

LESSONS FROM

King Solomon

1 Kings 3:3-14

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Introduction

FOUR MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Legendary Wisdom**
- **Construction Wonders**
 - **Royal palace complex**
- **Establishing a Trade Empire**
- **Fortification and Urban Development**

Introduction

SYSTEMIC FAILURES AND PERSONAL COMPROMISES

- **Moral Failures and Idolatry**
- **Oppressive Taxation and Conscripted Labor**
- **The Fractured Kingdom**



LESSON 1

**Always Remember
Your Key Success Factor**

1 KINGS 3: 3-14 (ESV)

³ Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places. ⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.



1 KINGS 3: 3-14 (ESV)

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”



1 KINGS 3: 3-14 (ESV)

6 And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day.



1 KINGS 3: 3-14 (ESV)

7 And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude.



1 KINGS 3: 3-14 (ESV)

9 Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” 10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.



1 KINGS 3: 3-14 (ESV)

11 And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,



1 KINGS 3: 3-14 (ESV)

¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.



1 KINGS 3: 3-14 (ESV)

13 I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. 14 And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”



Lesson 1:

Always Remember Your Key Success Factor

**What was Solomon's
key success factor?**



Lesson 1:

Always Remember Your Key Success Factor

- **Solomon knew that he needed God on his side.**
- **Instead of jumping straight into business, Solomon organised a prayer meeting.**



Lesson 1:

Always Remember Your Key Success Factor

- **When God gave him a blank cheque to ask for anything, Solomon asked God to grant him a discerning heart.**
- **God was pleased with Solomon, and granted his prayer request and so much more.**



Lesson 1:

Always Remember Your Key Success Factor

- **God was the key success factor in Solomon's life.**
- **We may not have great gifts like Solomon's wisdom.**
- **We all can draw on Solomon's success factor.**



Lesson 1:

Always Remember Your Key Success Factor

- Humble ourselves before God and boldly ask God for His blessings.**





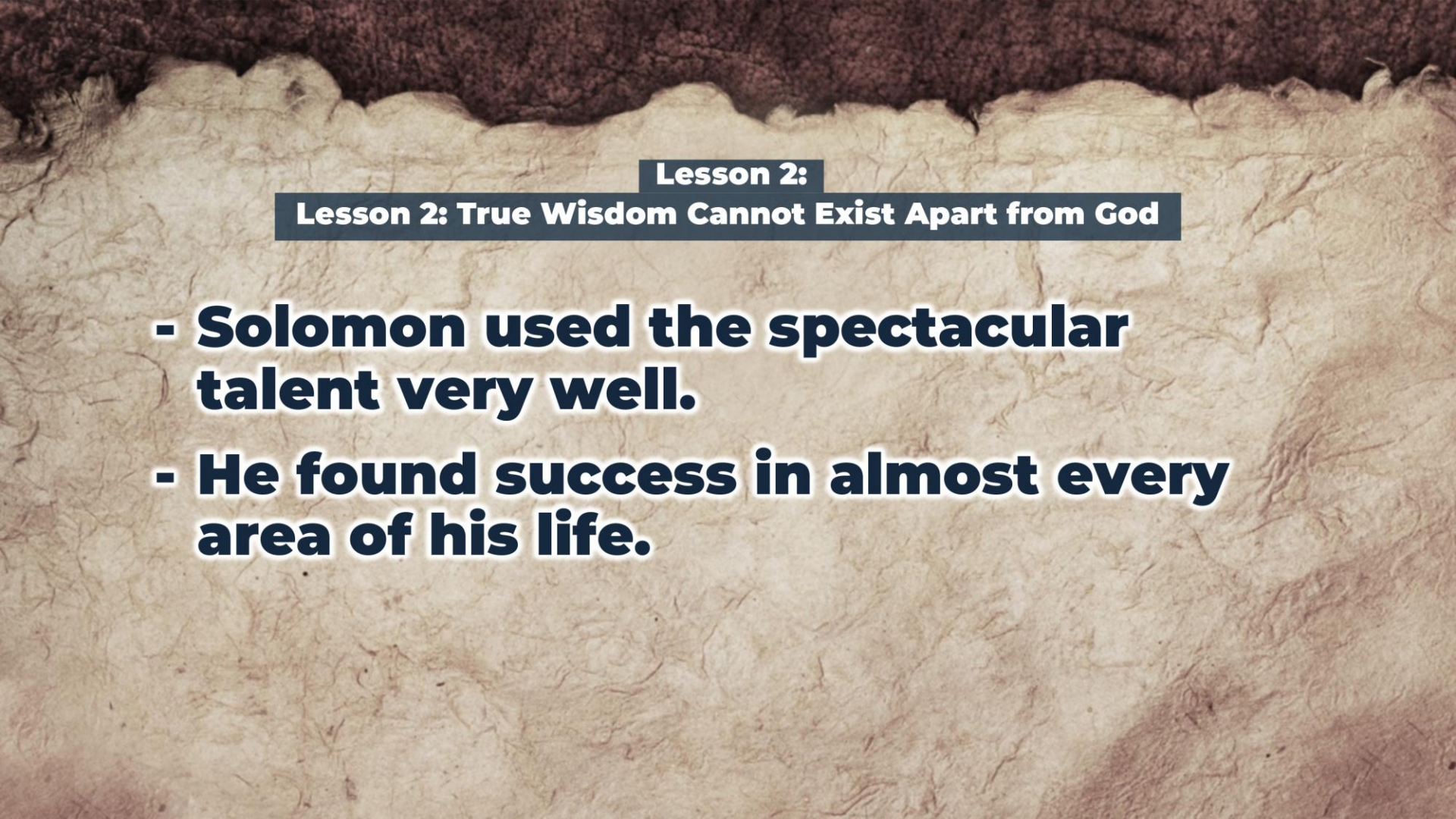
LESSON 2

True Wisdom Cannot Exist Apart from God

1 KINGS 4:29 (NIV)

29 God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

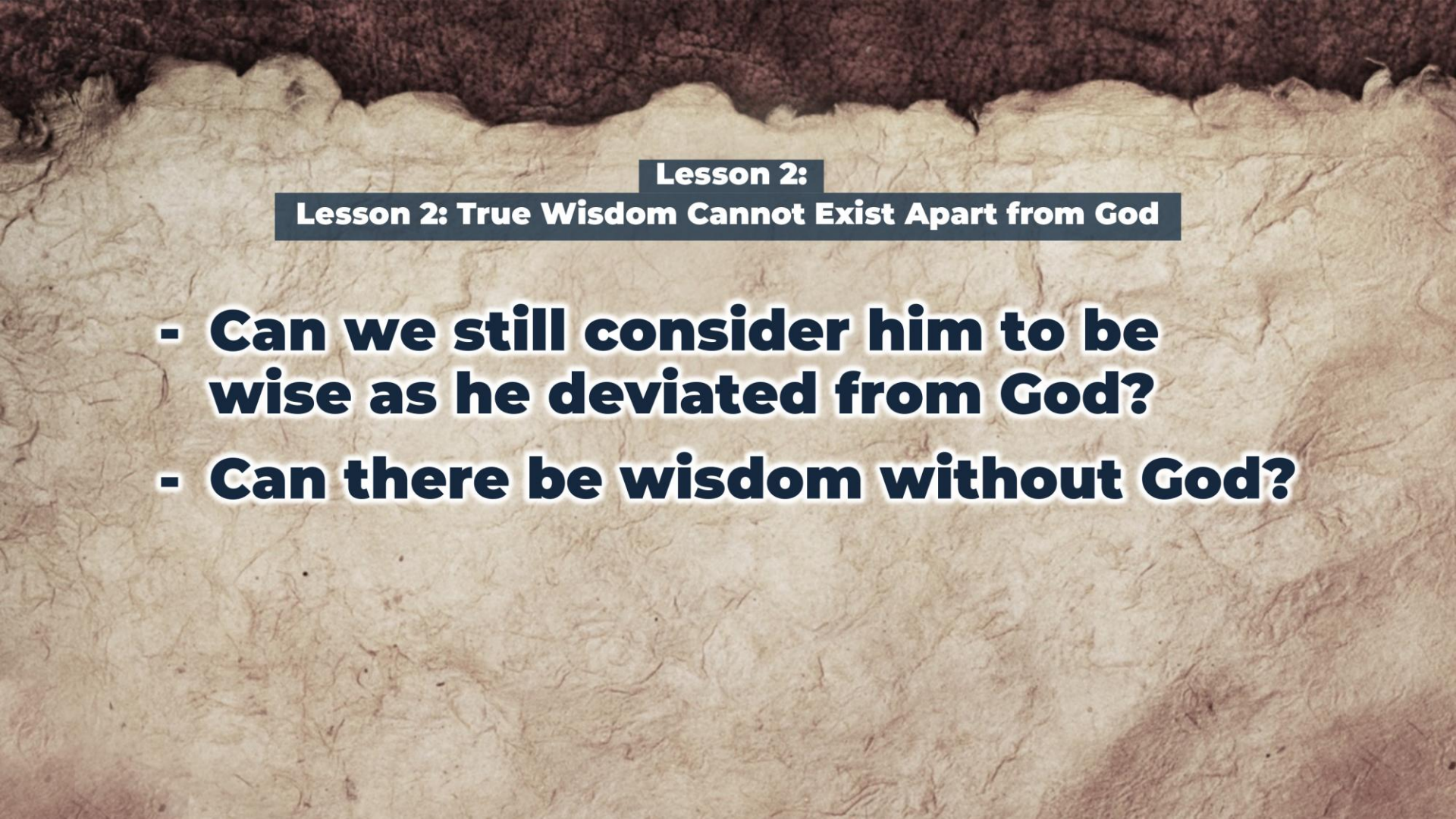




Lesson 2:

Lesson 2: True Wisdom Cannot Exist Apart from God

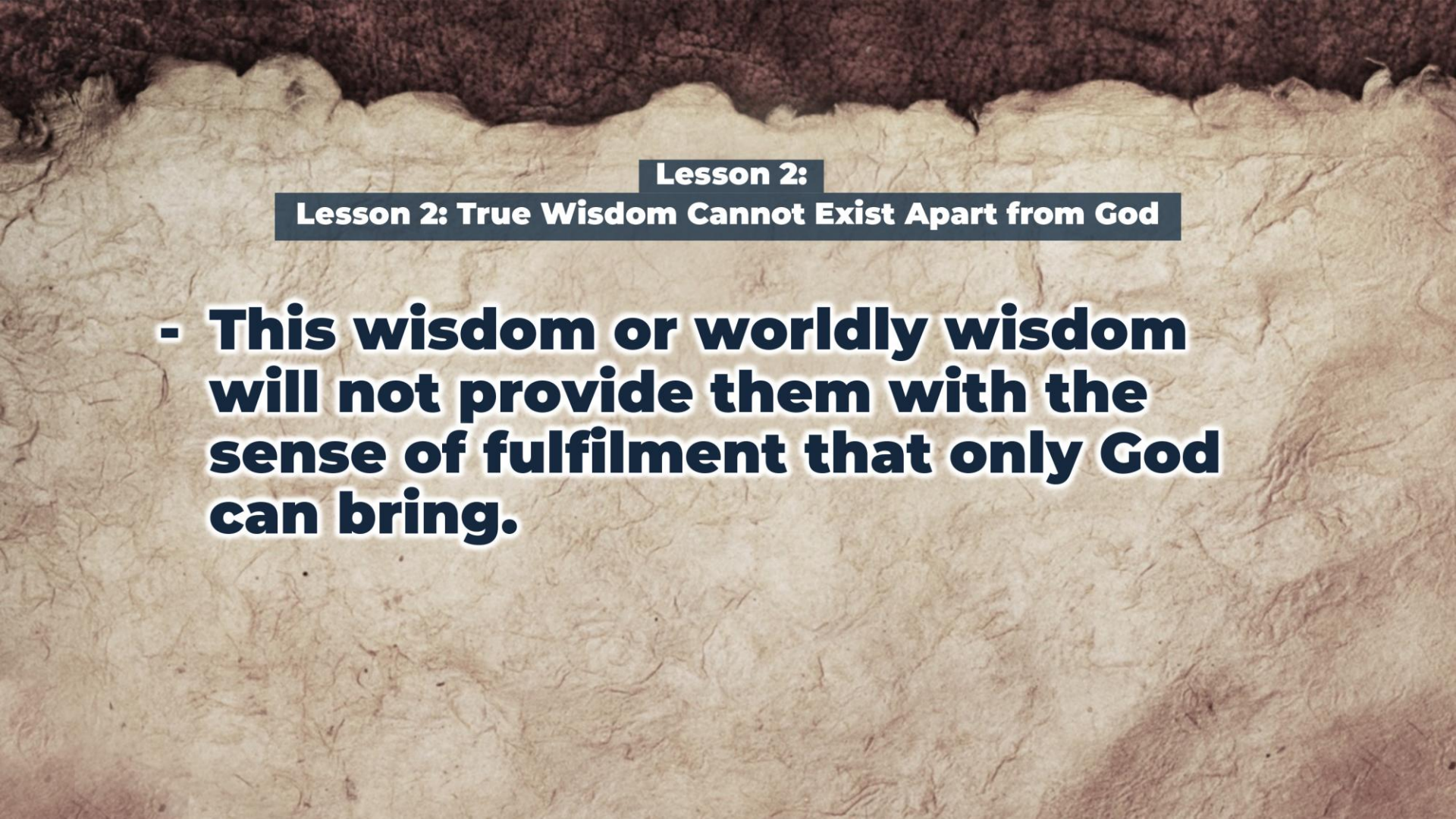
- Solomon used the spectacular talent very well.**
- He found success in almost every area of his life.**



Lesson 2:

Lesson 2: True Wisdom Cannot Exist Apart from God

- **Can we still consider him to be wise as he deviated from God?**
- **Can there be wisdom without God?**



Lesson 2:

Lesson 2: True Wisdom Cannot Exist Apart from God

- **This wisdom or worldly wisdom will not provide them with the sense of fulfilment that only God can bring.**

ECCLESIASTES 1:12-14 (NIV)

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.



Lesson 2:

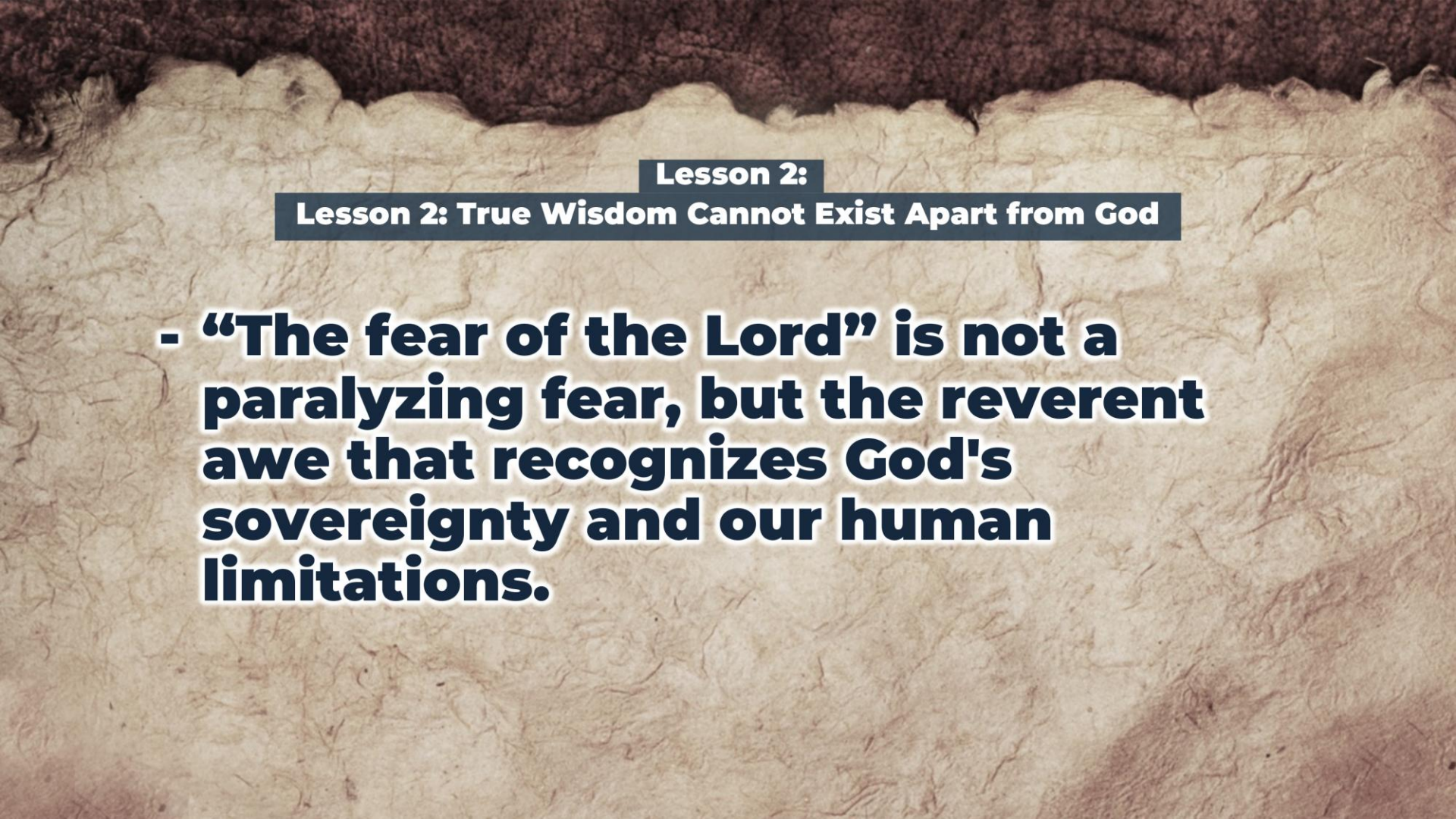
Lesson 2: True Wisdom Cannot Exist Apart from God

- The man with all his wisdom and achievements will come to nothing if God is not in the picture.**

PROVERBS 9:10 (NIV)

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.





Lesson 2:

Lesson 2: True Wisdom Cannot Exist Apart from God

- **“The fear of the Lord” is not a paralyzing fear, but the reverent awe that recognizes God's sovereignty and our human limitations.**

Lesson 2:

Lesson 2: True Wisdom Cannot Exist Apart from God

- This is Solomon's story:**
 - The wise man who failed to follow his own wisdom.**



LESSON 3

**Hearts Do Not Change Suddenly,
It Starts with Small Compromises**

1 KINGS 11:1-4 (NIV)

¹ King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter - Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites.



1 KINGS 11:1-4 (NIV)

² They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, “You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.” Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love.



1 KINGS 11:1-4 (NIV)

³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. ⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.



DEUTERONOMY 17:16-17 (NIV)

16 The king, moreover, **must not acquire great numbers of horses** for himself or make the people **return to Egypt** to get more of them, for the Lord has told you, **“You are not to go back that way again.”**



DEUTERONOMY 17:16-17 (NIV)

17 He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.



1 KINGS 2:1-3 (NIV)

¹ When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.

² “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, act like a man,



1 KINGS 2:1-3 (NIV)

3 and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go...



1 KINGS 3:14 (ESV)

14 And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”



1 KINGS 6:11-12 (NIV)

11 The word of the Lord came to Solomon: 12 “As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father.



1 KINGS 9:4-5 (NIV)

⁴“As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, ⁵ I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father ...”



Lesson 3:

Hearts Do Not Change Suddenly, It Starts with Small Compromises

- **Solomon entered into an alliance with Egypt and marry his first foreign wife immediately after ascending to the throne.**



Lesson 3:

Hearts Do Not Change Suddenly, It Starts with Small Compromises

- **The compromise was never corrected and as he grew older, he married hundreds more wives even though God had forbidden marrying foreign women.**



Lesson 3:

Hearts Do Not Change Suddenly, It Starts with Small Compromises

- **Solomon had 12,000 horses.**
- **Solomon accumulated 900 tons of gold and silver was very abundant.**



Lesson 3:

Hearts Do Not Change Suddenly, It Starts with Small Compromises

- In the sight of men, Solomon's wisdom and brilliance brought great blessings to the kingdom, yet in the sight of God, these were worth nothing.**



Lesson 3:

Hearts Do Not Change Suddenly, It Starts with Small Compromises

- **If compromises or disobedient attitudes are not addressed from the start, they will worsen over time or when success comes.**



JOHN 14:15 (ESV)

15 “If you love me, you will keep My commandments.”



Lesson 3:

Hearts Do Not Change Suddenly, It Starts with Small Compromises

- **Each small compromise will become the world's foothold against our faith.**
- **Footholds can become fortified strongholds, leaving us powerless to break free.**



Lesson 3:

Hearts Do Not Change Suddenly, It Starts with Small Compromises

- Eventually, our heart may also turn after other gods.**





LESSON 4

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

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Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- **1 Kings 2:1-3 says that when King David was about to die, his last words to his son were:**
 - **act like a man**
 - **observe what the Lord your God requires**



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- **David knew that God was the source of his success.**
- **That was the most important life lesson to pass on.**
- **Solomon learned this from his father and turned to God.**



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- Parents and the older generation are supposed to guide our children and the next generation toward God.**



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- What is the most important life lesson you want to pass on to your children or the next generation?**



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- **Solomon grew up under the shadow of his father's moral flaws, and as he grew older, he repeated and amplified his weakness for women.**



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- Our actions can also have a lasting impact on our children and the next generation.**



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- The wisest king of all times did not have anything specific to say to his son.**



PROVERBS 1:8-9 (NIV)

- 8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction
and do not forsake your mother's teaching.**
- 9 They are a garland to grace your head and
a chain to adorn your neck.**



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- **What did Rehoboam inherit from his father?**
- **Rehoboam likely have seen King Solomon from a distance as a powerful figure, revered by all people as he indulged in everything imaginable.**



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- Rehoboam decided on the way he intended to rule the people by surpassing his father in power, authority and control.**



1 KINGS 14:13-14 (NIV)

13 The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, **14** he followed the advice of the young men and said, “My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.”



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- We can pass down wealth, education, legacy or even theology but what if we fail to pass down genuine worship?**



Lesson 4:

Our Actions Have Lasting Impact on the Next Generation

- **We must not only teach with words, but more importantly we model with actions.**





LESSON 5

There is Hope Even When We Stray

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There is Hope Even When We Stray



- Would we see Solomon in Heaven?

Lesson 5:

There is Hope Even When We Stray



- **Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that life was meaningless.**
- **Hebrew word 'Hevel' - meaning 'vapor' or 'smoke', conveys that life is fleeting, elusive, and impossible to fully control.**

ECCLESIASTES 12:13 (NIV)

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

- This was the conclusion of the wisest king who ever lived.**



JOHN 3:16 (NIV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.



Lesson 5:

There is Hope Even When We Stray



- I am 100% sure that if you believe in God and acknowledge Him, that your sins will be forgiven and you will be on your way to heaven.**

Lesson 5:
There is Hope Even When We Stray



- **The conclusion: love God and keep His commandments, for He first loved you.**

Pray for Ourselves and LSBC:

Return to God if we have strayed or have been making small compromises. Ask God for strength to remove those strongholds, bad habits or ungodly behaviours.

Pray for Our Next Gen:

That they will inherit our legacy of worship, devotion to God and knowing that God is their success factor. Break every generation curse that is passed down from previous generations.

Pray for Singapore:

That we will not forget God as we enjoy success and prosperity. That we will remember to be a blessing to the vulnerable, poor and needy locally and internationally. To fulfil our call as th Antioch of Asia.