



# The Life and Writings of Solomon

## Compromise, Downfall, and Consequences



*1 Kings 11:1-13*



# Background

- God had given Solomon wisdom, discernment, riches, and honor like no one else
- Yet despite these privileges and blessings, Solomon lacked obedience and sinned greatly
- The seeds of disobedience were sown early in various compromises:
  - He formed a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter
  - He accumulated many horses
  - He worshipped God from the forbidden pagan high places

# The Growing Sin and Idolatry of Solomon

- He had and loved many wives and concubines (v1a, 3a)
  - 700 wives (women of nobility and rank)
  - 300 concubines (who were women with less rights than a wife)

**Deuteronomy 17:14,17a** <sup>14</sup>When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' ... <sup>17</sup>**He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away**

# The Growing Sin and Idolatry of Solomon

- He had and loved many wives and concubines (v1a, 3a)
- He took foreign wives from forbidden nations (v1b, 2a)
- He clung to them and allowed them to turn his heart away from the Lord (v2b, 3b, 4)
- He committed idolatry by worshipping and offering sacrifices to the gods of his foreign wives (v5, 7-8)



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*At Solomon's prayer of dedication:*

**1 Kings 8:22–23** <sup>22</sup>Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. <sup>23</sup>He said, “O LORD, the God of Israel, **there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath,** keeping covenant and *showing* lovingkindness to **Your servants who walk before You with all their heart,”**

# The Growing Sin and Idolatry of Solomon

*At Solomon's benediction with the people:*

**1 Kings 8:57-61** <sup>57</sup>"May the LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us, <sup>58</sup>that He may **incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments** and His statutes and His ordinances, which He commanded our fathers. <sup>59</sup>"And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day requires, <sup>60</sup>**so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no one else.** <sup>61</sup>"Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day."

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- He clung to them and allowed them to turn his heart away from the Lord (v2b, 3b, 4)
- He committed idolatry by worshipping and offering sacrifices to the gods of his foreign wives (v5, 7-8)
- He did evil in the sight of the Lord and did not follow the Lord fully (v6)

# God's Response to Solomon's Sin and Idolatry

- God was angry with Solomon (vv9-11a)
  - Because his heart was turned away from the Lord
  - Because He appeared to him twice and was clearly warned about the consequences of going after other gods



# God's Response to Solomon's Sin and Idolatry

1 Kings 9:4–8 <sup>4</sup>“As for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, <sup>5</sup>then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’ But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, <sup>7</sup>then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples. <sup>8</sup>“And this house will become a heap of ruins; everyone who passes by will be astonished and hiss and say, ‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?’”

# God's Response to Solomon's Sin and Idolatry

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  - Because his heart was turned away from the Lord
  - Because He appeared to him twice and was clearly warned about the consequences of going after other gods
  - Because he was disobedient anyway and did not keep God's covenant and statutes

# God's Response to Solomon's Sin and Idolatry

- God was angry with Solomon (vv9-11a)
- God pronounced judgment on Solomon (vv11b-13)
  - He will tear the kingdom from him
  - He will wait to do it until after he dies
  - He will allow one tribe to continue for the sake of David and Jerusalem

# Questions

- Is Solomon in heaven?
- How in the world did this happen to Solomon?
- If you had been Solomon, would you have done the same thing?

# Final Thoughts

- Recognize that you too are prone to serve other idols
- Consider and abandon any idol you adore and serve
- Consider and correct any area of compromise currently at work in your heart, no matter how small
- Remember that knowledge, wisdom, and discernment are nothing without obedience