The Conclusion Of The Whole Matter

King Solomon took over the throne of God's people directly from his father, King David, who designated him as successor. While Solomon's older brother, Adonijah, attempted to seize the throne, David ordered Solomon to be anointed king to ensure the succession was rightful in God's eyes (1 Kings 1:5-30).

When Solomon became the rightful king of Israel, God granted him a request. "At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and said, Ask, What shall I give you?" (1 Kings 3:5). At this point Solomon would have been within his province to ask literally anything. However, very humbly Solomon by looking at himself for who he is in respect to physical life, but more importantly in comparison to the actual King Himself, God. "Now, O Lord my God, You have made your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in" (1 Kings 3:7). Solomon follows this statement by asking God for “an understanding heart to judge your people that I may discern between good and evil” (1 Kings 1:9). Solomon’s request was for wisdom that he might lead God’s people in the correct way. Thus, God bestowed upon him a degree of wisdom that made him the wisest man who had ever lived. God's reply, "I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like before you, nor shall any like you arise after you" (1 Kings 5:12). In addition, because Solomon’s request was so selfless, God bestowed upon him great wealth (1 Kings 5:13).

The rational therefore exist that Solomon’s wisdom not only surpassed that of all people who were alive during his day, and all who had ever lived before him, but that it also surpassed the wisdom of all who have lived since him and all who will

ever live upon the earth. The only exception being Jesus, when He lived on this earth dwelling in a man's body.

Solomon wrote many of the Proverbs, noted for their pointed wisdom. He also penned the book of Ecclesiastes. While Ecclesiastes certainly bears a different tone than that of the Proverbs, it is filled with Solomon's wisdom. One can see his great wisdom by what he ultimately concludes about life.

Solomon begins Ecclesiastes by declaring "...all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:2). He is speaking about life here on earth. He then proceeds into a lengthy discourse explaining why all is vanity. Moving through the book, he states that he had indulged himself in fulfilling all of his desires. Still, he reasoned, "all was vanity and grasping for the wind" (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11). Overall, the book itself is presented in a somewhat dreary, negative manner.

Clearly, what emerges as Solomon ends his discourse is a true display of why he was the wisest man to ever live. The next to the last verse of the last chapter (chapter 12) is where we see Solomon's wisdom clearly shinning through. He declares, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). When Solomon had lived his life, when he had experienced life through the eyes of divinely enhanced wisdom, when he had enjoyed the far reaching pleasures that the power and wealth of a king could satisfy, he concludes that the most important, most meaningful, most accomplishing, most fulfilling thing man can do is to simply submit to God.