

The story goes that An angel appears at a faculty meeting and tells the dean that in return for his unselfish behavior and exemplary life, the Lord will reward him with infinite wealth, wisdom or beauty. Without hesitation the dean selects infinite wisdom.

Done ways the angel, who disappears in a clap of thunder and a flash of bright light. Now all eyes are on the dean, who is bathed in a halo of radiance. At length one of his colleagues urges him, Say something.

The dean looks at them with the wisdom of Solomon, and says—I should have taken the money.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The author of this pithy piece of advice was King Solomon. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The Hebrew word for fear in this passage is “yirah” – piety or holy fear. Reverence. We can also use words like respect devotion, awe, and honor to interpret this verse.

Wisdom. . . Someone once said Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have preferred to do the talking.

The Hebrew word for wisdom (*hokmah*) is related to a root meaning "skill" or "care" and came to imply "skill in living."

An interesting definition of wisdom appears on a website about [systems thinking](#). Here it says that information answers the questions of who, what, when & where, while knowledge or wisdom is the application of information and answers the question, “how?” Understanding is the appreciation of “whys of life?” And wisdom equips us with skill in living.

1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight. ^[a]

11:28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Anybody here know anything about Solomon??

He wrote over 3000 proverbs, 1500 songs, the Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes.

He was the third king of a united Israel. The son of King David and Bathsheba. Saul was Israel's first king, but God wanted David on the throne, and he ruled wisely and justly for 40 years. King David had a pretty dysfunctional family, in fact his family was about as dysfunctional as they get (read the story in 2 Samuel).but he loved the Lord and he was man after God's own heart. He fathered a son with his wife Bathsheba. Yes, that Bathsheba. And his name was Solomon. Solomon ascended the throne about a thousand years before Jesus was born. He was the third king to rule over a united nation of Israel, and he did so for 40 years. King Solomon was renowned for his wisdom, his wealth and his writings., and his wives. His greatest achievement was the completion of a lavish temple to God in Jerusalem. It was considered a wonder of the ancient world.

In the beginning, he was a just and wise ruler, much sought after throughout the civilized world of his day for his sage advice. I suspect that Solomon must have been a man after God's own heart, just like his dad.. Because he asked God for some knowledge and understanding and God broke the wisdom bank for him.

The wisdom of Solomon was legend in the ancient middle eastern world.

The story goes that two women came before a young King Solomon arguing over the maternity of a baby boy. One woman claimed the other's baby had died at birth, and she had stolen the child away. The other woman accused her of malicious lying. The argument grew heated, neither was willing to relent.

King Solomon told them he had arrived at a way of settling the argument. He took out his sword and prepared to rend the child in half, rationalizing that this way each woman could have a piece of the baby. Just as his arm was ready to strike the blow. One woman was prepared to accept the decision, but the other begged the King to give the live baby to the other woman. Solomon then knew the second woman was the mother.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Solomon had cornered the market on wisdom. But sad to say, towards the end of his reign he came undone. What was it that St. Paul wrote? "Be careful how you live, not as unwise people but as wise. Making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit., Sad to say, women and horses were his undoing. In addition to

courting 300 wives, he had almost twice that many concubines. It takes a lot of money to keep the little family together, you know. He also had 12,000 horses. It takes a lot of hay and oats to feed that many horse.

.So he levied harsh taxation burdens on the people in his old age. He also built temples and shrines to their foreign gods. He lost his fear of the Lord. In the end Solomon ignored his own advice.

He paid a high price. The united kingdom that had known peace and prosperity for over 100 years split into a divided nation. Israel in the north, and the kingdom of Judah in the south. The Assyrians came in and conquered the northern Kingdom in the 700s, and the Babylonians destroyed Judah and tore down the walls of Jerusalem in the 500s. The kingdom was never the same again. And in Jesus day, it had become a territory of the Roman empire.

Solomon had his head turned by the lure of the good-life. He was snookered by the ways of the world, by foreign glitz and trendy religious viewpoints. He listened to too many voices. He was willing to use his power to gratify his own hedonistic needs. Human nature.

It hasn't changed much in three thousand years. We are still ready, willing and able to run after our foreign gods. . .the good life idols that get in the way of the God-life goal.

Home Shopping Network, Best Buy, Harrah's, ESPN, fill in the blank.

That's why Jesus' wisdom for grace and new life – the 2009 survival kit for the God life, is so essential for the straying Solomon's in each one of us.

Eat of my flesh, drink of my blood, and I will give you new life.

If we interpret this with a restaurant mentality, it can almost seem repulsive. Jesus' words shock us. Consume my flesh, imbibe my body fluid? What kind of advice is this?

Look more closely. He's inviting us to become part of him. He's inviting us to an intimate and internal relationship that produces lasting and eternal rewards. To become flesh of his flesh, to be blood of his blood, this gives us life in him. His DNA becomes our DNA. Wherever we are, he is. Whoever we are, he is. Whenever we are, he is. And wherever, whenever, whosoever he is, we are.

Solomon had enormous wisdom. His writings are a handy little instruction book on how to live the God-life. But it is not fool proof. The foolishness of Egypt can entice us away from the God-life into a materialism based good-life. Jesus on the other hand IS the God-life. He tells us he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. And he keeps us in the holy awe, the reverent understanding, the fearsome wonder of God our Father, who gives us wisdom and skill for living.