Blackboard.



## WISDOM GIVEN BY GOD

TO

WORLDLY ISDOM

HIS FOLLOWERS.

SIGHT

## RICHES

OF

GOLD SILVER. HEAVEN
INCORRUPTIBLE
NHERITANCE.

WHICH IS BETTER?

## TRUE WISDOM FROM ABOVE

BE WISE THEREFORE

RECEIVE

REGARD

THY

SIGHT

SAVIOUR

LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN.

## Before the Class.

Introduction. Give the class some idea of the extent of Solomon's kingdom which at this time extended from the river Euphrates to the borders of

Egypt. Solomon had subjugated all the surrounding small nations, but probably many of the kings remained on their thrones reigning as tributaries to him.

From the parallel accounts in 2 Chron. 1. 13-17; 9, 13-28, and the accounts in 1 Kings 10, 14-29, and Eccles. 2. 4-9, picture to the class the wealth and magnificence of the king. The one verse, Eccles. 2, 10, gives us in one sentence an idea of the wealth and power of Solomon and the way he used themfor his own gratification. In this connection recall God's promise to Solomon concerning riches, and point to these things as an abundant fulfillment of that promise.

Development of the text. Under Solomon the kingdom reached its height of prosperity and glory. Peace was assured to all, and with peace came prosperity. The first verse pictures to us an ideal scene but a true one up to near the close of Solomon's reign, when troubles began to multiply. Draw from the class their ideas of true peace and prosperity. Picture the future time of peace when "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb" (Isa. 11. 6-9). Impress the thought of true peace as being from God as the result of a "conscience void of offense."

But we see in the next verse a record of Solomon's disobedience (Deut. 17. 16). He had already turned aside from a close following of God's commands (I Kings 3. 1), and here again we have a glumpse showing that he was in danger of not having the conditional promise (I Kings 3. 14) fulfilled unto him.

From the twenty-ninth to the thirty-fourth verses we have a general account of his wisdom. Bring before the class the following outline concerning Solomon's wisdom: a. A gift of God; b. Greater than all others; c. Shown in proverbs, songs, knowledge of natural sciences, solving of hard questions, in adjusting legal cases (1 Kings 3, 16-28); d. Spread of his fame and visits from many people.

In spite of all this wealth and wisdom Solomon failed to follow the exhortation of his father David to "keep the charge of the Lord, thy God, to walk in his ways."

Specific application. It would be hardly worth while to spend the time in a study of an ancient king's wealth and wisdom unless God had some very plain lessons for each one of us to-day.

We see in this lesson how God had abundantly fulfilled his promises to Solomon, and given him wealth and wisdom, and all his heart could desire. With these gifts came great responsibilities and great temptations. Solomon was not equal to the strain and fell. Many to-day desire what Solomon had—worldly wisdom and great earthly riches. It may be a great blessing to them that God withholds from them these desires, for riches might prove their ruin. Give the class this problem in arithmetic: "What shall it profit a man if he shall

gain the who But there is dom which Go from above or thing far bette incorruptible i faithful.

Turn to God wisdom, and w selves treasure them when ent

Bring out as resting upon ea the good of oth world God may treasures in he prosperity.

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The Illustration lesson as an existed ying in due of prophecy was at from the edge of tes. It was the libetaken even to-

GOLDEN Aut

1 The Proverbs king of Is'ra-el;

2 To know wisd the words of under 3 To receive the

and judgment, and
4 To give subtil

5 A wise man wiing; and a man of wise counsels:

6 To understand tion; the words of ings.

7 The fear of the knowledge: but footion.

8 My son, hear th forsake not the law of 9 For they shall be thy head, and chains

10 My son, if sinn