

# Rosh Hashanah

O Lord, give us *Leaders* who will Govern in Wisdom

{Introduction}

“Wisdom and knowledge, both recurring *themes* in the Bible, are *related* but *not synonymous*.

The dictionary defines wisdom as “the ability to discern or judge what is *true, right, or lasting*.”

Knowledge, on the other hand, is “information gained through *experience, reasoning, or acquaintance*.”

Knowledge can exist without wisdom, but *not* the other way around.

One can be knowledgeable *without being wise*.

Knowledge is knowing *how* to use a gun;  
wisdom is knowing *when* to use it and *when* to keep it holstered.”  
(Got Questions – web site)

“Wisdom reflects upon (God’s) truth and receives it in a way that affects character and action.”

## A. King Solomon’s Prayer for *Wisdom*

Now Solomon loved the LORD, *walking* in the statutes of his father David, *except* he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there,  
for that was a great high place;  
Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

In Gibeon the LORD *appeared* to Solomon in a dream at night;  
and God said, “Ask what you *wish me to give you*.”

Then Solomon said,  
“You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father,  
according as he *walked* before You in *truth* and *righteousness*  
and *uprightness of heart* toward You;  
and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given  
him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day.

Now O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king  
in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child;  
I do not know how to *go out* or *come in*.

Your servant is in the  
midst of your people which You have *chosen*,  
a great people who cannot be *numbered* or *counted* for multitude.

So **give Your servant** an ***understanding heart***  
to **judge Your people** to **discern** between **good** and **evil**.  
For who is able to **judge** this **great people of Yours?**”

It was **pleasing** in the **sight** of the **Lord** that **Solomon** had **asked** this thing.

**God said** to him, “**Because** you have asked this thing  
and have **not** asked for yourself **long life**,  
**nor** have you asked **riches** for yourself,  
**nor** have you asked for the **life** of your **enemies**,  
but have asked for yourself **discernment** to **understand justice**,  
behold, **I have done** according to **your words**.”

Behold, **I have given** you a **wise** and **discerning heart**,  
so that there has been **no one** like you **before you**,  
**nor** shall **one** like you arise **after you**.”

“**I have also given** you what you have **not asked**,  
both **riches** and **honor**, so that there will **not** be **any** among the **kings**  
**like you** all your days.” (I Kings 3:3-13)

## B. **King Solomon’s Wisdom** for **Kings** and **Leaders**

A **divine decision** is in the **lips** of the **king**;  
**his mouth** should **not err** in **judgment**.

It is an **abomination** for **kings** to **commit wicked acts**,  
for a **throne** is **established** on **righteousness**. (16:10, 12)

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**Loyalty** and **truth** preserve the **king**,  
and he upholds **his throne** by **righteousness**.  
(20:28)

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The **king’s heart** is like **channels of water** in the **hand** of the **LORD**;  
**He turns it** wherever **He wishes**. (21:1)

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It is the **glory of God** to **conceal** a matter,  
but the **glory of kings** is to **search out** a matter. (25:2)

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**Take away** the **wicked** before the **king**,  
and **his throne** will be **established** in **righteousness**. (25:5)

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The **king** gives **stability** to the land **by justice**,  
but a man who **takes bribes** **overthrows it**.

If a **ruler** pays attention to **falsehood**, all his **ministers** **become wicked**.

If a **king** **judges** the **poor** with **truth**,  
**his throne** will be **established forever**. (29:4, 12, 14)

**Righteousness exalts** a nation, but **sin** is a **disgrace** to *any* people. (14:34)

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There is ***no* wisdom** and ***no* understanding**  
and ***no* counsel against the LORD.**

The **horse** is ***prepared*** for the **day** of **battle**,  
but **victory** belongs to the **LORD**. (21:30-31)

## C. *Scriptural* Exhortations for **Kings** and **Leaders**

### 1. Exhorting them to ***Rule* Humbly**

<sup>30</sup> The **king (Nebuchadnezzar)** ***reflected*** and said,  
'Is this not **Babylon the great**, which **I myself** have **built** as a **royal residence**  
by the ***might*** of **my power** and for the ***glory*** of **my majesty**?'

<sup>31</sup> While the **word** was in the **king's mouth**, a **voice** came from **heaven**,  
***saying***, '**King Nebuchadnezzar**, to **you** it is declared:  
**sovereignty** has been **removed** from **you**,

<sup>32</sup> and you will be ***driven away*** from **mankind**, and your **dwelling place**  
***will be*** with the ***beasts*** of the **field**. You will be given ***grass to eat*** like **cattle**,  
and ***seven periods*** of time will ***pass over*** you **until you recognize**  
that the **Most High** is **ruler** over the **realm of mankind**  
and ***bestows it*** on **whomever He wishes...**

<sup>7</sup> **Now I**, **Nebuchadnezzar**, ***praise, exalt*** and ***honor*** the **King** of **heaven**,  
for all **His works** are ***true*** and **His ways just**,  
and **He is able to humble those who walk in *pride***." (Daniel 4:30-32, 37)

### 2. Exhorting them to ***Rule* in the Fear of God**

The **fear of the LORD** is the **beginning** of ***wisdom***,  
and the **knowledge** of the **Holy One** is ***understanding***. (Proverbs 9:10)

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"The **God of Israel** said, the **Rock of Israel** spoke to **me (David)**,  
**he who *rules* over men righteously**,  
**who *rules* in the fear of God**,  
is as the **light** of the **morning** ***when*** the **sun rises**,  
a morning ***without* clouds**, ***when*** the **tender**  
**grass *springs* out of the earth, through sunshine after rain**."  
(II Samuel 23:3-4)

### 3. Exhorting them to ***Rule* Justly**

The **king** gives ***stability*** to the land **by justice**,  
but a **man** who takes ***bribes*** ***overthrows it***. (Proverbs 29:4)

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Then **she** (the **queen of Sheba**) said to the **king (Solomon)**,..  
" **Blessed** be the **LORD your God** who **delighted** in you,

**setting you** on **His throne** as **king** for the **LORD your God**;  
because **your God loved Israel** establishing them forever,  
therefore **He** made you **king over them**,  
to do **justice** and **righteousness**.” (II Chronicles 9:5a, 8)

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**Masters**, grant to your **slaves justice** and **fairness**,  
knowing that **you too** have a **Master in heaven**. (Colossians 4:1)

#### 4. **Exhorting them to Rule Righteously** (by the word of God)

**Loyalty** and **truth** **preserve** the **king**,  
and he **upholds** his **throne** by **righteousness**. (Proverbs 20:28)

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It is an **abomination** for **kings** to commit **wicked acts**,  
for a **throne** is **established** on **righteousness**. (Proverbs 16:12)

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**Righteousness** **exalts** a **nation**,  
but **sin** is a **disgrace** to *any* people. (Proverbs 14:34)

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My **son (king)**, if you will **receive my words**  
and **treasure my commandments** within you,  
<sup>2</sup> Make your **ear** attentive to **wisdom**, incline your **heart** to **understanding**..

For the **LORD** gives **wisdom**;  
from **His mouth** **come knowledge** and **understanding**..

**Then** you will **discern righteousness** and **justice**  
and **equity** and every **good course**. (Proverbs 2:1-2, 9)

#### 5. **Exhorting them to Rule Compassionately**

If a **king** **judges** the **poor** with **truth**,  
**his throne** will be **established forever**. (Proverbs 29:14)

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Thus says **the LORD**, “Go down to the **house** of the **king of Judah**,  
and there speak **this word** and say, ‘**Hear** the **word of the LORD**,  
**O king of Judah**, who sits on **David’s throne**,  
**you** and **your servants** and **your people** who enter these gates.

Thus says **the LORD**, “**Do justice** and **righteousness**, and **deliver**  
the **one** who has been **robbed** from the **power** of **his oppressor**.

Also **do not mistreat** or **do violence** to the **stranger**, the **orphan**, or the **widow**;  
and **do not shed innocent blood** in **this place**. (Jeremiah 22:1-3)

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**He** has told you, **O man (O king)**, what is **good**,  
and what does the **LORD** **require** of you but to **do justice**, to **love kindness**,  
and to **walk humbly** with **your God**? (Micah 6:8)

Closing Comments

# A Rosh Hashanah Prayer

**Avinu Malkeinu, Our Father, Our King**

As we approach this **new year**, we first want to give **You praise** and **thanksgiving** for **You are our God**, and **our Creator**, and **You are worthy of praise**.

**Thank you for sustaining us for another year**, in both **good times** and **bad**, and **thank you** for the **blessed promises** that as **Your children**, we are loved **unconditionally**, and that **nothing** shall **separate us** from the **love You** have for us **in Messiah**.

**Lord**, as we look forward to **another year**, **help us to grow** in our **love** for **You**, and in our **love** for **one another** for these are the **great commands** of scripture.

**Help us to walk** according to **Your righteousness**, and be **living testimonies** of **Your truth**, **Your principles**, **Your goodness**, and **Your grace**.

Like “**living menorahs**,” may we let our **light** so **shine** before **men**, that all may see our **good works** and **glorify You**.

And, though at times it is **difficult**, may we do **all things** without **grumbling** or **disputing**, **proving ourselves** to be **blameless** and **innocent, children of God** in the midst of a **crooked** and **perverse generation**, among whom **we appear** as **lights** in the **world**, holding fast **Your word of life**

Lord **help us to walk** in **integrity**, and be **godly examples** to all people in all that we **say and do**. For the **scriptures** declare that a “**good name**” is to be **valued** more than **riches**.

**Help us** also, as **parents** and **leaders**, to be **slow to anger**, and in **control** of our **words** and **actions**. And **Lord, when we fail**, which we are all **prone** to do at times, grant us the **grace** and **strength** to **confess** our **sins**, and **repent** from our **transgressions**.

For we know that **You** are **faithful** and **righteous** to **forgive us** our **sins** and to **cleanse us** from **all unrighteousness**.

And **Lord God**, grant us the **strength** and the **will** to **pursue forgiveness** and **reconciliation** with **those** who we may have **offended**, or have **offended us**.

As much as it is **up to us**, may we be at **peace** with **all men**.

**Dear God**, as we approach this season of **change** in our country's **leadership**, we **pray** for **wisdom** among the **people** of **our nation**.

May we **choose leaders** with **hearts** like **Solomon**, who **loved You** and **sought** only for a **heart of wisdom**, that he might **better discern** between *good and evil*, and **rule** the people of **Israel entrusted** to him with **righteousness** and **justice**.

**O Lord**, give us **leaders** who will **rule in wisdom**, in **Your wisdom**.  
**Give us leaders** who will have a **reverence** and **fear of God**, who will seek to **promote** and **make decisions** according to the **truths** and **righteous principles** found in **Your word**.

Allow us to have **leaders** and **officials**, who not only have **true compassion** for the **poor**, the **needy**, and **those** who have **suffered injustices**, but also **acknowledge**, as we read tonight, that a **throne** or **nation** is **established by righteousness**.

**Our Father** and **our King**, regardless of the **outcome** of this election year, let us always remember that **You are sovereign** and **in control** of **all things**.  
It is **You** who "**raises up kings** and **brings down kings**."

In closing, we **pray** for **Israel** and **her people**.  
**We pray** for the **peace of Jerusalem**, a **swift end** to **this war**, for the **hostages** to be **released**, and for **wise** and **godly leadership** to rule among both the **Jewish people**, and the **Palestinian people**.  
**We pray** for **many** to **believe** and **embrace Him** who is the **Prince of Peace**.

In this **solemn season**, when the **Jewish people** are seeking **forgiveness**, **atonement** and **life**, may they come to know **eternal life**.  
May "they come to **know You**, the **only true God** and **Jesus the Messiah** whom **You have sent**," and that they be **inscribed** in the **Lamb's book of life—forever**.  
Amen

