



THE LIFE OF SOLOMON CONCERNING

“Work & Labor”

Various Scripture Verses

Intro



Solomon's Empire

- The territory of Israel before David became king
- Area conquered by David and inherited by Solomon
- Area under strong economic influence of Solomon

- ▶ He built a Temple for God in Jerusalem as a fulfillment of God's promises to David. (I Kings 5, 6)
- ▶ He collected and composed thousands of proverbs and songs which were used in teaching and worship, (3,000 Proverbs 1,005 songs). (Prov. 1:1 – 5)
- ▶ He established and developed trade links with other countries which led to economic prosperity in Israel; He was a successful merchant.
- ▶ Solomon initiated industrial activities and exploited copper deposits in the area of Edom which had been conquered by David.
- ▶ He developed diplomatic relations with foreign countries by marrying the daughters of the Kings of those countries e.g. Married the daughters of the Kings of Egypt, Moab, Edom, Tyre, and many others I Kings. 3:1, 1:1) He remained at peace with those countries.
- ▶ He built up a professional army equipped with horse drawn chariots, had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen. I Kings 10:26.
- ▶ He had government officials who assisted Solomon in his administrative duties. (I Kings 4)

► **Solomon was a great wise man -**

- He was able to judge difficult cases and settle disputes fairly, (in the story of a baby and two women). (I Kings 3:16 – 28)
- His wisdom is seen in the way he organized trade with other countries.
- The queen of Sheba, (Ethiopia travelled all the way to test Solomon's wisdom. (I Kings 10:1 – 9)
- Solomon brought the Ark of the Covenant to the Temple of Jerusalem which represented God's presence among his people. (I Kings 8).
- He built for himself a palace that took 13 years to be completed. (1 Kings 7).
- Solomon divided the kingdom into administrative districts in order to exploit the resources effectively.
- Solomon initiated an ambitious building program in which he fortified Jerusalem and other cities.

The Unseen Hand

Positive, Negative and Zero

Solomon

Concerning
“ Work / Labor”

The word for work in Hebrew is Avodah - which literally refers to both the works of God and of man. Used around 624 times.

The word for work in Greek is Ergon – which means works, a description which is normal and natural to God and are called His works or deeds. It also denotes work not only of God & Christ but also of believers, unbelievers, and even the devil. It is used approx. 169 times in the New Testament.

Solomon

Concerning
“Work/Labor”

I. The Concept of God as a Worker Gen 1 & 2

Psalm 19:1 “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is
declaring the work of His hands.”

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

God's work is on-going, never ceasing.

Psalms 121:2-4 “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep”.

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

Work is – purposeful, creative, and it is good.

God’s work provides for us then a model to understand
that our work likewise is to be considered good.

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

In Psalm 107 we see God working in Four Arenas –

1. Creation 2. Providence 3. Judgment 4. Redemption

Work for man is not a result of the fall & the fall did not cancel God's command for man to work. Instead it made it harder for man to accomplish his work.

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

II. The Concept of Human Work

- a. it now requires “toil” because of the fall of man Gen 3:17-19
 - > the ground is cursed with thorns and thistles
- b. but the work must be accomplished in order to survive

W. R. Forrester says that “man was meant to be a gardener, but by reason of his sin he became a farmer.”

Definition of toil means - to exert strength and with it comes pain and fatigue of body and/or mind.

Solomon

Concerning “Work / Labor”

Ecc. 2:24 “There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God.”

Ecc. 5:18 “Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat to drink and to enjoy oneself in all one’s labor in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.”

Ecc. 9:9-10 “Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.”

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

III. God's purpose in Ordaining Work –

a. Man is to be self-supporting -

Psalm 128:2 “When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you will be happy and it will be well with you.”

1st s 4:11 Thess. 4:11-12 “...to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business, and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.”

b. Man is to find self-fulfillment in his work -

Ecc. 2:24 “There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God.”

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

Proverbs 14:23 “In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.”

Ecc. 5:19 “Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.”

Eph. 4:28 says “He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who is in need.”

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

III. God's purpose in Ordaining Work –

- a. Man is to be self-supporting -
- b. Man is to find self-fulfillment in his work –

C. Our labor should be bringing or giving glory to God

Col 3:17 “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Eph. 6:6 “...not by way of eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”

Col 3:22-24 “Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

IV. Viewing Work as an Ordinance of God

a. A moral duty -

Titus 3:14 “Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.”

Proverbs 6:6 “Go to the ant O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise...”

Ecc. 9:10a “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might;”

Psalms 90:10 & 12 “As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.”

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

IV. Viewing Work as an Ordinance of God

a. As a moral duty

b. As God's calling –

1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

IV. Viewing Work as an Ordinance of God

- a. As a moral duty
- b. As God’s calling –

c. As a stewardship from God –

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Matt 5:16 *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

Proverbs 16:3 “Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.”

1Cor 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the LORD.”

Ecc. 3:13 “...every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all of his labor-- it is the gift of God.”

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

V. The Concept of Frustration –

Ecc. 12:13-14 “The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”

Col 3:23 *“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men...”*

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

Do your work heartily

The Greek word for heartily means ,
“out of or from the soul” ,
implies the ideas of enthusiasm and passion.

Living for the Lord's honor is to be the most relevant thing in our
personal life, in our immediate family, and in our work.

Solomon

Concerning
“Work / Labor”

Application

1. Be careful not to compare your job or your work with someone else's, instead recognize we all have an important part to play in our work.
2. Be diligent not to compromise your values, do your work according to God's standards, not the world's. Prov. 3:5-6
3. Remember God cares about our work – pray and ask for God's favor. He uses our work to build His kingdom for His glory.

Psalm 90:17

“Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and confirm for us the work of our hands, yes confirm the work of our hands.”