

Solomon's Wealth: 2 Chronicles 1:13-17 Explained

Scriptures for Today: 2 Chronicles 1:13-17

""2 Chronicles 1:13-17

Then Solomon came from his journey to the high place that was at Gibeon to Jerusalem, from before the tabernacle of the congregation, and reigned over Israel. 14 And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, which he placed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. 15 And the king made silver and gold at Jerusalem as plenteous as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that are in the vale for abundance. 16 And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. 17 And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so brought they out horses for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means.""

Introduction — The Story That Leads to Solomon

To understand these five verses, we must step back and see the entire movement of Scripture that brings us here.

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. Man fell into sin, and death entered the world. But God promised a Redeemer in Genesis 3:15. That promise flowed through Noah after the flood, through Abraham when God called him out of Ur, and through Isaac and Jacob. From Jacob came twelve sons, and from them came the nation of Israel.

That nation went down into Egypt. God delivered them by power under Moses, split the Red Sea, gave them the Law at Sinai, and formed them into a covenant people. He brought them into the land under Joshua. They conquered cities. They inherited promise.

Then they drifted during the period of the Judges. Then they demanded a king. Saul reigned first. Saul failed. David rose: shepherd, warrior, worshiper. God made a covenant with David:

""2 Samuel 7:16

And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.""

David unified the kingdom, defeated enemies, brought the ark to Jerusalem, and prepared abundantly for the Temple. But God told him his son would build it.

""1 Chronicles 22:9-10

Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all

his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. 10 He shall build an house for my name.""

David dies. Solomon ascends. The kingdom is united. The enemies are subdued. The promise is active. The Temple is about to be built. Israel stands at the height of possibility.

Summary of 2 Chronicles 1:1–12 — The Night of Wisdom

Before wealth came, worship came.

""2 Chronicles 1:1–3

And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him, and magnified him exceedingly. 2 Then Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every governor in all Israel, the chief of the fathers. 3 So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.""

The Temple is not yet built. The tabernacle remains at Gibeon. Solomon gathers leadership and goes where sacrifice is offered.

""2 Chronicles 1:6

And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it.""

One thousand burnt offerings. That night, God appears to Solomon.

""2 Chronicles 1:7

In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee.""

Solomon answers humbly.

""2 Chronicles 1:10

Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?""

God responds:

""2 Chronicles 1:11–12

And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: 12 Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.""

Now we see that promise unfold. We are moving to the new verses for today. Let's start there in verse 13 and look at this in detail, word by word.

Verse 13 — From the Altar to Authority

""2 Chronicles 1:13

Then Solomon came from his journey to the high place that was at Gibeon to Jerusalem, from before the tabernacle of the congregation, and reigned over Israel.""

Look closely at this verse. Solomon was already reigning from Jerusalem. He gathered leadership. He traveled from Jerusalem to the high place at Gibeon. He worshipped there at Gibeon where the tabernacle was located. He worshipped there. God appeared to him there. Now he is returning back to Jerusalem.

He comes from worship to rule. He begins at the altar before strengthening the throne. And that order matters. Make sure you understand that for your life. Worship God before you expect strength and wisdom from God.

Leadership that begins in communion with God is stable. Leadership that abandons communion becomes unstable. Solomon returns to Jerusalem and reigns over Israel. At this moment, everything is aligned correctly.

Verse 14 — The Multiplying of Chariots

""2 Chronicles 1:14

And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, which he placed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.""

This is military dominance. Chariots were the advanced war machines of the ancient world. Israel becomes a regional superpower. But God had already warned future kings earlier in the Bible:

""Deuteronomy 17:16

But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.""

Solomon multiplies horses. He strengthens military infrastructure. He organizes chariot cities. It looks strategic. It looks wise. It looks strong. But visible strength can slowly replace spiritual dependence.

Don't allow the physical things of this world to deceive you. You can multiply horses all you want and think you're becoming stronger and stronger, but you need the strength of the Almighty God with you. When we disobey God, we are losing that strength.

Verse 15 – Wealth Without Measure

""2 Chronicles 1:15

And the king made silver and gold at Jerusalem as plenteous as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycomore trees that are in the vale for abundance.""

Silver becomes common. Gold is abundant. Cedar flows into Jerusalem. This is prosperity at a level Israel had never seen. God kept His promise.

But prosperity is a greater test than poverty. When you are weak, you pray. When you are blessed, you must guard your heart.

Prosperity is often a greater test than poverty. When you are weak, you know you need God. When you are struggling, you cry out. But when strength multiplies and silver becomes common, the temptation is subtle confidence. You stop feeling desperate. You stop feeling dependent. You start feeling secure.

And security without dependence on God is the first step toward drift. That is why success must be handled more carefully than suffering. People drift away more and more. In general, people who are in trouble rely on God. And people who think they are secure do not.

Verse 16 – Egypt Reenters Quietly

""2 Chronicles 1:16

And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price.""

Egypt, the land of former bondage, becomes a trade partner. The same nation that enslaved Israel for four hundred years is now supplying Solomon's military strength. This is not open rebellion. Solomon is not worshiping Egyptian gods at this moment.

But, he is violating clear instruction. God had said not to multiply horses and not to return to Egypt for them. Solomon is strengthening the kingdom in a way God had already warned against.

He is beginning to rely on military strength instead of relying fully on the Lord. It feels practical. It feels intelligent. But obedience is not measured by what feels practical. Drift rarely begins dramatically. It begins reasonably. It begins small. And it gets worse from there.

Verse 17 — International Influence Expands

""2 Chronicles 1:17

And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so brought they out horses for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means.""

Now here's what is actually happening. Look at the verse closely. Solomon is not sending horses **to Egypt**. He is buying horses **from Egypt**. Egypt was known for strong horses and chariots. So Solomon's merchants go to Egypt, purchase chariots and horses at set prices, and bring them into Israel.

But here's the second part — and this is important: Israel then becomes a middleman. Solomon does not just buy for himself. He buys in bulk and then resells to other kings.

The phrase: "so brought they out horses for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means" means this: Through Solomon's trading system, horses were supplied to the kings of the Hittites and Syria.

In simple terms: Egypt → Solomon buys. Solomon → resells to other nations. Israel becomes a weapons distributor. The United States copies this strategy too. Solomon turns the kingdom into a regional military trade hub. That is what the verse is saying.

Now here's why that matters. Israel was supposed to be distinct. Israel was supposed to rely on the Lord. Instead, Solomon is building economic strength through international military trade. And here's the bigger picture:

When you build strong economic ties with pagan nations, you build political relationships. When you build political relationships, you build personal alliances. When you build personal alliances, you create marriages. And marriages bring influence. Later, we read:

""1 Kings 11:4

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods.""

It did not start with idols. It started with alliances. It started with trade. It started with normal, reasonable cooperation with surrounding nations. That is the seed. Not dramatic rebellion. Gradual entanglement.

So in simple terms: Solomon is not just strengthening Israel's army. He is turning Israel into an international military supplier. That ties Israel's future to pagan nations. And that connection will later open the door to compromise. That's what's happening here.

Practical Applications: 2 Chronicles 1:13-17

- 1. Stay near the altar even after God blesses you.** Solomon began at Gibeon. He stood before the altar. He sought wisdom before wealth. That is the right order. But elevation does not remove the need for dependence. The higher God lifts you, the closer you must stay to Him. Do not let prosperity move you away from the place that produced it.
- 2. Prosperity can quietly shift your trust.** Chariots multiplied. Silver increased. Trade expanded. Egypt became useful again. No one wakes up and announces spiritual drift. It happens gradually. Visible strength begins to feel secure. Guard your heart more carefully in success than in struggle.
- 3. Small compromises are not small.** Multiplying horses looked strategic. Trading with Egypt looked wise. But God had already spoken. Major collapse does not begin with idols. It begins with tolerated disobedience. The divided kingdom begins in decisions like these.
- 4. Blessing does not equal permanent approval.** Jerusalem was wealthy beyond imagination. Yet seeds of drift were present. Outward prosperity does not guarantee inward obedience. Measure your life by faithfulness, not by increase.

Conclusion — The Height Before the Division

2 Chronicles 1:13–17 shows Israel at its strongest. United. Wealthy. Influential. Blessed. But hidden inside that blessing are the first signs of drift.

Here is the sermon in one sentence: "**When obedience does not increase with blessing, blessing becomes the beginning of decline.**"

Solomon rose higher than any king before him. But the direction of the heart mattered more than the size of the kingdom.

Let's pray.