

1 Kings 11:1-13 **Decline of Solomon's great kingdom**

Solomon's Heart Turns from the Lord

¹ But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites — ² from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

³ And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

⁴ For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.

⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

⁶ Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David.

⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. ⁸ And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

God's response to Solomon's idolatry

⁹ So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, ¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded.

¹¹ Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

¹² Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. ¹³ However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

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Facts Revealed:

God's Law concerning a king of Israel

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

¹⁴ "When you come to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,'

¹⁵ you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.

¹⁶ But **he shall not multiply horses for himself**, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the Lord has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' ¹⁷

Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

18 "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that **he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book**, from the one before the priests, the Levites. 19 And it shall be with him, and **he shall read it all the days of his life**, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel. NKJV

Solomon's Heart Turns from the Lord [1 Kings 11:1-8]

✧ 1 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the **daughter of Pharaoh**: women of the **Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites** — 2 **from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods."** Solomon clung to these in love. [1 Kings 11:1-2]

✧ The commandment of God against intermarriage with the nations in the Promised Land. [Exodus 34:10-16, Deuteronomy 7:1-5]

Exodus 34:10-16

10 And He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you. 11 Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the **Amorite** and the **Canaanite** and the **Hittite** and the **Perizzite** and the **Hivite** and the **Jebusite**. 12 Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. 13 But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), 15 **lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, 16 and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.** NKJV

Deuteronomy 7:1-5

1 "When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the **Hittites** and the **Girgashites** and the **Amorites** and the **Canaanites** and the **Perizzites** and the **Hivites** and the **Jebusites**, seven nations greater and mightier than you, 2 and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. 3 **Nor shall you make marriages with them.** You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. 4 **For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods;** so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. 5 But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. NKJV

- ✧ 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. [1 Kings 11:3]
- ✧ 4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. [1 Kings 11:4]
- 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. [1 Kings 11:5]
- ✧ 6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David. [1 Kings 11:6]
- ✧ 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. 8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. [1 Kings 11:7-8]
- ✧ God's Word proved to be true even for the man known as the wisest man to ever live until the life of our Messiah Jesus Christ.
- ✧ The best of man's wisdom is greatly lacking when that man fails to obey clear commandments of God Most High.
- ✧ David remained faithful to God his entire life and he is held up as the example of a righteous king and all following kings are compared to his example. David's only exception was in the case of Uriah the Hittite. [1 Kings 15:5]
- ✧ Solomon is here compared to his father David, and came up lacking.

God's response to Solomon's idolatry [1 Kings 11:9-13]

- ✧ 9 So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, **who had appeared to him twice**, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; **but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded.** [1 Kings 11:9-10]
- ✧ The Lord appeared to Solomon twice, once at the beginning of his reign when Solomon asked for wisdom. [1 Kings 3:5-14] and again after the dedication of the Temple. [1 Kings 9:1-9]
- ✧ In both cases Yahweh had stressed the importance of continued obedience to the commandments of God.
- ✧ When Yahweh speaks to us He expects us to treasure His words and obey for the rest of our lives.
- ✧ When Yahweh appears to us, He expects the memory of the appearance to remain fresh in our conscious awareness for the rest of our lives so we may be able to perform His Word.
- ✧ Therefore the double appearance of Yahweh strengthened the expectation and doubled the responsibility to be very diligent in desire to obey His words.
- ✧ 11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "**Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.** [1 Kings 11:11]
- ✧ 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, **for the sake of your father David**; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son **for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem** which I have chosen." [1 Kings 11:12-13]
- ✧ Solomon had acknowledged that The Lord had given him the kingdom because of His love for David and the promise He had made to David, and that the promise was conditioned upon the continued obedience to the commandments of Yahweh. [1 Kings 2:24, 3:6-9, 14, 8:22-26]

✧ Only God's love for David and His love for Jerusalem prompted Him to reserve some of the kingdom to pass on to the son of Solomon.

✧ In his final review of his life, Solomon made the final conclusion that is fitting:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God and keep His commandments,

For this is man's all.

¹⁴ **For God will bring every work into judgment,**

Including every secret thing,

Whether good or evil.

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