

1st Kings Chapter 11

V: 1-2 “Solomon loved many strange women”... along with the daughter of Pharaoh.

- Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites.
- This is the 3rd part in doing the exact opposite of what God’s Word had instructed Solomon not to do.

Speaking of and to kings:

Deuteronomy 17:16-20 “¹⁶But 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. ¹⁷Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. ¹⁸And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: ¹⁹And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them. ²⁰That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.”

- Solomon violated every part of this commandment of God, collecting horses, gold, and wives.

1 John 2:15-17 “¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh (power / horses), and the lust of the eyes (wives / women), and the pride of life (gold), is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

- Solomon was the wisest man to ever live, yet he succumbed to folly – because he departed from, set aside the Word of God.

Exodus 34:12-16 “¹²Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: ¹³But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: ¹⁴For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: ¹⁵Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice. ¹⁶And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.”

- The same basic command is repeated in the New Testament, because it is still a truth that we need to take heed to:

2 Corinthians 6:14-17 “¹⁴Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you...”

- This command is repeated for the same basic reason; we will be corrupted and compromised, our hearts will be turned away from the true and living God. God will not bless our misdirected evangelistic efforts if they are founded on disobedience.

V: 3 Solomon didn't just depart from God's Word in a casual sense, he did it in an over the top manner – grossly departing from God's commandments.

- 700 wives, 300 concubines from all over the place geographically.
- The speaks of both un-bridled lust, and wanton greed and avarice, many of these wives were simply economic tools used in trade agreements.
- David's sins were exaggerated or amplified in his son.
- His wives turned away his heart – just like God's Word said it would.

V: 4 Repeating: when he was old, his wives turned away his heart to go after other gods; his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God.

Jesus set the standard:

Matthew 22:37 “... thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

V: 5 Ashtoreth: a pagan goddess of fertility, the root word of her name means “womb”, considered the wife of Baal. Represented at times as a multi-breasted woman, or as a woman with two horns upon her head. They employed both male and female prostitutes in their perverted sexual rites.

- Known as Venus, Aphrodite, Ashtarte, Artemis, and Dianna in Roman and Greek cultures, referred to as “the queen of heaven” in the Babylonian culture.
- Milcom also known as Molech, the god of pleasure – a pagan deity to which they sacrificed their new born children.

V: 6-8 Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord.

- For us this seems to have been a rapid decline from seeking God's face at the dedication of the Temple and seeing the glory of God manifest, and now to see Solomon worshipping the pagan gods of his wives.
- Historically it must have been a more gradual process, but it began with ignoring God's Word and taking his first foreign wife. It may have seemed expedient at the time but is one of the first steps in his compromise that led to eventually building pagan temples and worshipping these false gods.

Psalm 1:1 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

Progression / gradual process:

1. Ignoring God's Word, Solomon married a pagan wife, Pharaoh's daughter.

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:133

Psalm 119:165

2. Solomon married many pagan wives.
3. Solomon permitted his wives to worship their pagan gods, he tolerated their idolatry. He did not exercise spiritual leadership in his home.
4. Solomon facilitates their idolatry, he built temples and places of worship for these pagan gods.
5. Solomon eventually began to participate with his wives in idolatry.
6. Solomon became a double minded man who's heart was not perfect towards the Lord.

James 1:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

- Solomon built these temples and altars on what is known as the "Mountain of Destruction" which is just across from the Temple mount – truly an affront to God. (Picture)

Exodus 20:1-6 1st two commandments.

1. "I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before Me."
 2. "You shall make no graven images, of anything – nor shall you bow down to them or serve them."
- Solomon led the nation back into idolatry, like a dog returning to it's vomit. (Judges)
 - Solomon put God on the same level as these lesser gods.

Isaiah 46:9 “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me.”

V: 9-10 The Lord who’s name is Jealous is now angry with Solomon – because he turned his heart away from the Lord God of Israel.

- When Solomon was born he was given a special name (2 Samuel 12:24-25) Jedidiah which means “Beloved of the Lord.”
- How far he has fallen. Now we read that God is angry with Solomon because his heart is turned away from the Lord.
- God had appeared to Solomon twice and warned him each time, but Solomon ignored the Word of God.

Hebrews 6:4-6 “⁴For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶if they fall way to renew them again unto repentance...”

V: 11-13 The Lord responds, He doesn’t appear to Solomon, but He speaks to him:

- God will tear the kingdom from Solomon, but not in his life time, it will be taken from his son – with only one tribe remaining, the tribe of Judah.

V: 14-22 The enemies of God’s people always receive a warm welcome and refuge in the world.

Proverbs 16:7 “When a man’s ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

- The opposite is true as well, when a man’s ways displease the Lord he can stir up his enemies against him as we see in this passage.
- Hadad the Edomite; the Edomites were always enemies of Israel and the Messiah. Descendants of Lot and his incestuous relationship with his daughters.
- Herod the great was an Edomite.

V: 23-25 Another adversary; Rezon the son of Eliadah.

Isaiah 57:21 “There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.”

- Rezon starts a guerilla war against Solomon & Israel.

V: 26-38 Jeroboam – God’s chosen successor for the divided kingdom.

- The prophet Ahijah describes what will take place, and that God has chosen Jeroboam to take the 10 northern tribes.
- God's promise to Jeroboam that if he will walk in obedience God will bless him and his reign.
- This is the same promise that God gave to David, and to Solomon.
- God isn't looking for the perfect man, just one who's heart is after God.

2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him...”

V: 39 The seed of David will be afflicted, but not forever.

Psalms 125:3 “For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.”

- Eventually the Messiah will be born out of the lineage of David – and He too will be afflicted.

Isaiah 53:4-5 “⁴Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

V: 40 Solomon gets wind of God's plan seeks to thwart the will of God by killing Jeroboam who then flees to Egypt.

V: 41-43 The rest of Solomon's deeds are recorded in a book that no longer exists – probably for good reason.

- Solomon reigns over Israel for 40 years and dies, probably around the age of 56.
- Solomon's son Rehoboam then reigns in his place.
- David's heart was perfect towards the Lord, un-divided as was the nation of Israel. Solomon's divided heart led to a divided nation.
- Was Solomon saved? If the story ended here I would say not.
- There is some additional information we can consider:

Ecclesiastes 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

- This could be considered Solomon's conclusion, what he came to at the end of his life; assuming this was written at the end of his life. This still leaves room for doubt or uncertainty.
- There is a tremendous question mark hanging over the life or legacy of Solomon.

Peter said:

2 Peter 1:10 "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

Jesus said:

John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."