



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA
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1 KINGS 11

Related Topics: Solomon; Falling Away; Failure by Increments; Lust of the eyes; Lust of the Flesh; Pride of Life; Divided Heart; Submitting to the Truth; Davidic Covenant; Divided Kingdom; Jeroboam; Judgment Deserved; Undeserved Mercy; Adversity For Correction

INTRODUCTION

We have here the record of Solomon falling off the cliff, if-you-would in his relationship with the Lord. But this did not happen over night. Through out the first 10 chapters of 1 Kings there were hints that all was not well with Solomon's heart. Beginning in Chapter 3 with his marital alliance with Egypt we have seen individual compromises in his relationship with the Lord. None of them by themselves were spiritually fatal. But in this chapter we have radical proof that our relationship with the Lord does not fall apart overnight. It is always incremental nature.

¹ Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ²from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. ³He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines.

LAST WEEK in **Chapter 10** we saw the majesty of Solomon's kingdom and wisdom.

1 Kings 10:4-7 ⁴And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, ⁵the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more breath in her. ⁶And she said to the king, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, ⁷but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard.

For all Solomon's great wisdom, he didn't submit to the revealed will of God in the simple command "*You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.*"

Solomon's life is one big flashing danger sign. The danger is that of knowing the truth of Scripture but not obeying the truth of Scripture. We must submit to the truth of Scripture. If we are not submitted to the Word we will become slaves — not over night — but incrementally — to "*the lust of the flesh* (passions), *the lust of the eyes* (possessions) and *the pride of life* (position).

1 John 2:15-17 Love 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, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, 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.

PRIDE – POSISITON

These 700 hundred wives reflected his lust for power and prestige. In those days a large harem was a status symbol. It said to the world, "*Look how many wives and children I can support.*" Solomon's desire for worldly prestige led him to these ungodly marriages.

PASSION – SENSUAL PLEASURE

Reading Proverbs and the Song Of Solomon we know that Solomon knew a lot about women. Based upon the Song of Solomon, we can say that at the first Solomon seemed to know what true love was with one woman. Yet his life screams out to us that it is possible to be in that place *and depart from it*. It is not true to say that *"love will keep us together."* love of God — resulting in repentance from sin and obedience is what will hold a marriage together.

We don't know when Solomon added his second wife. When he did, it was easy for him to rationalize a third and a 700 hundredth! After all —the greatest King of Israel, his father David, had several wives and concubines. But it is interesting that Solomon didn't remember the wreckage that resulted from his dad's polygamy. That is the way sin is.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

The Bible tells us that sin deceives us! Lust causes us to forget the wreckage of sin all around us.

LISTEN — Solomon's life screams out to us that if one wife is not enough to satisfy a man, then 1,000 wives will not be enough. When a man is unsatisfied with the woman God gave to him, the problem is with him, not with his wife. 1,000 women can't satisfy the lust of man. Solomon should have applied to his own life the truth of *Proverbs 27:20: Hell and Destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.*

NOTE: In our society today, there is the prevailing attitude — *"If I Just had someone else, I would be happy."* To even think that you married the wrong person automatically implies that you believe that there is a right person out there somewhere. *It is only is a matter of time before you look for her in your mind and then with your eyes.*

There is someone better out there than my spouse is a lie from Satan.

IF anyone discovered it to be true, Solomon would have. But — He found it to be a lie. The search never ended. It never produced anything but vanity and vexation of spirit.

³.... And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.

REMEMBER — The Lord said: *Deut. 17:17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away*

WHAT did all of his wives do to him?

VERSES 3b-4 And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.

REMEMBER — This is the wisest man in the world. He received all of His wisdom from the True and Living God of Israel back in Chapter 3.

QUOTE: F.B. Meyer — *"It would have been useless to argue Solomon into worshipping false gods. Solomon trying to proof of idols. He could at once, by his wisdom, have annihilated all arguments in favor of idols, and have established the existence and unity of God. But, step by step, he was led by silken cords, a captive, to the worship of other gods."*

HOW THEN DID SOLOMON end up turning away from the True and Living God? Solomon thought that he was different from anyone else.

Well of course the Lord said to NOT multiply gold and horses and wives to yourself because they will turn your heart from the Lord...

BUT I think that I can do it and NOT get burned... I'm the exception to the rule

That is just like Samson (Judges 13-16). Samson had taken the vow of the Nazarite. He was not to touch wine, nor dead animals, nor cut his hair. Samson did all three. He touched a dead carcass; drank wine with the Philistines — and nothing had happened to him. When his head was on the lap of Delilah, and she said — *"Tell me the secret of your strength."* He knew what she was up to. But — Samson figured, *"I've touched a dead carcass, I drank wine with the Philistines, and nothing happened! So I can lose a little hair*

and not get burned! But he did. He ended discovered that sin blinds and binds and grinds.

when Solomon was old — Age did not make Solomon wiser. He seemed to be wiser in his youth. As he grew older he incrementally became hardened by sin and compromise. Age and experience should make us more godly and wise — but that doesn't happen automatically.

QUOTE: Alexander Maclaren — *This ship went down when the voyage was nearly over. In sight of port it struck, and that not for want of beacons. What pathetic warning lies in that phrase, 'when Solomon was old'! After so many years of high aims, so many temptations overcome, with such habits of wisdom and kingly nobility, after such prayers and visions, he fell; and, if he fell, who can be sure of standing? No length of life spent in holy thoughts and service secures us against the possibility of disastrous fall. Only one thing does,—'Hold Thou me up, and I shall be safe!' John Bunyan saw a door opening down to hell hard by the gates of the Celestial City. When a man that has been had in reputation for wisdom and honour shames the record of his life by a great splash of mud on the white page, near its end, he seldom returns. An old apostate is usually finally an apostate.*

It is believed he was about 55 yrs. Old. If you are over 50, don't think that you are immune from such temptations or difficulties.

For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done.

did not wholly follow the Lord — The Holy Spirit sets Solomon in a stark contrast to those who *did* fully follow the LORD. The phrase *wholly followed the Lord* is used of three men in the Old Testament: Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 32:11-12, Deuteronomy 1:36, Joshua 14:8-9, 14), and here of David. Solomon is conspicuous as someone who did *not* wholly follow the LORD.

As David his father did — Solomon had more than one wife and David had more than one wife (fifteen, according to 1 Chronicles 3:1-9). David

spiritually survived this failing and Solomon did not survive it. David's sin did not turn his heart away from the LORD. The *lust of the flesh* **hindered** David — it *destroyed* Solomon. It is possible for a particular sin in one person to be a hindrance — something that might even cause them to (figuratively) walk with a limp for the rest of their life — while in another person that same sin is the cause of ruin.

⁷Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. ⁸And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.⁹And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice ¹⁰and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the Lord commanded.

The issue was Solomon's heart. Long before adding the wives and worshipping their gods — his heart had turned away from the Lord! He allowed his heart to become divided. We must be so careful to guard our hearts.

DON'T MISS THIS — God had appeared to Solomon twice and warned him against this very thing. Did you know that the Lord never appeared to David? Solomon saw the Lord twice but didn't have the heart towards the Lord that his father David did? Experiencing the miraculous does not mean that you are mature. It is not manifestations that produce maturity — It is the Word of God. David kept the Word of the Lord in his heart. that is why David loved the Lord so much. That is why despite David's notable moral failures he never departed from the Lord to worship idols.

This is not just a decline — this is plunge over a ledge of the Grand Canyon! This man of great heritage, wisdom, and blessing turns to the most depraved gods of the pagan nations.

DESCRIBE THE WORSHIP OF MOLECH.

This is a tragic example of the power of the lust of the flesh. Because of lust, Solomon found himself in a place where he *never* thought he would find himself. He found himself burning incense at the altars of depraved pagan gods. He found himself at the altar of *child sacrifice* unto the god Molech.

This is the power of lust! It can blind us and bind us in a fog of spiritual confusion until we do things we *never* thought we would do.

QUOTE: Alexander Maclaren — *Solomon's unbridled and monstrous polygamy sapped his manhood and his principle, darkened his clear spirit, blinded his keen eye, and turned a youth of noble aspiration and a manhood of noble accomplishment into an old age without dignity, reverence, or calm. All his wisdom was worth little if it could not keep him master of himself. God means that reason should govern impulses and desires, and that conscience should govern all and be governed by His will. The vessel is sure to be wrecked when the officers are sent below and the mutineers get hold of the helm.*

The fact that this happened to the *wisest man who ever lived* tells us how completely and utterly and constantly we must depend upon Jesus. That is what Jesus meant when He said *Apart from Me you can do NOTHING*. That is what the Bible means when it says *the just shall LIVE by faith*. That is what Paul meant when he said *This life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and died for me. TRUST IN — CLING TO — RELY UPON Jesus*.

The Holy Spirit records this for us so that Solomon's falling away will drive you to greater dependence and abiding with Jesus.

¹¹Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. ¹²Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

God is referring to terms of the Davidic Covenant. In our CREDO study titled “COVENANT: God Pursues” we learned that in each covenant in the Scripture there are **conditions/consequences**. God says — *this is right — this is wrong — I will discipline you if you sin — I will also continue to pursue you so that you can learn to be obedient.*

In the Davidic Covenant God promised the entire kingdom of Israel to the descendants of David forever. The only condition was that they remained faithful to God. David reminded Solomon of this promise shortly before his death (1 Kings 2:4). Yet *they could not remain faithful even one generation.*

HUGE POINT — Solomon's kingdom was amazing in its wealth, military power, and prestige. Those things did NOT bring security to Israel! The true security of Israel did not rest in any of those things. It rested in the blessing of God and in the obedience and faithfulness of their king.

¹³However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen.”

AMAZINGLY — God tempers this righteous and deserved judgment with undeserved mercy. God announces that the kingdom will be divided, and part of it will be loyal to the descendents of David and part of it will be under a different dynasty. Many other passages in the Old Testament (such as 2 Chronicles 11:12) tell us that the southern kingdom was made up of *two* tribes, Judah and Benjamin. Several times in this chapter the southern kingdom is referred to as **one tribe**. Two views on this — Either Benjamin is swallowed up in Judah, or the idea was **one tribe in addition** to Judah.

¹⁴And the Lord raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite. He was of the royal house in Edom. ¹⁵For when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army went up to bury the slain, he struck down every male in Edom ¹⁶(for Joab and all Israel remained there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom). ¹⁷But Hadad fled to Egypt, together with certain Edomites of his father’s

servants, Hadad still being a little child. ¹⁸They set out from Midian and came to Paran and took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and assigned him an allowance of food and gave him land. ¹⁹And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen. ²⁰And the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house. And Genubath was in Pharaoh's house among the sons of Pharaoh. ²¹But when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers and that Joab the commander of the army was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me depart, that I may go to my own country." ²²But Pharaoh said to him, "What have you lacked with me that you are now seeking to go to your own country?" And he said to him, "Only let me depart."

Why did he need to leave? Because the Lord was raising him up as an adversary to Solomon — It was the Lord placing that pull on his life

²³God also raised up as an adversary to him, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had fled from his master Hadadezer king of Zobah. ²⁴And he gathered men about him and became leader of a marauding band, after the killing by David. And they went to Damascus and lived there and made him king in Damascus. ²⁵He was an adversary of Israel all the days of Solomon, doing harm as Hadad did. And he loathed Israel and reigned over Syria.

KEY QUESTION: Why did the Lord allow these adversaries to be raised up against Solomon? Because God loved Solomon! The Lord brought adversity into Solomon's life to bring Solomon down from his high horse and bring back to his knees

QUOTE: Victor Hugo — "*Adversity creates men, prosperity creates monsters*"

Why do YOU have a Rezon or a Hadad in your life? Did you know that the famous evangelist John Wesley had one? His Rezon was his own wife. Wherever Wesley went to preach his wife would get up on the platform and say — *“Don’t listen to this man!”* She would rant and rave during his sermons. Wesley saw the purpose for his wife and her behavior —

“Humility has been worked into my heart and prayer is a pre-requisite for every day of my life.” Whoever the Rezon or Hadhad is in your life, they are there for a purpose and therefore we MUST embrace it as from the Lord

There was a third adversary raised up by the Lord

²⁶Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother’s name was Zeruah, a widow, also lifted up his hand against the king. ²⁷And this was the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king. Solomon built the Millo, and closed up the breach of the city of David his father.

It is not immediately apparent why these construction projects caused him to rebel against Solomon. Jewish traditions say he opposed the oppressive use of forced labor in these building projects. Since he was the officer over all the labor force, this tradition makes some sense.

According to one commentator (Dilday), the name **Jeroboam** means, "may the people be great." It is interesting that when the kingdom is divided that he sees the people as greater than the God of Israel — he values the opinion of the people over the true worship of God.

²⁸The man Jeroboam was very able, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious he gave him charge over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.

This man that God sent into Solomon’s life to keep Solomon on his knees was talented and industrious and courageous. From the human vantage point he was a very together guy

HUGE — Though he had ability — He had no history with God. Though he had talent — It was not tempered by God. He was blessed but not broken.

²⁹And at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had dressed himself in a new garment, and the two of them were alone in the open country. ³⁰Then Ahijah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. ³¹And he said to Jeroboam, “Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon and will give you ten tribes ³²(but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), ³³because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and they have not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight and keeping my statutes and my rules, as David his father did.

This is the first we hear of the divided kingdom — It became Israel's history for hundreds of years after the death of Solomon. At this first description we would expect that the **ten tribes** under Jeroboam would be larger, greater, and more enduring than the **one tribe** left to the House of David. As we walk through this period of Israel's history we will see that just the opposite happened because the **ten tribes** forsook the LORD, while the **one tribe** — for a season — would remain loyal to the Lord.

³⁴Nevertheless, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, who kept my commandments and my statutes. ³⁵But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and will give it to you, ten tribes. ³⁶Yet to his son I will give one tribe, that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put my name. ³⁷And I will take

you, and you shall reign over all that your soul desires, and you shall be king over Israel.

God ordained the division of Israel and the reign of Jeroboam. As a judgment upon Solomon's divided heart and idolatry God divided Solomon's kingdom.

³⁸And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. ³⁹And I will afflict the offspring of David because of this, but not forever.”

WOW! An obedient Jeroboam had the opportunity to establish a parallel dynasty to the House of David.

Both Jeroboam and David were appointed by God to follow after disobedient kings. David waited upon the LORD to remove Saul from the throne of Israel — remained loyal to Saul and Saul's son Jonathan — and God blessed his reign. Jeroboam did not wait on the LORD and he made his own way to the throne — and God did not bless his reign.

⁴⁰Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

Here is another evidence of Solomon turning away from the Lord. God specifically said this would happen *after* the death of Solomon, and *in judgment* of Solomon's apostasy. Solomon blew off the prophet of God and the Word of God. He sought to kill Jeroboam and thus over rule the will of God — but he was unsuccessful. God's Word through Ahijah proved true.

⁴¹Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon? ⁴²And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

Many commentators believe that Solomon began his reign when he was about 20 years old. This means that Solomon did not live a particularly long life.

1 Kings 3:14 ¹⁴ *And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."*

QUOTE: Adam Clarke — *"When we consider the excess in which he lived, and the criminal passions which he must have indulged among his thousand wives, and their idolatrous and impure worship, this life was as long as could be reasonably expected."*

⁴³And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

This does not necessarily mean that Solomon died a saved man. It is a familiar phrase used 25 times in 1 and 2 Kings. It was used in speaking of such wicked kings as Ahab (1 Kings 22:40). It simply means that Solomon died. We cannot say with certainty that he is in heaven.

Some believe that Solomon wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes at the very end of his life as a renunciation of his fall into vanity.