

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON:

STUDY NUMBER 17 – 1 KINGS 10:14-29

We come to the Seventeenth Study of the Life of King Solomon and what a study this is. If I were to write words over this particular study I would say:

- 1) FINAL STATEMENT,**
- 2) BOTTOM LINE, and**
- 3) NET INCOME**

We are going to be at the height of Solomon kingdom. You are going to be able to see the extent of it monetarily by the scriptures you read today. The issue in this study is “Do you have material things” or “Does material things have you?” That is the bottom line.

Have you gotten hooked by these things which are temporary? Look at what Solomon has. It is obvious; the case is going to be built very high and very strong. I want to take one statement that overrides the study and I want you just to listen carefully to what I am saying.

**GREAT PROPSEITY coupled with PLEASURE
will eventually bring the PLUNGE!**

That is what is going to happen to Solomon eventually. But, there are a lot of things that lead up to it. One of the biggest things is his attitude toward material things. I want to show you in this study, the difference between David, his dad, and Solomon and his relationship to these things. It is going to be very instructive for you to see the two.

Imagine a beautiful picture of a large rainbow trout rising to the surface of the water and lying on the surface is the fly that contains the hook that is going to put an end to this beautiful specimen. I would call this image “Temptation”. It is temptation because that trout has already made the decision as to what he is going to do and he is going to terminate his existence as a result.

I look at materialism as that way. I look at moral things that way. Anything that Satan can flip across in front of us that is going to make us want this, deceive us and distract us, those are the things he uses. I am just telling you in materialism you have potential of being distracted. I am not speaking about the evils of it don't get that wrong. It is wonderful to be blessed and be able to enjoy the success and the fruit of your labor. That is not the issue. The issue is do you get so consumed in that that you surrender the joy of meeting with the Lord on a daily basis because that is the most important thing in your life!

Karl Menninger put it this way:

“When a trout rising to a fly gets hooked on a line and finds himself unable to swim about freely, he begins with a fight which results in struggles and splashes and sometimes an escape. Often, of course, the situation is too tough for him.

Are you ready?

v. 14 The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents.

This is base salary on the contract. No extra stuff. Do you know how much it is? \$872,000,000. Do you think you could live on that for a year?

Did Solomon read Deuteronomy 17:17?

Deuteronomy 17:17 He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

Solomon is putting this stuff aside. It doesn't concern him that he is making \$872,000,000 a year.

**(1001 Humorous Illustrations for Public Speaking
by Michael Hodgen)**

A Miser's Money

**A miser isn't any fun to live with
but he makes a wonderful ancestor”.**

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v. 15 not including the revenues from merchants and traders and from all the Arabian kings and the governors of the land.

All of this stuff is flowing in. We saw the queen of Sheba come last time with this huge gift that she brought to him and he gave her more than she gave him. This doesn't include all of these other things.

v. 16 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred bekas of gold went into each shield.

v. 17 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold, with three minas of gold in each shield. The king put them in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon.

Five hundred implements of war made out of gold. That soft metal is not military tough. Why did he make them? It is to make a statement!

The Forest of Lebanon is part of his palace campus; remember there were several buildings as we studied the building of his palace. One of them is called the Forest of Lebanon and, evidently, was the armory. I wouldn't be surprised that Goliath's sword wasn't hanging in there and they had a little glass case with David's sling and just a bunch of other relics and celebrations of past victory and war. But, hanging on the wall then you have two

hundred of these big shields that stand as high as a warrior. He can get behind them with seven and one-half pounds of gold in each one of those. Then you have three hundred of those little round bullet shields that they use for hand to hand combat, and you have three and three-quarters pounds of gold in each one of those.

v. 18 Then the king made a great throne inlaid with ivory and overlaid with fine gold.

v. 19 The throne had six steps, and its back had a rounded top. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them.

v. 20 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom.

Why does he have 12 lions? It could be one of two reasons. There are six steps and twelve lions. Does that remind you of anything about Israel? Could it be the twelve tribes, twelve lions.

I prefer to see him as using the mascot from the tribe he represents. Jesus Christ is the lion of the Tribe of Judah. Solomon is from the tribe of Judah and this would be the mascot of that tribe that is represented in what he has done here.

So you are going to stand before Solomon he is six steps up there sitting on his gold ivory throne, covered with

gold and the steps and these lions; that is intimidating just a tad, isn't it? Look at the next verse.

v. 21 All King Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's days.

Solomon may have actually driven down the price of silver by his extensive use of gold. Every time you turned around it was gold here and gold there.

v. 22 The king had a fleet of trading ships at sea along with the ships of Hiram. Once every three years it returned, carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and baboons.

Right in this verse, you may have Solomon's downfall. Whenever you go away and you start importing things from other foreign countries you import more than you ever intended to import. I believe with the imports comes the culture of the country and if you don't believe it, look at the United States of America. We are a world-wide economy. Trading with all of these eastern countries and Asian countries, we are bringing Hinduism in, New Age in and we are bringing all this stuff to our shores. We are a country founded on Biblical principles. We had men who were godly. Who believed in the scripture and the character made a difference and in GOD WE TRUSTED! Now we have to be broad minded to

incorporate all of these countries we are doing business with because we don't want to upset them. I believe with internationalism there is a real temptation to let your culture be affected by the people you are doing business with.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness.

Part of Solomon's downfall is right here. A lot of this stuff is coming in from these foreign countries, religion as well as the material and it can't help but make an impact on Solomon's personal life. Just to think it has to be remembered that for apes and baboons that he brought into the country. He is moving in the realm of the exotic.

I believe all of these things served as a distraction, and, as a result, you get the bottom line verse 23.

v. 23 King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth.

What does that verse tell you? You say, wow what a man! Do you know what I see when I look at that verse? Boy, God you are sure faithful. You told him back there when he started this kingdom he is going to have two things. He was going to have wisdom and he was going to have

wealth, and boy God, you are really faithful. You gave it to him.

(1001 Humorous Illustrations for Public Speaking by Michael Hodgkin)

Famous Humble Doctor

Of course, one of the greatest sources of modern Illustrations is the delightful comic strip Peanuts by Charles Schultz. One of my favorite shows Linus and Charlie Brown sitting and talking about their plans when they grow up.

Linus says, “When I get big I’m going to be a humble little country doctor. I’ll live in the city, see, and every morning I’ll get up, climb into my sports car and zoom into the country! Then I’ll start healing people. I’ll heal everybody for miles around!” And he concludes this speech with “I’ll be a world-famous humble little country doctor.”

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Solomon is a “world-famous”, is he a humble king? That’s the question. You know when you have pride, God has a way of dealing with that.

v. 24 The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.

My question to you is did Solomon ever give public acknowledgment to the source of his blessings? I don't see it in the scripture. I really believe this is what happens when you get proud of heart.

Listen to David in 1 Chronicles 29:12 and it is David:

1 Chronicles 29:12 Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

David knew the source of it.

And the law warns us Deuteronomy 8:17-18.

This is Moses saying:

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 You may say to yourself, My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me. But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

I just wonder if Solomon in all of his wisdom has forgotten the source for a moment in what has happened in his life.

(God's Little Devotional Book for Couples by Honor Books)

Shortly after his wife died of cancer, a man found a

note written by his wife—apparently a list of qualities she wanted her husband to know she appreciated. She wrote:

Loved, Cared. Worried.
Helped me when I was sick
Forgave me for a lot of things.
Stood by me.
Always complimentary.
Provided everything I ever needed.
Warmth. Humor. Kindness.
Thoughtfulness.
Always there when I need you.
Good friend.

Although the woman probably intended her list to be part of her husband's thank-you letter for their nearly four decades of marriage, she also gave to the world a good prescription for marriage!

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v. 25 Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules.

Just like the queen of Sheba's visit. What are the gifts?

Articles of Silver, Gold, Robes, Weapons, Spices, Horses and Mules; seven different gifts that are given by all of these diplomats that are coming in.

Can't you see Solomon slipping? Can't you see the spiritual becoming less and less of a priority?

One of the things that has made Billy Graham such an incredible individual is his honesty and transparency. Listen to Graham, this makes you realize why God blesses him:

**(Inspiring Quotations compiled
by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)**

Our permissive society has affected me; I watch things on television today I would not have tolerated in my life twenty years ago. Am I being slowly brainwashed by Satan's forces, by the very culture about which the Lord says, "Come out from among them and be separate and do not touch what is unclean"

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v. 26 Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem.

Gezer, Hazor and Megiddo are the chariot cities. And he has them full of all of these animals that he is accumulating and these chariots that he is building.

Deuteronomy 17:14-17 When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us, be sure to appoint over you the king of the Lord your God chooses.

He must be from among your own brothers. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not a brother Israelite. The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them for the Lord has told you, “You are not to go back that way again.” He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

When you see these remaining verses he is going to get horses in Egypt. More than that, there are four things:

- 1) He is multiplying his SILVER and GOLD.
- 2) He will multiply his WIVES.
- 3) He has gotten HORSES, and the Lord said NO.
- 4) He has imported these from all places, EGYPT.

(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)

If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may

overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound
obscurity.

DANIEL WEBSTER

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Does that ever happen for Solomon as soon as he is
out of here. The kingdom is divided under his sons and
devastation takes place, and God's judgment falls.

v. 27 The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as
stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in
the foothills.

v. 28 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and
from Kue—the royal merchants purchased them from
Kue.

Kue was in southern ancient Turkey

v. 29 They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred
shekels of silver, and a horse for a hundred and fifty.
They also exported them to all the kings of the
Hittites and of the Arameans.

(The Power of Personal Integrity: Becoming a Person
of Character in a Drifting World by Charles Dyer)

Pleasure itself is not wrong, but it can turn one's eyes
away from the Lord. Solomon became more intent
on gratifying himself than on pleasing God. The first

tiny crack appeared in the foundation of his life, and it grew in proportion to the size of Solomon's harem.

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(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)

Before we can pray, "Lord, Thy Kingdom come," we must be willing to pray, "My kingdom go."

ALAN REDPATH

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(God's Little Devotional Book by Honor Books, Inc.)

Author J. Allan Petersen tells about a flight he took on a 747 out of Brazil. He was awakened from sleep by a strong voice announcing, "We have a very serious emergency." Three engines had quit because of fuel contamination and the fourth was expected to go at any second. The plane began to drop and turn in the night, preparing for an emergency landing.

At first the situation seemed unreal to Petersen, but When the steward barked, "Prepare for impact," he found himself—and everyone around him praying. As he buried his head in his lap and pulled up his knees, he said "Oh, God, thank you. Thank You for the incredible privilege of knowing You. Life has been wonderful." As the plane approached the ground, his last cry was, "Oh God, my wife! My Children!"

Petersen survived. As he wandered about the airport in a daze, aching all over, he found he couldn't speak, but his mind was racing. What were my last words? What was the bottom line! As he remembered, he had his answer: Relationship. Reunited with his wife and sons, he found that all he could say to them over and over was, "I appreciate you, I appreciate you!"

Listen to what you are saying. Have you told that person who matters most to you how you really feel?

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CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life” (Proverbs 4:23 NIV)

LESSON #2: Jesus Christ and our desire to please Him should be our single focus.

LESSON #3: God is in the business of blessing the obedient heart.

LESSON #4: Find your joy in His Word rather than in your bottom line.

LESSON #5: Satan uses the snare of accumulating wealth to destroy the things that are most precious to us.

LESSON #6: Those things that are most precious to us are our family, our marriage, our physical health, and our spiritual well-being.

LESSON #7: One of the temptations of wealth is to make a statement by becoming overly extravagant.

LESSON #8: Solomon is totally focused on material things and is caught up in the bigness of his projects.

LESSON #9: The fall of great men usually starts with rationalizing small things.

LESSON #10: “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon” (Matthew 6:24 NASB).

LESSON #11: “For the love of money is a root of all sorts Of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang” (1 Timothy 6:10).

LESSON #12: “Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life, according to your word” (Psalm 119:37).

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER SEVENTEEN – 1 Kings 10:14-29

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They also exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and of the Arameans.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 10:14-29 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What was part of Solomon's yearly income, according to verse 14?

3. Describe what Solomon does in verses 16 & 17.

4. Describe King Solomon's throne, according to verses 18-20.

5. What do we learn about Solomon's household goods in verse 21?

6. What cargo is carried by Solomon's trading ships, according to verse 22?

7. What two things are said about King Solomon in verse 23?

8. Why are the leaders of the world seeking an audience with Solomon, according to verse 24?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS:

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