

## SOLOMON'S FAILURE

1 Kings 11:1-3 ... "But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh; women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites – 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. And he had seven hundred wives, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart."

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

In our previous devotional, we used Ecclesiastes 2:24 to illustrate how Solomon enjoyed his relationship with God and how we can do the same. However, Solomon did not maintain his relationship with God for his entire life. He failed terribly and suffered great loss because of his sin. God felt so strongly about the sin of multiple wives, and wives who followed pagan gods, that God appeared to Solomon on two occasions to warn him.

As we have said previously, the Old Testament contains much that we need to know in order to have a good relationship with God. The stories of men and women in the books of the Old Testament might seem like old news or ancient history to you. But those stories are there to warn us about the consequences of sin, and to inspire us with the great teachings of our spiritual ancestors. We see throughout the Old Testament how God led his people through impossible situations, how he instructed them in the ways of righteousness, and how he fought their battles. However, we also learn that many of those men and women made horrible mistakes and committed many sins that, in some instances, led to their deaths.

The life of Solomon is played out today in countless believers. People who at one time eagerly followed and obeyed Jesus and taught others about him. But, somewhere along the line; at some point in their lives they wandered away from God. Some were tempted to sin and hide from God in shame, cancelling the once happy relationship they had with Jesus – just like Adam and Eve. Some are led astray by other people; men or women in whom they develop a romantic interest, but who do not serve God – just like Solomon. I know of one large Filipino family (many siblings who are all elderly and gradually dying) who followed this course. They were raised by Godly parents. However, most of them chose spouses of other faiths, or no faith at all. They experienced great hardship and pain throughout their lives for their mistakes, and now some of their children and grandchildren are also suffering for following the same course – partnering or marrying with ungodly people.

God appeared to Solomon twice to warn him about his sin. God will probably not make a personal appearance to warn you because he made sure that his warning is clearly recorded in the Bible. That is why this sad story of Solomon is there, so that God can provide all of us with the same warning. If you do not study the Bible and heed the counsel and instruction God provides to you, you may fall under the weight of your sins and face a horrible future.

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