

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER 21 – 1 KINGS 11:1-13

We have been in Ecclesiastes the last two weeks. We have been there because we are talking about what was going on in Solomon's HEART!

Today we are going to move ahead historically in the record; we are going back to Kings. We are still in the same place as far as his age is concerned. He is in the latter part of his kingdom and he is an older man right now as the scene opens today. But there are some things that all culminate in this passage.

What I would like to do is go back to Deuteronomy 17. The reason I am doing this is so you can see what Moses said in the Law. When you understand what Moses said and you see what Solomon is doing you will understand the justice and why God treats Solomon so bad today. It really is a sobering study. Listen to Deuteronomy 17:14-20:

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 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, 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 he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to reverence the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.

God stipulated, not only don't do these four things but, before you take the throne you sit down and write down all the laws and put it right there besides the throne. When you are making these decisions in everything you're doing, and thinking, it will be in accordance with what the laws say. On top of that, he said, "Read it everyday!" The greatest secret to an abundant life is the quicker you learn this the sooner you will do it and, you will be in the Word every day! I know people can go from Sunday to Sunday, never get into the Book, never read a bit of it and think they are negotiating life and they are doing real well. All of a sudden something hits and they realize they are totally unprepared. That is exactly what happened to Solomon. His HEART has grown cold to the Lord, he has gotten involved in all these compromises and now the roof is caving in.

- 1) He multiplied gold and silver. \$ 872,000,000 gross salary plus all the amenities from all of the diplomatic missions.
- 2) There are a lot of women in his life. What else is new!
- 3) He must have 12,000 or 14,000 head of horses. Where has he gotten them all? Egypt!
- 4) He is in business in Egypt with the horses.

J. Vernon McGee says:

Solomon is the most colossal failure in the pages of Scripture. "...From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more..." (Luke 12:48).

Karl Menninger wrote a book, "Whatever Happened to Sin!" This became the dominant theme in my thoughts. Prepare your HEART today because we are just going to walk through 13 verses and they are all historical. To get your HEART ready here are two verses that Moses gave to the people while he was standing there on the plains by the Jordan River and getting ready to die. It is his farewell address. All these years of leadership this distinguished 120 year old man gives his farewell address:

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

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

When the author writes in the historical records of Kings he always makes Pharaoh's daughter a separate lady. He makes mention of her a lot. Solomon has been married to her for quite a while. It was a political marriage so he would have peace on the southern border. He has had to make all kinds of excuses during the early part of his reign for her. For instance, she couldn't stay down where David stayed because that is a holy place under the Lord and she had a different religion and she had all of her stuff. Remember what he did when he built that palace complex he built a special residence just for her that was Pharaoh's daughter's house. She has always been kind of set apart. I think it's because she is the first one involved in this gigantic slide that is taking place in life.

When you see those terms "Moabites," "Ammonites," "Edomites," "Sidonians," and "Hittites" they are all tribes of pagan nations living in the land or, around the land. He is deeply concerned to have peace on those borders so

he has found a key way to do it. To get into a marital relationship with somebody up in the political machine of these various countries.

I wrote down, the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites were all termites eating away the moral foundations of Solomon's life. That is exactly what is taking place here. He is a man who is in violation of these warnings.

I said to myself, what would happen if Solomon would have just stayed loyal, committed and faithful to Shunammite. Shunammite was that sweet little Lebanese princess that was working in one of the vineyards in Lebanon. He was on a trip up there and happened to meet her. He was so touched by his love for her that he wrote that fabulous "Song of Solomon" and it was a gold record. It was popular and made the biblical canon and it tells you about marital love in the way God intended it to be. Here is a great piece from Ann Landers that I would like to share with you.

50 Years of love A Honeymoon Delight

DEAR ANN LANDERS: Last weekend we celebrated my parents 50th wedding anniversary. This morning, they left on a long-awaited trip to Hawaii. They were as excited as if it were their honeymoon.

When my parents married, they had only enough money for a three-day trip 50 miles from home. They

made a pact that each time they made love, they would put a dollar in a special metal box and save it for a honeymoon in Hawaii for their 50th anniversary.

Dad was a policeman, and Mom was a schoolteacher. They lived in a modest house and did all their own repairs. Raising five children was a challenge, and sometimes, money was short, but no matter what emergency came up, Dad would not let Mom take any money out of the “Hawaii account.” As the account grew, they put it in a savings account and then bought CDs.

My parents were always very much in love. I can remember Dad coming home and telling Mom, “I have a dollar in my pocket,” and she would smile at him and reply, “I know how to spend it.” When each of us children married, Mom and Dad gave us a small metal box and told us their secret, which we found enchanting. All five of us are now saving for our dream honeymoons. Mom and Dad never told us how much money they had managed to save, but it must have been considerable because when they cashed in those CDs, they had enough for airfare to Hawaii plus hotel accommodations for 10 days and plenty of spending money.

As they told us goodbye before leaving, Dad winked and said, “Tonight, we are starting an account for Cancun. That should only take 25 years”-- Loving Daughter in Abilene, Texas.

Why does that make you feel so good? It's because it is right! We are pumped into the garbage of the culture and this is right. When you hear it you get warm fuzzes inside because you could identify. It is exactly the way God intended it to be! Solomon is violating that and that is why it kind of makes you feel bad inside.

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.

In verse 1 you have the word **HOWEVER** and in verse 2 you have the word **NEVERTHELESS!** I think Solomon grew up in a rich home and nobody ever told him **NO!** Nobody ever told him he had to work for something! Nobody ever told him he had to wait for something! If he wanted it, he could have it. If he wanted it, go get it...it is yours! Do whatever you have to do. But don't ever let anybody tell you no! Do whatever you want.

"you must not intermarry with them because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.

Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love."

Listen to this statement:

Making choices contrary to the Word of God and

to the will of God will always have serious consequences.

Solomon held fast to them in love. He never said “NO”.

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

Perhaps Solomon struggled when the first of these foreign women arrived with the envoy from a neighboring state. As the envoy flattered Solomon and described the mutual benefits of the proposed treaty for Solomon and the people of Israel, Solomon barely listened. Instead his eyes kept moving back to take in the form and beauty of this remarkable woman who stood in his royal court. Surely God wasn't referring to this woman when he made such a prohibition against having foreign wives, or else why would God have made her so beautiful?

No doubt Solomon used his great intellect to construct several rationalizations of why God would consider this marriage to be an exception. But in the end Solomon deliberately decided to disobey God's Word and follow the lust of his heart.

Somewhat later in life Solomon came to a sad realization. “All people spend their lives scratching for food, but they never seem to have enough: (Ecclesiastes 6:7). Solomon had an appetite for beautiful women, and his appetite was never satisfied.

p. 54

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

**All the water in the world, however hard it tried,
Could never, never sink a ship unless it got inside.
All the evil in the world, the wickedness and sin,
Can never sink your soul's fair craft unless you let it in.**

A.C. HOFFMAN

p. 32

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

The Lord gives him a warning in verse 2 and you get to verse 3 and there it is, just like the Lord says "*his wives led him astray.*"

Listen to this little poem on King Solomon:

King Solomon

**Solomon, Solomon,
Wonderfully wise,
How could you get married
To one thousand wives?**

**If God gave you wisdom,
Then how could you falter,
With wife after wife
Building idol and altar?**

Your life in old age

Fills me with distress;
Why did you slowly
Love God Less and less?

If you were so wise,
I hardly can see
How things will go better
With a simpleton like me!

(Fenelon: Mediations onto the Heart of God
By Francois Fenelon)

O God, reign over us in spite of our passions! How could we find anything to love outside of you? May the fire of your love extinguish any other fire! Give us grace to love you, and we will love you and no other. And we will continue to love you throughout eternity.

p. 84

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.

The power of the sensual once again.
Turned his heart away from God and toward these wives.
Weak-willed.

(Fenelon: Mediations on the Heart of God
by Francois Fenelon)

Saint Augustine tells us that for too long we have been dragging around with weak wills, longing after good but not putting forth the effort to bring it about. p. 70
(The Power of Personal Integrity: Becoming a Person of Character in a Drifting World by Charles Dyer)

SOLOMON ALLOWED HIS LOVE FOR GOD TO GROW COLD! Solomon's pursuit of pleasure and his benign neglect of God's Word caused a subtle transformation in his own life. This crack in his moral foundation was the most insidious because it happened so slowly that he never saw the change until it was too late.

But over time his love for God grew cold, and his heart grew callous. "In Solomon's old age, [his wives and concubines] turned his heart to worship their gods instead of trusting only in the Lord his god, as his father, David, had done" (1 Kings 11:4). p. 55

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

This woman that he married was an Ammonite and Rehoboam the next king in the Davidic line is from that marriage.

You have Ashtoreth the female goddess of fertility here, so sex and all of that is involved, and priestess who are prostitutes are part of that religion.

And Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites is involved in children sacrifice.

You have tragic things that are taking place here and Solomon is letting it happen in order to please these women who come into his life.

(Prayer – The Great Adventure by David Jeremiah)

I'm frequently asked, "Do you believe in the ecumenical movement?" I usually respond with a saying of C.S. Lewis: "There is no clever arrangement of rotten eggs that will ever make a good omelet." The ecumenical movement is a misguided, human attempt to take all organized church—regardless of what any individual denomination believes—and force them together into some sort of outward unity. I don't believe in that, and neither does the Bible. p. 199

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.

The life of Edgar Allen Poe is one of the most tragic of all American writers. Within a brief span of forty years he literally went from riches to rags. Raised by foster parents who loved him deeply, he was provided with an education that matched his genius in his field of interest. He attended private schools in England. He was schooled in Richmond at the University of Virginia. He even spent a period of time as a cadet at West Point.

Poe, in his heyday, was unparalleled as [a literary critic, editor, poet] and [author of short stories]. Most of us have probably had our spines tingled by The Pit and the Pendulum or The Tell-Tale Heart or The Raven. His works have indeed left their mark.

But the mark left by his life is another story. Poe lost his young bride through a bitter case of tuberculosis. By that time, alcohol and drug abuse along with involvement in the occult and Satanism, had proved to be his undoing. Depression and insanity plagued his short life, eventually leaving him unconscious in the gutter of a windswept street in Baltimore. Four days later he died, having never regained consciousness.

Poe began his life with money and brilliance, which quickly brought him prestige and fame. But it was only a matter of time before he became a ragged, penniless bum.

This tragedy, the slow slip from riches to rags, happens not only to individuals but to churches as well. The church of Corinth was just such a case. Its beginning was so rich that it seemed invincible. Like Poe, it went from riches to the beggarly rags of spiritual poverty before it finally ended up in the gutter.

(From Parson's Bible Illustrator 1.0)

Wow a guy that could write like that and could tell stories like that he's history because he compromised. You say Solomon, that's Old Testament. I know it is but do you want to hear the New Testament.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever: What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they will be my people." "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." I will be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, dear friend, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

One guy said:

"Oh Lord, help me to cooperate with You so You won't have to operate on me!

(God's Little Instruction Book: Volumes I, II & III by Honor Books)

To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge,

to find the will of God is the greatest discovery,
and to do the will of God is the greatest achievement.
p. 153

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.

This is over on the Mount of Olives, across the Kidron Valley. That very sacred spot he chooses to raise up these altars. You do it for one you have to do it for all. So every woman comes and said she wants her religious freedom because you did it for Pharaoh's daughter, you did it for them, do it for me! So he is on a gigantic slide.

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

Where is the moral outrage on the part of the Levitical priest to say, "Solomon you are in violation of the law?" I mean the whole culture of Israel is built on the Levitical system and honoring God at specified sacrifices and, honoring God as the Holy God will literally strike someone dead in disobedience. Where is that voice of the Levitical priest? Where is the voice of the people saying, "Solomon this isn't the way God intended this because our history tells us this and your doing this! The silence is awesome where it ought to be spoken and Solomon has a free hand to do what he wants to do.

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.

God appeared to Solomon two times before and now he is appearing to him one final time, and this time is the last time. This time is recorded in the last three verses in the passage.

Let's talk about the first two appearances for just a moment.

Remember when he started as a young man what was his wish? His wish was that he could be a wise king and that he could honor God as a wise king. So God says I am going to give you wisdom and I am going to give you all this other stuff too because you didn't ask for that but, I am going to give it to you as a gift. So his wish is in appearance number one!

Remember when appearance two came he just finished building the temple and there had been a dedicated service and the Lord comes one night and wants to talk to him. When the Lord talks to him it's not a wish anymore it is a WARNING! It is a BIG WARNING!

1 Kings 9:2-9 the Lord appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. The Lord said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you

have built, by putting my Name there for ever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple? People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them—that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them.'

I call the third appearance "Wipe Out". When you hear these last three verses it will make you shake in your "tennis shoes" and its okay we ought to have the fear of God restored among us.

(The Book of Wisdom by Multnomah Books)

There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All

right, then, have it your way.”

C.S. Lewis

p. 452

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

Here Solomon and he is not going to do what the Lord commanded.

(Fenelon: Talking with God by Francois Fenelon)

Ah! what will be your blessedness if you will but surrender yourself into the hands of God, permitting him to do whatever he will, not according to your desires, but according to his own good pleasure!

p. 32

(31 Days of Prayer: Moving God's Mighty Hand by Warren & Ruth Myers)

Here's a motto' for all of us in all we do: "God's will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else." Pray that you will be open to whatever the Lord wants you to do day by day. Tell Him you simply want to be used by Him, whether in great tasks or lowly ones, whether the results will seem large or small.

p. 38

The study ends and the curtain drops with the Lord's final words of judgment for Solomon.

It is sobering let's look at it together.

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."

Does that sound familiar? Remember King Saul. Samuel walks up to him and says, "obedience is better than sacrifice and you have been disobedient and God is tearing the kingdom away from you today and giving it to one better than you and that is Solomon's daddy, David. Right away he says, "I'm going to take it away from you".

Remember last week we were working in Ecclesiastes and Solomon was saying, "I hate life" and "I hate everything I've lived for because I'm going to die and I have to leave it to somebody who is not worthy of it."

Well I went back after that study and I looked at the Kings' record in 1 King 14 and discovered that Rehoboam came to the throne, of course, it immediately divided.

But, within five months, the record says, King Rehoboam's reign, King Shishak of Egypt came up and ransacked Jerusalem. He ransacked the temple of the

Lord and stole everything including all the gold shields. Solomon made five hundred gold shields, two hundred big ones and three hundred small ones and put them on display. Shishak took all five hundred of them, and it just lets you understand that the premonitions that Solomon had last week while all this was going on, he said, "I hate life, and I'm going to die because I am going to have to leave all of this stuff to everybody else."

There was some stuff that was a whole lot deeper in his heart that was creating a lot of the problem and the despair that was there. It helps us today to better understand that.

v. 12 Nevertheless for the sake of your father David 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 I will give him one tribe for the sake of David, my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.

The Kingdom splits after Solomon's death. There is a southern kingdom from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin ruled by Rehoboam and the ten tribes in the north are ruled by Jeroboam.

I want to end on a positive note. Let me give you one verse that comes out of Moses' farewell address again:

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

If you really want abundant life tonight and you really want to make a strong finish, the Lord wants your TOTAL HEART DEVOTION. He wants YOUR OBEDIENCE. He doesn't want to have a joint venture. He doesn't want arguing. He just says OBEDIENCE! TOTAL HEART DEVOTION out of LOVE! OBEDIENCE is the key to the whole thing.

(Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough: A Guide to Nine Biblical Fasts by Elmer L. Towns)

These six steps can help you break the influence of things that might otherwise keep you and your family in bondage for generations to come. To summarize:

Six Steps to Freedom

- 1. I renounce**
- 2. I acknowledge**
- 3. I forgive**
- 4. I submit**
- 5. I take responsibility**
- 6. I disown**

p. 39

CONCLUSION:

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 NIV).

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 NIV).

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” (Psalm 86:11 NIV).

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER TWENTYONE — 1 KINGS 11: 1-13

Notes

11:1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites.

11:2 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.

11:3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.

11:4 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.

11:5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.

11:6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.

11:7 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.

11:8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

11:9 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.

11:10 Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.

11:11 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.

11:12 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.

11:13 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."

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE

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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?
