

## What Does The Bible Say About Saving And Investing?

The bible actually has quite a bit to say about investing for the future, but I just want to look at one main example and then give a few verses as well. Let's take a look at the "Parable of the Talents" to see what God has to say about investing:

14"*For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. 15"*To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. 16"*Immediately **the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.** 17"*In the same manner **the one who had received the two talents gained two more.**

18"*But **he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.** 19"*Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20"*The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. **See, I have gained five more talents.***' 21"*His master said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful slave You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.***'

22"*Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, '**Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.***' 23"*His master said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.***' 24"*And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. 25'*And **I was afraid, and went**

***away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'***

*26"But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. 27'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. 28'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'*

*29"For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. 30"Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ~ **Matthew 25:14-30***

I believe this to be the clearest picture of investing what God has given us in order to bear fruit for His kingdom. The fact that Jesus actually uses money to illustrate this point, should be a clear indication that God has no problem with Christians who take the money that God has given us responsibility over, and wisely invests it! In fact, he expects it!

To be clear, this passage goes way beyond money and points to whatever talents and spiritual gifts we have. The point is that God expects us to use what He gives us, and it is therefore a sin to bury them in the ground and fail to use it. Because of our economic system, money is the thing that we use in order to sustain us. In times of surplus, we are to give abundantly **and** invest and save for the future, so that in times of lack, we will have provision stored up for us!

This was true in Egypt when God led Joseph to plan to save 20% of the harvest for 7 years in preparation of the devastating famine (**Genesis 41:33-36**). We can also see it in the rebuke of the lazy man in **Proverbs 6:6-11**:

*6 Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,  
7 Which, having no chief, officer or ruler, 8 Prepares her food  
in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest. 9  
How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise  
from your sleep? 10 "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little  
folding of the hands to rest"- 11 Your poverty will come in  
like a vagabond, and your need like an armed man.*

Here are a few more verses about saving and planning & investing for the future:

Proverbs 10:5 – He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.

Proverbs 21:5 – The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty.

Proverbs 24:27 – Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; Afterwards, then, build your house.

Luke 14:28-30 – For which one of you, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

1 Chronicles 22:5 – David said, “My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. Therefore now I will make preparation for it.” So David made ample preparations before his death.

As you can see, God has a lot to say about planning and investing for the future.

**Biblical Investing Principles: A Timeless Resource**

The idea of Biblical investing often brings up an array of mixed emotions and misunderstandings in Christians and non-Christians, alike. However, these misunderstandings usually stem from a misunderstanding of the intention of such investments. Investing, in the biblical sense, is not about hoarding money for the sole purpose of watching it grow. Investing is about being good caretakers of the blessings that we have been given in order to further God's work in the world.

The Bible has numerous examples of those who have both prospered and lived lives that are pleasing to God through the proper management and use of their riches. But not only are there anecdotal examples throughout Scripture, there are also specific tidbits of wisdom and advice, mostly from King Solomon, to help Christians invest wisely and maintain an ethical and spiritual standard that follows the core beliefs of Christianity.

Now you might be wondering what the Bible could possibly say about modern investment theories, and that is a great question. Of course Scripture does not directly relate to the stock market or the "tech bubble," but the fundamental principles of being proper stewards of what God has given us have not changed.

We can learn a great deal about the PRINCIPLES of investing Biblically by closely examining the wisdom of King Solomon, who was known amongst his peers as an individual for whom anything he touched prospered.

Let's briefly touch on two of Solomon's most well-known principles of investing.

**1...Ecclesiastes 5:10. "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money."**

This principle is emphasized throughout Scripture and is a fundamental tenant of investing ethically. Christians do not invest to amass fortunes. We invest because we want to be

good stewards and we want to grow our resources to better serve as caretakers of the world. No matter how much your investment grows, it will not satisfy you or make you happy by itself. King Solomon rightly identifies that making money simply for the sake of being rich is a misplaced motivation.

**2...Ecclesiastes 11:2. “Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.”**

This is the most frequently referenced advice of King Solomon and the meaning for modern investors is clear. Diversification is absolutely essential to weathering the ups and downs of the market. It greatly reduces the risks that are often associated with many investments. This is especially important in an economy that is tentative at best, as is the current economy of the United States. Remember, the goal is long term stewardship, not overnight wealth. To that end, diversification, as suggested by King Solomon is a timeless investment strategy.

Following King Solomon’s principles of investing will both ensure an ethic focus on God and help with best practices.

### **Stewardship Guides Christian Investing**

What makes Christian investing different from investing in general? Like many other investors of different faiths – or none at all – Christian investors buy stocks, bonds, precious metals and real estate. But even though these investing ventures all work the same way, they’re driven by very different perspectives. Unlike their secular counterparts, Christian investors are guided by the understanding that in all things they are stewards of God’s wealth, not their own..

“Have confidence in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not in thy own prudence,” King Solomon tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6. “In all ways think on him, and he will direct thy steps.” For Christian investors, investing decisions aren’t driven by a

wish to build wealth for wealth's own sake – but for the glory of God. And that opens doors to many blessings, including wealth.

## **God Owns - and Rules - All**

Christian investors recognize that God owns everything. As Psalms 24:1 puts it, “The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” That means that even though we can speak of “my money,” “my house,” or “my car,” that’s only a convention of speech. All those things, and everything else in our lives as well, come from God. They’re on loan for our benefit.

So it is with investing. When Christians make investing decisions, it’s not for their own benefit, but for the best use of God’s property. But that’s not all. Along with owning everything in the world, God is also sovereign over it – possessed of supreme power over everything in his domain.

The concept of God’s ownership and sovereignty over everything in the world guides every aspect of Christian investing. It requires care and effort, supported by prayer. And when Christians recognize that they’re investing for God, their investing efforts bear fruit.

## **Stewardship Guides Investing**

If you were asked to make some investments for a friend, you’d do the best job you could to make sure that everything went well. So it is for Christian investors, who recognize that in all things, they act as God’s stewards on earth, charged with the best and most careful management of all that belongs to God.

With stewardship come responsibilities and obligations. Since Christian investors are charged with this duty, they must be proactive, educated and in control of their investing efforts. That means acquiring the knowledge needed to make prudent decisions that lead to good outcomes. There’s no delegating of responsibilities.

Doing justice to the charge of stewardship in investing involves having a clear plan and learning what's necessary to get there – and to weed out the inevitable scammers, schemers and get rich quick promises that crop up along the way.

Christian investors are clear on the purpose of their investing decisions – to advance God's interests, not their own. Setting goals according to God's priorities clarifies goals and the steps needed to achieve them. Recognizing your obligation as God's steward in investing leads you to invest for the highest good.

Christian investors know that in order to be good stewards of God's resources, they need to align other aspects of life with that purpose. Managing money prudently, getting good financial advice and cleaning up any financial missteps are all ways to be a better steward by getting financially fit.

### **Invest For Today - and For Eternity**

Christian investors make their decisions with a sense of urgency as well as timelessness. Because no one knows what the future holds, it's important to act now, rather than put things off. Procrastination isn't in the job description of God's stewards. That's eloquently stated in John 9:4: "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work."

Managing investments as a steward of God means initiating action, rather than waiting for someone else to take care of things, or lazily putting decisions off till tomorrow. Things may be very different then.

That sense of urgency means making your decisions from the perspective of "never put off till tomorrow what you can do today," not jumping at promises of quick riches that require you to take action without a chance to think, or leap at a once in a lifetime "opportunity" that turns out to be a scam. Being a good steward of God's resources calls for

prudence, not recklessness. And investing from that perspective helps the Christian investor see through those empty promises and iffy propositions.

Realizing how important it is to act promptly is part of an outlook that also includes a very long view indeed. The investor who works hard to be a good steward for God's possessions is also looking very far ahead – to eternal life in heaven. And that means a reckoning with God about the handling of that earthly stewardship. Christian investors make decisions today for the glory of God forever – and that keeps investing decisions focused and morally sound.

What about building wealth – the reason many people embark on an investing career in the first place? For the Christian investor, wealth is the gift of God and not an end in itself. And with faith that generous sowing means generous reaping, the Christian investor trusts that good decisions made with the guidance of the Lord will yield rewards not just here on earth but in heaven.

For Christian investors, the tools of investors everywhere take on a higher meaning. As Jason Hartman says, becoming educated and staying in control of the whole investing process creates a foundation for building wealth. And taking these and other steps for investing success as a steward of God builds the foundation for prosperity now and in the future

### **Solomon's Path to Prosperity is For Investors Too**

King Solomon, one of the Bible's best-known sages, ruled for forty years, plenty of time to amass a wealth of wisdom from experience. His sayings collected in the Book of Proverbs reveal the qualities that lead to a prosperous life. And those virtues can form the foundation of a successful investing life as well, reflected in Jason Hartman's recommendations for creating wealth through income property. As Solomon says,



knowledge, wisdom, prudence and justice are the watchwords for prosperity – and prosperous investing.

In Proverbs 10:14, Solomon tells us, “Wise man lay up knowledge, but the mouth of the fool is next to confusion.” Knowledge is the foundation of wisdom and prudence, and it leads the way in preparing for a successful investing career, too. Learning about current market conditions, researching specific properties and finding out who has sound advice to offer can help a new investor to avoid costly mistakes. Current technology makes it possible to view properties thousands of miles away and to talk with financial advisors from anywhere in the world in real time, so there’s no reason not to become knowledgeable about investing.

Comparing lenders, rates and conditions is only a click away, and you don’t have to be a real estate expert to get the essential knowledge you need to evaluate the advice you get from those who claim they are. And gathering all available information about a property and its local market, rather than relying on other peoples’ recommendations, can help a new investor avoid costly mistakes.

Wisdom was the most prized of virtues for Solomon, and wisdom arises from using knowledge gained to make good decisions. In Proverbs 1:5, the monarch writes, “A wise man shall hear, and shall be wiser, and he that understandeth shall possess governments.” For investors, wisdom comes from collecting information, listening to sound advice and observing trends and movement in the larger context of the housing market and the economy as a whole. The wise investor weighs options against available resources and considers the big picture of investing goals as well as the immediate issue of purchasing an individual property.

Prudence, too, is the investor’s friend. For Solomon, prudence and wisdom go hand in hand to create prosperity. . “Call for wisdom, and incline thy heart to prudence,” says Solomon in Proverbs 2:3. While wisdom involves acquiring and weighing knowledge to make the best decision,

prudence relates to looking ahead, envisioning and avoiding pitfalls as much as possible. The wise investor gathers all the information possible and evaluates the options; the prudent one will also consider risks and potential problems with an eye to avoiding losses down the line.

“The expectation of the just is joy, “ says the King in Proverbs 20:28. But how does justice relate to real estate? For Solomon, one who is just – who deals fairly with others and builds a reputation as an honorable and fair individual -- reaps more rewards than one who cheats and makes bad deals. In the world of income property investing behaving justly relates to managing finances responsibly, dealing promptly and honestly with tenant issues, and maintaining properties safely and comfortably.

Everything old is new again. And Solomon’s ancient words about the path to prosperity take on new relevance in the modern world of income property investing.

### **Set Investing Goals Solomon’s Way**

The Book of Kings tells us that King Solomon was one of the wisest (and richest) people ever to have lived. That’s why his timeless words from the books of Ecclesiastes and Proverbs continues to guide the money management and investing decisions of thousands even today. The great King’s recommendations can help new investors master the basics of investing success: clarify goals, create plans and take action.

### **Clarify Intentions and Goals**

It’s hard to move plans forward without a clear idea about the end result. But that’s what lazy investors do – they follow the trends of the day, chase quick results or turn the whole process over to financial managers with their own agendas and goals. But King Solomon reminds us that clear goals inspired by the right guidance is the real path to wealth.

“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man, “ says Ecclesiastes 10:12, a verse widely attributed to King Solomon himself. Those words remind us that a solid foundation for clarifying intentions and setting goals comes from following the commandments of God.

Keeping those commandments in mind can help to eliminate avenues that may look good but are actually morally questionable or downright dishonest. And using the commandments of God to make investing choices will create the right conditions for making progress toward those goals.

### **Create a Workable Plan**

Wisdom is knowledge, and as Solomon tells us again and again in the Book of Proverbs, it’s far more valuable than gold or other riches. Wisdom leads to prudence – wise decision making based on reason and caution. Those two qualities go hand in hand for building wealth and prosperity.

“A simple man believes anything, “ Solomon tells us in Proverbs 14:15, “ but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.” If your goals are clear – aligned with the commandments of God and intended for the best and highest outcomes – then it’s time to plan the steps that lead to those goals. And while it’s easy to be sucked into the latest get rich quick scheme, or go springing after every new trend that comes along just because it sounds good, the prudent investor thinks things through and considers how one step leads to the next.

The “simple man who believes everything, “ as Solomon says, is the target of an array of real estate scams and hoaxes, from the tearjerker stories posted on the internet to the scammer posing as a qualified investment counselor. But the prudent investor takes time to evaluate the claims and promises, and to reject them if they aren’t in line with the bigger plan.

And a key factor in the growth of wisdom that leads to prudent action is information. As Jason Hartman says, getting educated is the first step. The more you know, the more control you have over the investing process. And that's the route to real financial freedom.

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed, but in the multitude of counselors they are established," says the King in Proverbs 15:22. A part of learning is finding out what you don't know, too, and that's when a prudent investor opts to get professional advice. But thanks to getting educated and informed about your investments, you won't be the simple one who believes everything, and you'll be able to weed out the bad advice from the good.

### **Take Right Action**

"He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap," Solomon observes in Ecclesiastes 11:4. Goal setting and planning don't mean much if you don't take action. If you've clarified your goals and developed a plan with awareness and all the information you can find, then it's time to move forward.

Success in income property investing, as in so many other situations, can get stalled by feeling overwhelmed by what you don't know, what you still need to learn, and a fear of the future. It's far too easy to keep learning without ever feeling ready to put plans into action.

But as Solomon warns, waiting for just the right time, watching conditions evolve, leads to nothing tangible. The prudent investor acts on the best information and advice available right now, accepting that the future is uncertain but trusting that the best preparation will yield the best outcome.

"Cast your bread upon the waters," the King tells us in those famous lines from Ecclesiastes 11:1, "for you will find it after many days." Accepting that the future is uncertain, but

trusting that your investing bread will not be lost, is a key to moving forward.

Some investing avenues are riskier than others. But real estate, in the form of rental income property, is a stable investment that never goes out of style. People always need a place to live, and unless there's a landslide or massive flood, land doesn't go anywhere. Prudent investors who want to minimize risk and maximize returns look to the land – and the structures on it – for long term investing success. And thousands of years later, the timeless words of King Solomon about setting goals and taking action lay a solid foundation for building wealth from income property

### **King Solomon's 5 Virtues for Investors**

Across the millennia, King Solomon's words of wisdom about living a godly life still speak to us, with truths that guide money management to this day. Throughout his book of Proverbs, the King has much to say about what characteristics can help an investor – and anyone — make sound financial decisions. And, interestingly enough, they're echoed by Jason Hartman's advice for successful investing as well.

#### **Wisdom**

Wisdom is the bedrock of a prosperous life. “If wisdom enter into thy heart, and knowledge please thy soul, counsel shall keep thee and prudence shall preserve thee,” he says in Proverbs 2:10-11/ For Solomon, wisdom includes a willingness to learn and the ability to recognize wicked and misguided paths. In investing, too, being informed and able to separate the legitimate from the scam can lead to success.

#### **Prudence**

As the previous quote points out, prudence – the ability to make decisions with caution and foresight—goes hand in

hand with wisdom, preventing risky decisions and forestalling problems from ill considered or ill-advised investing advice. The prudent investor is willing to take risks but also considers alternatives and looks forward, in order to spot potential pitfalls.

### **Willingness to Seek Counsel**

As Jason Hartman points out, smart investors also recognize what they don't know, and take the appropriate steps to get the advice and information they need. For Solomon, too, the wise man "shall understand a parable, and the interpretation, the words of the wise, and their mysterious sayings." (Proverbs 1:6).

### **Justice and Equity**

"Let not mercy and truth leave thee, "says the King in Proverbs 3:3. "Put them about thy neck, and write them in the tables of thy heart." And fair dealing is a key to Solomon's investing principles. As the ongoing mortgage fraud scandals have created victims of foreclosure abuses and tainted the reputations of major lenders, mercy, truth and justice become particularly relevant.

### **Control**

It's important to be proactive and take control of investing decisions rather than putting everything in the hands of financial managers "Go to the ant, o sluggard," says Solomon in Proverbs 6:6. "And consider her ways and learn wisdom, which although she hath no guide, nor master, nor captain, provideth her meat for herself in the summer." Like the ant who takes the initiative to gather food, the investor needs to make investing decisions based on knowledge and wisdom.

In today's investing world of scams, fraud and confusing advice, Solomon's ageless wisdom – represented today by Jason Hartman's recommendations or smart investing — can help investors steer a path toward success

## **5 Words of Investing Wisdom From King Solomon**

For King Solomon, wisdom was more precious than riches and the key to living a prosperous life beloved by God. In today's financial world, the wise King's advice still rings true, offering guidance for investing smart in a constantly changing market.

### **Become informed about investing.**

"Blessed is the man that findeth wisdom, and is rich in prudence," says the King in Proverbs 3:13. That's a point echoed by Jason Hartman in his 10 Commandments for Investors, too – becoming wise about the world of investing leads to better decisions and the ability to weed out bad advice and spot scams.

### **Heed the advice of qualified professionals.**

One aspect of wisdom is humility, according to the King – being willing to accept the advice of those with more experience and knowledge is the first step toward success. In Proverbs 5:12-13, the foolish man laments, "why have I hated instruction, and my heart consented not to reproof? And have not heeded the voices of them that taught me, and have not inclined my ear to masters?" Getting – and taking – good advice from qualified professionals saves time, money and legal woes.

### **Money may come and go, but knowledge gained is never lost.**

"Receive my instruction, and not money," says the King in Proverbs 8:10-11, "Choose knowledge rather than gold. For wisdom is better than all precious things." Of course, the goal of investing is to build wealth. But, the King tells us, knowledge is a resource that can weather all the ups and inevitable downs of the market.

### **Wise investing is also fair and honest.**

Opportunities abound for cutting corners, taking advantage of others and taking part in scams to get a good deal. But,

says King Solomon, wisdom is also the path of justices and equity. “A wise man feareth, and declineth from evil,” he tells us in Proverbs 14:16. The way of wisdom leads to long-term prosperity.

### **Invest for the long term, not for quick profits.**

“The learning of a man is known by patience,” says the King in Proverbs 19:11. And as Jason Hartman says, investing in income property for long-term gains is a wiser strategy than pursuing fast money through flipping houses and other short-term ventures. Wise investing with an eye to the future leads to long-term gains.

King Solomon had much to say about the value of wisdom and its cousin, prudence. And for investors in today’s financial world, those ageless words form the foundation of a sound investing strategy that stands the test of time

## **Five Proverbs For Investing Success**

King Solomon’s wisdom on money matters speaks through the ages to modern day investors using Biblical guidelines for making financial decisions. With observations on managing wealth wisely, making prudent choices and even diversifying investments, the great King’s sayings recorded in the books of Ecclesiastes and Proverbs can be interpreted in the context of the current investing climate. Here are five of the monarch’s most relevant recommendations for today’s investing success:

### **Diversify**

In Ecclesiastes 11:2, the King says, “Give portions to seven, yes, to eight or you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.” Diversifying assets over several markets offers some protection against what disasters may come, either upon the land, or upon the property itself. Because markets are different, investing in as many as possible provides a hedge against natural disasters, economic



downturn and even unexpected problems with individual properties.

### **Assess Your Investment Abilities Honestly**

“I have seen a grievous evil under the sun,” says Solomon in Ecclesiastes 5:13-14. “Wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, or wealth lost to some misfortune.” Both overestimating and underestimating resources, or taking risks with expensive consequences in an effort to get rich quick can ruin a new investor’s career. It’s important to examine your assets, experience and ability to take risks before launching new investment.

### **Plan Prudently and Avoid Hasty Decisions**

Prudence is the watchword for much of the King’s money management advice. “The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty,” he tells us in Proverbs 21:5. Slow steady growth creates long-term wealth – a key reason for the desirability of income property as a wealth-building investment strategy. Hasty decisions, or investments promising a quick, high yield, can in fact lead to poverty – or at least the loss of significant investing funds.

### **Seek the Advice of Trusted Experts**

Solomon speaks frequently of wisdom, and the need to remain humble and to seek instruction from wiser counselors in order to prosper: “Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayst be wise in thy latter end.” (Proverbs 19:20) Successful investors work with experts in the field, try to learn all they can, and heed the advice of those with more experience.

### **Apply Wisdom and Prudence in Investing Decisions**

“By wisdom the house shall be built,” says the King in Proverbs 24:3. “And by prudence it shall be strengthened.” In many of Solomon’s sayings, a house represents stability and prosperity, and his advice to approach all aspects of investing with wisdom – learning and seeing advice – and prudence – weighing choices and avoiding hasty actions – leads to those same outcomes in the investing process.

Avoiding the temptation of quick money schemes and planning for the long term are age-old strategies with special relevance today.

King Solomon's ancient advice to investors echoes Jason Hartman's own 10 Commandments for investors — recommendations for success in today's markets that stress wisdom, prudence, humility – and diversification – as keys to building long term investment wealth.

### **Wisdom and Prudence: Keys to Long Term Success**

According to Biblical accounts, the 40 year reign of King Solomon saw unparalleled prosperity for the kingdom of Israel – due, many believe, to the King's great wisdom and judgment in the management of his realm. "Blessed is the man who findeth wisdom and is rich in prudence," he says in Proverbs 3:3. And in investing as well as in running a kingdom, prudent planning yields profitable outcomes.

That's the message in the fourth of Jason Hartman's 10 Commandments for Successful Investing: "Thou shalt use prudent financial planning techniques." Though the notion of prudence may seem a relic of King Solomon's day, that combination of knowledge and caution creates a solid framework for success in real estate investing.

Prudent financial planning, in real estate as in other areas, establishes a road map for a long journey, not a quick jaunt. It begins with knowledge – of yourself, your current situation, and your goals. Knowing your own personality creates the foundation for any kind of plan. Where do you fall on the spectrum of instant versus delayed gratification? How long are you willing to wait for outcomes?

Another consideration is tolerance of risk and need for security. How much are you willing to gamble on the outcome of your investment? Planning your investments also includes outlining goals for your investing activities – some income to supplement a pension in retirement, freedom from the working world, amassing wealth? These things are

essential for getting the most out of working with a qualified financial counselor – another aspect of “prudential financial planning.”

Prudent planning also involves understanding yourself and your style of dealing with the world in general. Are you risk-averse or risk-tolerant? Do you need instant gratification, or can you accept the long-term commitment involved in profiting from rental real estate? As Jason Hartman points out, some risky investments can yield quick cash but have no staying power for long-term wealth building.

Investments in rental real estate offer returns over time, and stability from an asset that everybody needs: a place to live. Taking Jason Hartman’s prudent approach to investing in property is based on knowledge – of yourself, your goals, and the available options – combined with a long term vision and the help of a professional who can help you make those goals a reality. King Solomon’s wealth arose from the King’s willingness to exercise wisdom and prudence. And for modern investors, those concepts still hold the key to long-term investing success

## **Make Level Paths: Preparing for Investing Success**

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If you’re considering getting started in investing, the process can be daunting. From understanding investing terminology to weighing options to find the best investment strategies for you, it’s easy to feel confused and overwhelmed by choices. Although it’s essential to follow the investment strategies of an expert in the field like Jason Hartman, you can boost the success of your investing career by taking a cue from the Biblical King Solomon, whose advice on life and wealth still ring true today.

Son of King David, Solomon inherited the throne of Israel. Recognizing his inexperience, he prayed for wisdom to rule

his kingdom well. His prayer was answered – the kingdom prospered, and the King himself established a reputation for clear thinking and wise decisions that remains to this day. His pragmatic observations continue to be relevant for life – and investing – today.

In Proverbs 4:25-26, Solomon says, “Let your eyes look straight ahead and fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm” – advice that can help cut through the confusion of investing options.

In investing, as in any new endeavor, looking straight ahead and fixing your gaze directly before you is key to establishing goals and strategies. Consider your long-term vision for your investments. What do you want to accomplish? Who will benefit? What kind of return do you need in order to accomplish those goals? While it’s easy to get sidetracked by so many options, and so many voices offering advice and suggestions, fixing the gaze on the goal can help you create a detailed plan that gets you from the starting point to the outcome you want.

Once you’ve clarified your goals, the second part of Solomon’s advice obtains. Make level paths by preparing yourself, learning all you can, and eliminating obvious wrong choices. Research the field of investing. Learn the terms. Find out all you can about the kind of investments you’re interested in. Make a list of questions and ideas to discuss with a professional.

After you’ve made a plan and learned all you can, it’s time to let an expert investment guide show you the ways that are firm — directions in investing that are relatively low risk and have the potential to yield the results you’re looking for. With this in mind, you can begin building the kind of diverse portfolio that can withstand changes in markets and the economy as a whole.

As the famed philosopher King says, planning, preparation and sound advice lead to good outcomes for life. And, combined with the recommendations of Jason Hartman, they'll create good outcomes in investing as well

## **Investing Scriptures**

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

**Ecclesiastes 11:1-2**

Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

**Proverbs 24:3-4**

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

**Proverbs 13:11**

Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

**Luke 12:15**

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way.

**Psalms 37:7**

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

**Proverbs 23:4-5**

There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.

But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.

**Ecclesiastes 5:13-14**

A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.

**Proverbs 27:12**

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

**Proverbs 19:17**

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

**Matthew 6:19-21**

The Parable of the Talents

**Matthew 25:14-30**

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

**Mark 10:21**

And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

**Mark 10:29-31**

Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

**Luke 12:33**

Parable of the Unjust Steward

**Luke 16:1-13**

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19**