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What You Need to Know About SOLOMON

“Unruly Desire and an Unguarded Heart”

PART IV

STUDY NUMBER NINETEEN – ECCLESIASTES 2:1-11

NOTES

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

v. 1 I thought in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless.

v. 2 “Laughter,” I said, “is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?”

v. 3 I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.

v. 4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards.

v. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.

v. 6 I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.

v. 7 I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.

v. 8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man.

v. 9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

v. 10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor.

v. 11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What kind of test is Solomon taking and why? What is his verdict, according to verse 1?

3. What did he try, according to verse 3?

4. Outline the projects that Solomon undertook in verses 4-6.

5. Outline the other things that he did, according to verses 7 & 8.

6. What were the results of all of his endeavors, according to verse 9?

7. Outline what he did for himself, according to verse 10.

8. What is his three-fold verdict from this experiment, according to verse 11?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: "Above all else, guard your heart for it affects everything you do" (Proverbs 4:23 NLB).

LESSON #2: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21).

LESSON #3: The pursuit of pleasure will only leave you thirsty for more and more.

LESSON #4: Cheering oneself with wine and folly will end in futility.

LESSON #5: There is no real purpose in becoming a workaholic.

LESSON #6: There is no lasting satisfaction in possessions and pleasures.

LESSON #7: Make it your mission to delight the heart of God not the heart of man.

LESSON #8: Recognize the fact that our lives, in view of eternity, are really just "a vapor that appears for a few days and then passes away" (James 4:14 paraphrased).

LESSON #9: Solomon's summary of his experience is three-fold: 1) "it was meaningless"; 2) "it was a chasing after the wind"; and 3) "there was nothing gained under the sun."

LESSON #10: Make it your motto that you are going to "live for Christ and then to die would be to gain" (Philippians 1:21 paraphrased).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY – ECCLESIASTES 2:12-26**NOTES****Ecclesiastes 2:12-26**

v. 12 Then I turned my thoughts to consider wisdom, and also madness and folly. What more can the king's successor do than what has already been done?

v. 13 I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness.

v. 14 The wise man has eyes in his head, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both.

v. 15 Then I thought in my heart, "The fate of the fool will overtake me also. What then do I gain by being wise?" I said in my heart, "This too is meaningless."

v. 16 For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered; in days to come both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die!

v. 17 So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

v. 18 I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.

v. 19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless.

v. 20 So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun.

v. 21 For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune.

v. 22 What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors under the sun?

v. 23 All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless.

v. 24 A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God,

v. 25 for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?

v. 26 To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 2:12-26 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. To what does Solomon turn his thoughts, according to verse 12?

3. What did Solomon observe, according to verse 13?

4. What did Solomon to realize, according to verses 14 & 15?

5. In what three ways are the wise men and fool alike, according to verse 16?

6. Why did Solomon hate all things, according to verse 18?

7. What is a great misfortune, according to Solomon in verse 21?

8. What is the best things that a man can do, 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 FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: "Nine-tenths of our unhappiness is selfishness and is an insult cast in the face of God" (G. H. Morrison).

LESSON #2: A man shows what he is by what he does with what he has.

LESSON #3: Once the game is over the king and pawn go back in the same box.

LESSON #4: The hot words in the passage are: "fate," "gain," "remembered," "forgotten," "die," "leave," "control," "despair," and "great misfortune."

LESSON #5: The wise and fool alike are going to die, "they will not be long remembered" and "both will be forgotten."

LESSON #6: Solomon has come to the painful realization that when he dies, he must leave everything behind that he has toiled for through the years of his life.

LESSON #7: Will the person who inherits the fruit of his labor be a wise man or a fool?

LESSON #8: The fruit of pleasing God is three-fold: 1) "satisfaction" (verse 24); 2) "enjoyment" (verse 25); and 3) "happiness" (verse 26).

LESSON #9: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV).

LESSON #10: "He said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, and you will bring me glory.' I replied, 'But my work all seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing and to no purpose at all. Yet I leave it all in the Lord's hand; I will trust God for my reward'" (Isaiah 49:3, 4 NLB).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-ONE – 1 KINGS 11:1-13**NOTES****1 Kings 11:1-13**

v. 1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites.

v. 2 They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love.

v. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.

v. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

v. 5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.

v. 6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.

v. 7 On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.

v. 8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

v. 9 The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.

v. 10 Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.

v. 11 So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.

v. 12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

v. 13 Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 11:1-13 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is he guilty of, according to verse 1?

3. Why did the Lord tell the Israelites not to intermarry and what is Solomon's response to this command, according to verse 2?

4. What did his wives and concubines do to him, according to verse 3?

5. As Solomon grew old, what did his wives do to him, according to verse 4?

6. What did Solomon do, according to verse 6?

7. How did the Lord respond to Solomon and why, according to verse 9?

8. What is Solomon guilty of, according to verse 10?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: We are witnessing in this chapter the culmination of a disobedient lifestyle.

LESSON #2: The love of another woman can surely cause us to make some big mistakes.

LESSON #3: The Lord had made it clear that they were not to “intermarry . . . because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods” (1 Kings 11:2).

LESSON #4: Solomon never really learned to say “no” in any situation.

LESSON #5: Making choices contrary to the Word of God has serious consequences.

LESSON #6: We can witness the power of the sensual as we see “his wives turned his heart after other gods” (1 Kings 11:4).

LESSON #7: The temptation of old age is to let up, lay down, live for the moment, and let others do the work.

LESSON #8: O Lord, help me to cooperate with You so You don’t have to operate on me.

LESSON #9: If Solomon can fail with all of his wisdom and advantages, let us be forewarned that it can happen to us as well.

LESSON #10: “Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name” (Psalms 86:11).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-TWO – PROVERBS 5:1-23

NOTES

Proverbs 5:1-23

v. 1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight,
v. 2 that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.
v. 3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;
v. 4 but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.
v. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.
v. 6 She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.
v. 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.
v. 8 Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,
v. 9 lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel,

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v. 10 lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house.

v. 11 At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.

v. 12 You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!"

v. 13 I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors.

v. 14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly."

v. 15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.

v. 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?

v. 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.

v. 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

v. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

v. 20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

v. 21 For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths.

v. 22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.

v. 23 He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Proverbs 5:1-23 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What are the two command that are recorded in verse 1?

3. How is the adulterous described in verses 3-6?

4. What are the two commands that are given in verse 8?

5. Outline the results of an immoral lifestyle, according to verses 9-11.

6. What is Solomon's advise in verses 15 & 17?

7. Outline Solomon's four wishes in verses 18 & 19.

8. What two-fold reason does Solomon give for being highly motivated to a moral life, according to verse 21.

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: "The lips of a seductive woman are oh so sweet, her soft words are oh so smooth" (Proverbs 5:3 Peterson).

LESSON #2: "But it won't be long before she's gravel in your mouth, a pain in your gut, a wound in your heart" (Proverbs 5:4 Peterson).

LESSON #3: "She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not" (Proverbs 5:6).

LESSON #4: Playing with sexual temptation is like playing with fire.

LESSON #5: Like Joseph, it is better to lose your coat and keep your character.

LESSON #6: “Keep your distance from such a woman; absolutely stay out of her neighborhood” (Proverbs. 5:8 Peterson).

LESSON #7: Sexual sin affects us physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally.

LESSON #8: The testimony of this deviant lifestyle is “My life is ruined! I haven’t one blessed thing to show for my life!” (Proverbs 5:14 Peterson).

LESSON #9: “May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth . . . may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love” (Proverbs 5:18, 19).

LESSON #10: One of the great deterrents of sin is to be aware of two facts: “a man’s ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths” (Proverbs 5:21).

LESSON #11: “The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast” (Proverbs 5:22).

LESSON #12: Don’t “die for lack of discipline, led astray by [your] own great folly” (Proverbs 5:23).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-THREE – 1 KINGS 11:14-43

NOTES

1 Kings 11:14-43

v. 14 Then the Lord raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom.

v. 15 Earlier when David was fighting with Edom, Joab the commander of the army, who had gone up to bury the dead, had struck down all the men in Edom.

v. 16 Joab and all the Israelites stayed there for six months, until they had destroyed all the men in Edom.

v. 17 But Hadad, still only a boy, fled to Egypt with some Edomite officials who had served his father.

v. 18 They set out from Midian and went to Paran. Then taking men from Paran with them, they went to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave Hadad a house and land and provided him with food.

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v. 19 Pharaoh was so pleased with Hadad that he gave him a sister of his own wife, Queen Tahpenes, in marriage.

v. 20 The sister of Tahpenes bore him a son named Genubath, whom Tahpenes brought up in the royal palace. There Genubath lived with Pharaoh's own children.

v. 21 While he was in Egypt, Hadad heard that David rested with his fathers and that Joab the commander of the army was also dead. Then Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me go, that I may return to my own country."

v. 22 "What have you lacked here that you want to go back to your own country?" Pharaoh asked. "Nothing," Hadad replied, "but do let me go!"

v. 23 And God raised up against Solomon another adversary, Rezon son of Eliada, who had fled from his master, Hadadezer king of Zobah.

v. 24 He gathered men around him and became the leader of a band of rebels when David destroyed the forces [of Zobah]; the rebels went to Damascus, where they settled and took control.

v. 25 Rezon was Israel's adversary as long as Solomon lived, adding to the trouble caused by Hadad. So Rezon ruled in Aram and was hostile toward Israel.

v. 26 Also, Jeroboam son of Nebat rebelled against the king. He was one of Solomon's officials, an Ephraimite from Zeredah, and his mother was a widow named Zeruah.

v. 27 Here is the account of how he rebelled against the king: Solomon had built the supporting terraces and had filled in the gap in the wall of the city of David his father.

v. 28 Now Jeroboam was a man of standing, and when Solomon saw how well the young man did his work, he put him in charge of the whole labor force of the house of Joseph.

v. 29 About that time Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, and Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him on the way, wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone out in the country,

v. 30 and Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces.

v. 31 Then he said to Jeroboam, "Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes.'

v. 32 But for the sake of my servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe.

v. 33 I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molech the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in my ways, nor done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my statutes and laws as David, Solomon's father, did.

v. 34 But I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon's hand; I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David my servant, whom I chose and who observed my commands and statutes.

v. 35 I will take the kingdom from his son's hands and give you ten tribes.

v. 36 I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name.

v. 37 However, as for you, I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel.

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v. 38 If you do whatever I command you and walk in my ways and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you.

v. 39 I will humble David's descendants because of this, but not forever.”

v. 40 Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to Egypt, to Shishak the king, and stayed there until Solomon's death.

v. 41 As for the other events of Solomon's reign—all he did and the wisdom he displayed—are they not written in the book of the annals of Solomon?

v. 42 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.

v. 43 Then he rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 11:14-43 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does the Lord do because of Solomon's disobedience, according to verse 14?

3. What does the Lord do in verse 23 against Solomon?

4. What did Jeroboam, son of Nebat do, according to verse 26?

5. Describe Jeroboam's relationship to Solomon and his kingdom, according to verse 28.

6. Summarize the message of Ahijah the prophet to Jeroboam recorded in verses 29-39.

7. What is Solomon's response to Jeroboam, according to verse 40?

8. Summarize Solomon's obituary in verses 41-43.

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked [or laughed at]; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

LESSON #2: The Lord is not a disinterested bystander. When He sees disobedience in our lives He takes action.

LESSON #3: Solomon was guilty on five counts: 1) idolatry; 2) immorality; 3) horses; 4) Egypt, and 5) silver and gold.

LESSON #4: God does discipline His disobedient children.

LESSON #5: The tragedy of Solomon's life is that if he understood the afflictions of his own heart, why he did not do something about it?

LESSON #6: "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

LESSON #7: God is taking action against Solomon because he has lost his right to lead.

LESSON #8: "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (Psalm 75: 6, 7 KJV).

LESSON #9: The reason for God's judgment is five-fold: 1) "they have forsaken me"; 2) "they have worshipped Ashtoreth . . . Chemosh . . . Molech"; 3) "they have not walked in my ways"; 4) "they have not done what is right in my eyes"; and 5) "they have not kept my statutes and laws" (1 Kings 11:33).

LESSON #10: What a difference would have been made if Solomon would have spoken the words of Job: "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR – PROVERBS 3:1-26

NOTES

Proverbs 3:1-26

- v. 1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,
v. 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.
v. 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
v. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.
v. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
v. 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
v. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.
v. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.
v. 9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
v. 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.
v. 11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,
v. 12 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.
v. 13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding,
v. 14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.
v. 15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.
v. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

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v. 17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.

v. 18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

v. 19 By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;

v. 20 by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.

v. 21 My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight;

v. 22 they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.

v. 23 Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble;

v. 24 when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

v. 25 Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,

v. 26 for the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Proverbs 3:1-26 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What two commands are given in verse 1?

3. What are the compensations for obedience, according to verse 2?

4. Outline the commands and compensations in verses 3 & 4.

5. Outline the commands and compensations in verses 5 & 6.

6. Outline the commands and compensations with regard to money, according to verses 9 & 10.

7. Outline the fruitage of wisdom in verses 14-18.

8. What are the two commands given in verses 21.

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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

LESSON #1: Obedience to the Word should be our highest priority.

LESSON #2: Obedience has its compensations.

LESSON #3: We ought to be aiming at compassion and consistency in our conduct.

LESSON #4: It ought to be our goal to “trust in the Lord with all of our heart” and let Him lead.

LESSON #5: Humble yourself before the Lord and avoid sin.

LESSON #6: “Fear the Lord and shun evil” ought to be one of our primary goals.

LESSON #7: There is a relationship between our spiritual health and our physical health.

LESSON #8: “Honor the Lord” in your giving.

LESSON #9: Learn to surrender yourself to the Lord's discipline.

LESSON #10: Pursue wisdom with a passion.

LESSON #11: Stay focused on sound judgment and discernment.

LESSON #12: God has His way of doing things and we must learn to live life His way.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
