10

**Godly wisdom and discernment
transcends time and is relevant
for any context**

**The purpose of discernment is
to stand for truth, restore the order
of God and make the
world a better place**



24 But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Amos 5:24

⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you? To
act justly and to love mercy and to walk
humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

“It is not coincidental that a lack of discernment and a neglected Bible are so often found in company.”

Jen Wilkin, *In His Image*



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a biblical theology series