

KING SOLOMON: HIS WISDOM & HIS FAILURES



MARCH 2023

1. KING SOLOMON: HIS WISDOM & HIS FAILURES

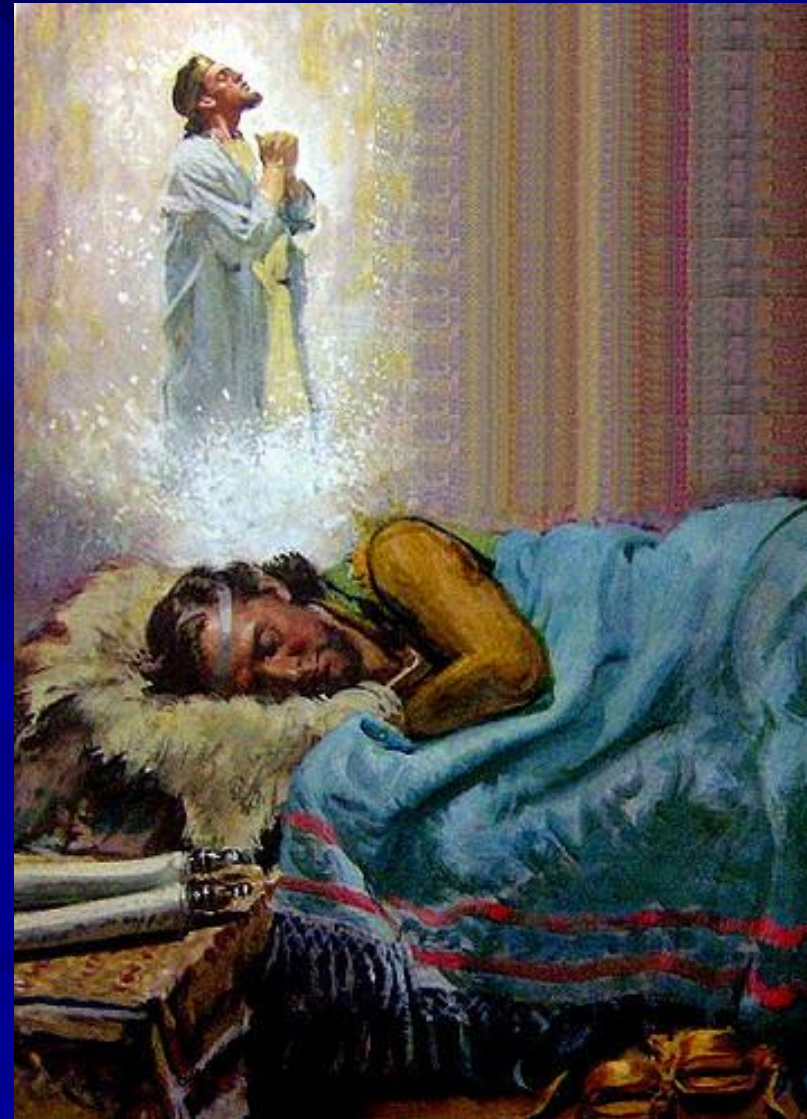
■ **(1) SOLOMON WAS THE SECOND SON OF KING DAVID AND BATHSHEBA.** His name means "peaceable." His alternative name was Jedidiah, meaning "beloved of the Lord." Even as a baby, Solomon was loved by God.

■ **BUT KING DAVID HAD MANY WIVES AND SOLOMON WAS NOT HIS FIRST BORN SON.** King David had at least 9 sons born ahead of Solomon. Solomon, who was way at the bottom of the list, was eventually anointed by King David to be his heir to throne of Israel much to the anger of his older brothers.



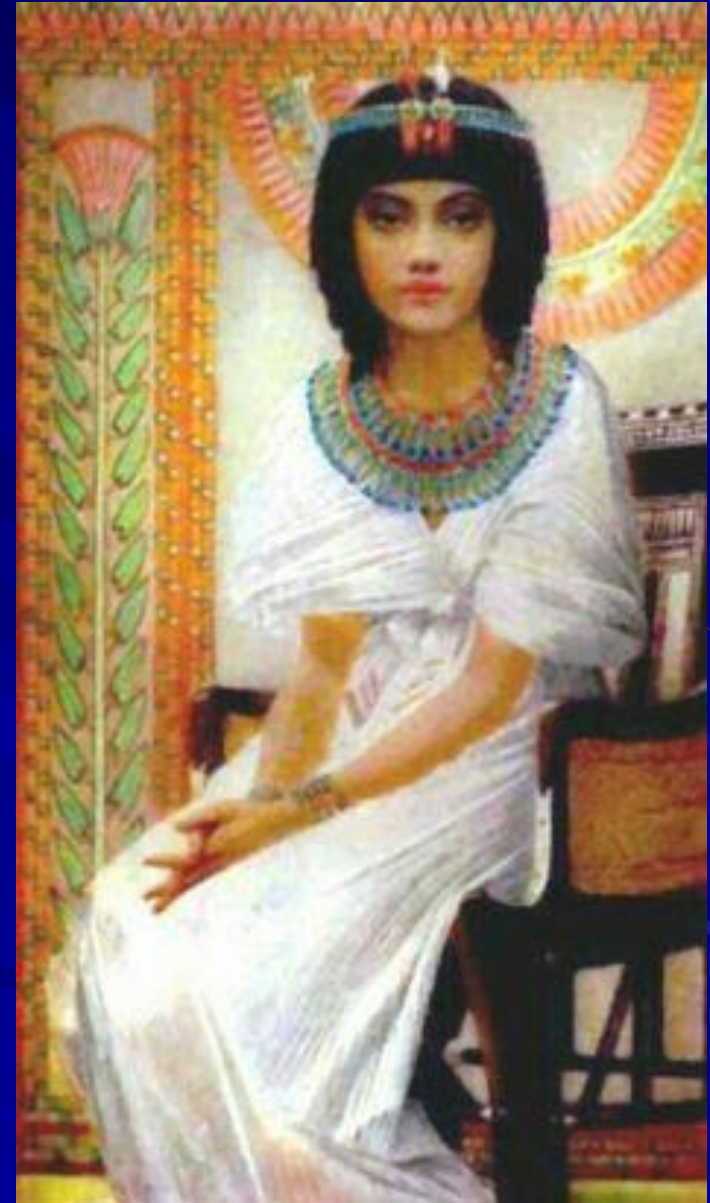
1. KING SOLOMON: HIS WISDOM & HIS FAILURES

- **(2) GOD APPEARED TO KING SOLOMON:** Once Solomon's kingship was firmly established, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and promised him anything he asked. Solomon chose understanding and discernment, asking God to help him govern his people well and wisely. God was so pleased with the request that he granted it, along with great riches, honor, and longevity (1 Kings 3:11-15, (NIV))



1. KING SOLOMON: HIS WISDOM & HIS FAILURES

- (3) SOLOMON'S DOWNFALL BEGAN WHEN HE MARRIED THE DAUGHTER OF THE EGYPTIAN PHARAOH to seal a political alliance. He could not control his lust. Among Solomon's 700 wives and 300 concubines were many foreigners, which angered God. The inevitable happened: They lured King Solomon away from Yahweh into the worship of false gods and idols.



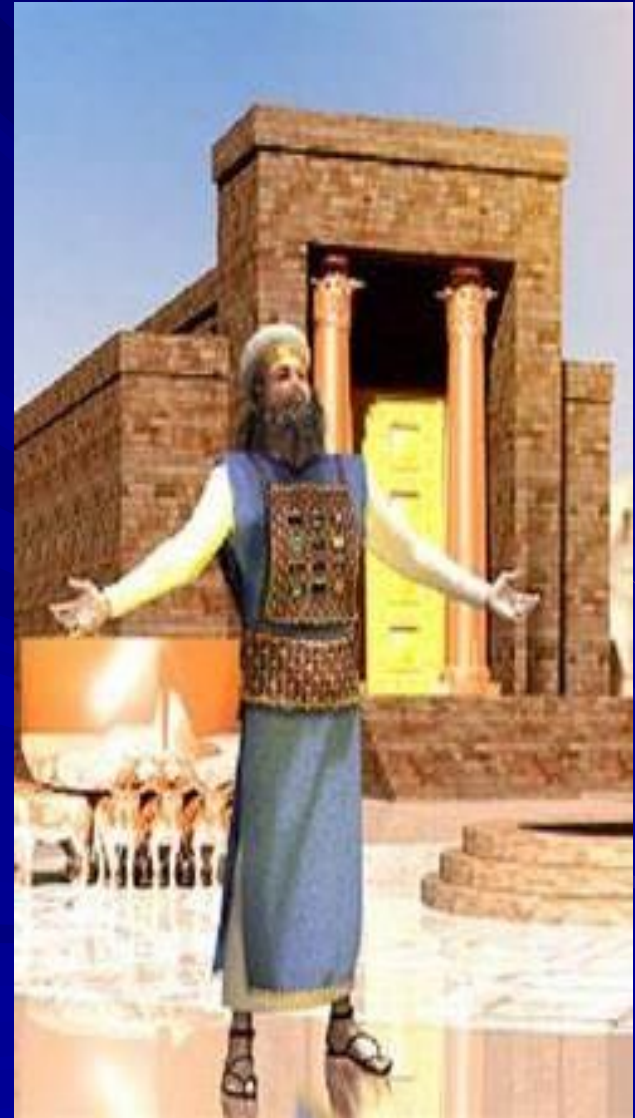
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- (4) KING SOLOMON WAS THE WISEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED AND ALSO ONE OF THE MOST FOOLISH.
- God gifted him with unsurpassed wisdom, which Solomon squandered by disobeying God's commandments
- LET'S LOOK AT HIS WISDOM & HIS WEAKNESS & DISOBEDIENCE & LEARN FROM THIS MOST FAMOUS KING ABOUT LIFE.

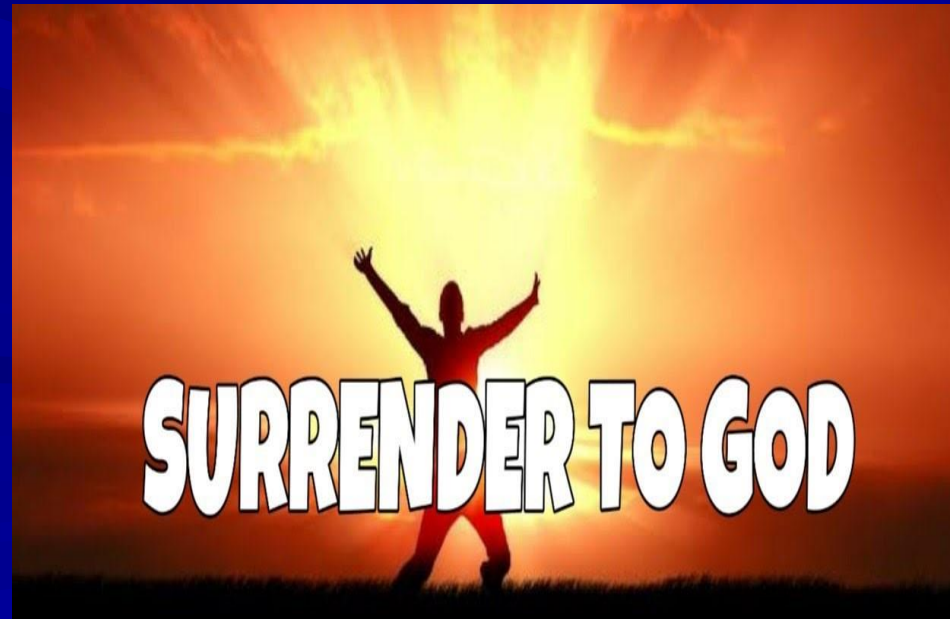
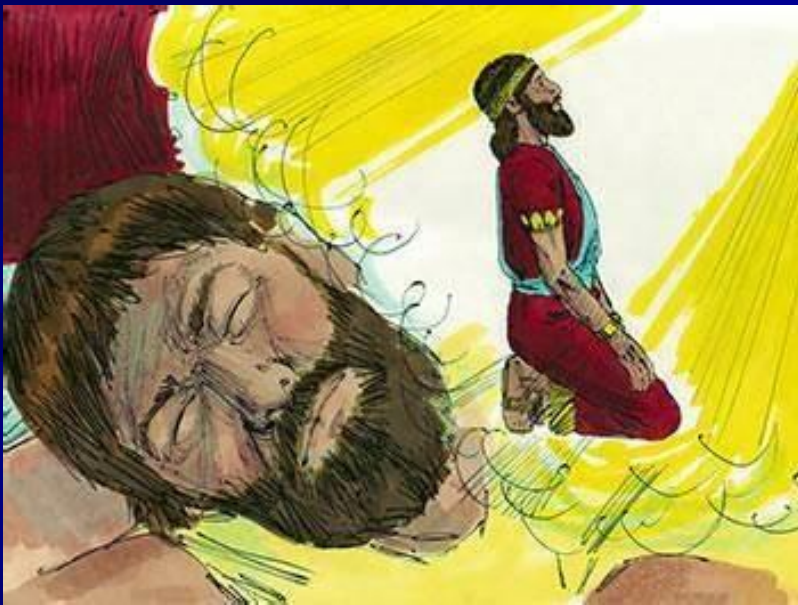


2.GOD'S OFFER AND SOLOMON'S RESPONSE.

■ **1 Kings 3:4-6** ⁴ The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."⁶ Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.



- **(1) THE LORD APPEARED TO SOLOMON IN A DREAM:** This remarkable visitation from God happened **in a dream**. This is one of the more significant dreams in the Bible.
- **(2) ASK! WHAT SHALL I GIVE YOU:** This was an amazing promise. God seemed to offer Solomon whatever he wanted. This wasn't because Solomon sacrificed 1,000 animals; it was **BECAUSE HIS HEART WAS SURRENDERED TO GOD**, and God wanted to work something in Solomon through this offer and his response. **APPLICATION: SURRENDER YOUR HEART & LIFE TO GOD & HE WILL GRANT YOU FAVOURS.**



■ **1 Kings 3:7-11** ⁷ “Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked.

THE DISCERNING HEART

Exploring the Christian Path



■ **(3) BUT I AM A LITTLE CHILD:** Solomon was not really the age of a child. He came to God in great humility, especially considering the job in front of him.

■ **(4) SOLOMON DIDN'T HAVE THE FALSE HUMILITY** that said, "I can't do this, so I won't even try." His attitude was, "**THE JOB IS SO MUCH BIGGER THAN ME; I MUST RELY ON GOD.**"

■ **(5) GIVE TO YOUR SERVANT A DISCERNING HEART:** Solomon wanted a **DISCERNING HEART** or **UNDERSTANDING HEART**, In ancient Hebrew, understanding is literally, "**HEARING.**" Solomon wanted **A HEARING HEART**, ONE THAT WOULD LISTEN TO GOD. **APPLICATION:** DO YOU LISTEN TO GOD WHEN YOU PRAY or JUST KEEP ASKING GOD WHAT YOU WANT?



The **Discerning Heart**
Discovering a Personal God



■ (6) AS A RESULT OF THIS REQUEST, GOD GRANTED SOLOMON'S PRAYER FOR WISDOM AND ALSO GAVE SOLOMON POWER, WEALTH, AND PROSPERITY. THERE WAS NOTHING WHICH SOLOMON LACKED. **1 Kings**

3:12-15 ¹² *I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.* ¹³ *Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.* ¹⁴ *And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”* ¹⁵ *Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.*



King Solomon asked for wisdom from God -
so should we

3. KING SOLOMON'S STRENGTH

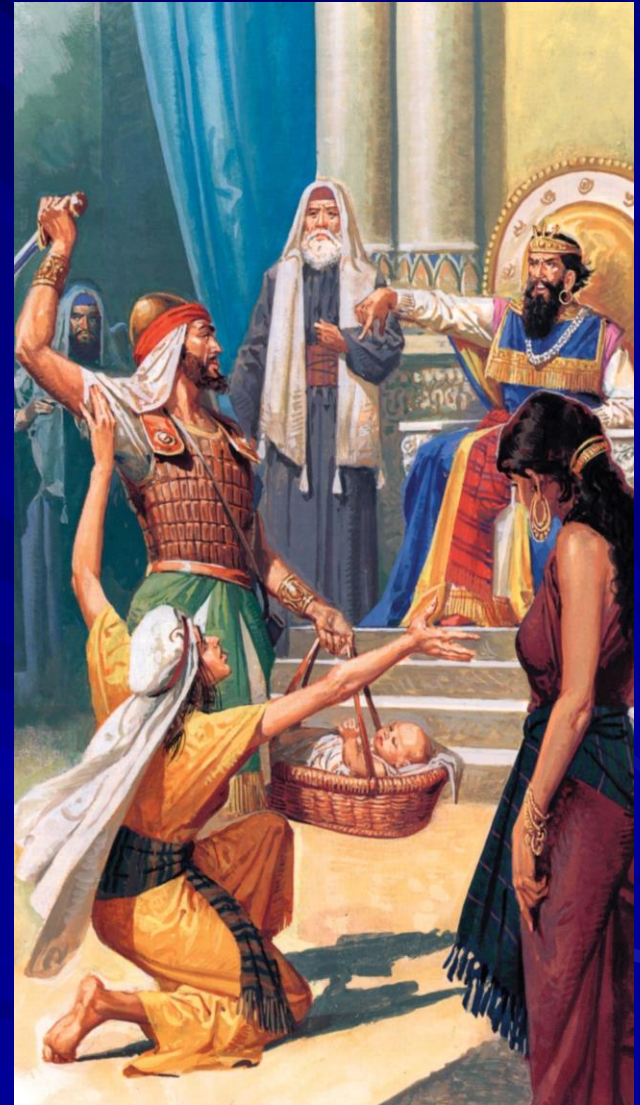
■ (1) KING SOLOMON'S GREATEST STRENGTH WAS HIS UNSURPASSED WISDOM, GRANTED TO HIM BY GOD.

■ In one biblical episode, two women came to him with a dispute. Both lived in the same house and had recently delivered newborns, but one of the infants had died. The mother of the dead baby tried to take the living child from the other mother. Because no other witnesses lived in the house, the women were left to dispute who the living child belonged to and who was the true mother. Both claimed to have given birth to the baby.



3. KING SOLOMON'S STRENGTH

- They asked Solomon to determine which of the two of them should keep the newborn. With astonishing wisdom, Solomon suggested that the boy be cut in half with a sword and split between the two women. Deeply moved by love for her son, the first woman whose baby was alive said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!"
- But the other woman said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!" Solomon ruled that the first woman was the real mother because she preferred giving up her child to seeing him harmed.



3. KING SOLOMON'S STRENGTH

■ (2) KING SOLOMON'S SKILLS IN ARCHITECTURE AND MANAGEMENT TURNED ISRAEL INTO THE SHOWPLACE OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

■ (i) As a diplomat, he made treaties and alliances that brought peace to his kingdom.

■ (ii) Solomon set up an organized state in Israel, with many officials to assist him. The country was divided into 12 major districts, with each district providing for the king's court during one month each year. The system was fair and just, distributing the tax burden evenly over the entire country.



3. KING SOLOMON'S STRENGTH

- **(3) SOLOMON BUILT THE FIRST TEMPLE ON MOUNT MORIAH IN JERUSALEM**, a seven-year task that became one of the wonders of the ancient world. He also built a majestic palace, gardens, roads, and government buildings. He accumulated thousands of horses and chariots. After securing peace with his neighbors, he built up trade and became the wealthiest king of his time.



■ (4) QUEEN OF SHEBA WAS OVERWHELMED BY SOLOMON'S WISDOM:

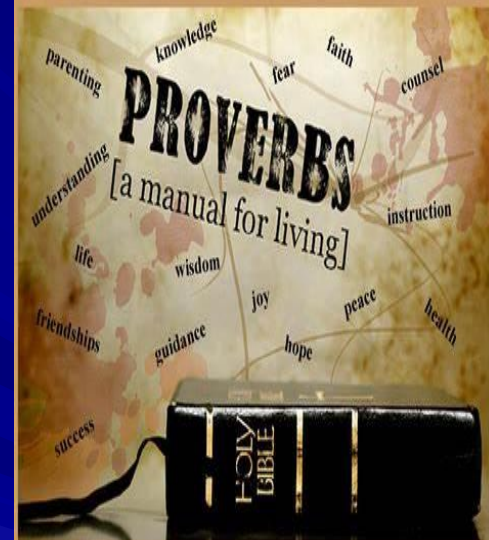
1 Kings 10: 1-5 *When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. ² Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. ³ Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. ⁴ When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵ the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.*



3. KING SOLOMON'S STRENGTH

- **(5) SOLOMON, A PROLIFIC WRITER, POET, AND SCIENTIST**, is credited with writing much of the book of Proverbs, the Song of Solomon, the book of Ecclesiastes, and two psalms. First Kings 4:32 tells us he wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.
- **1 Kings 4:32-34** ³² *He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five.* ³³ *He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish.* ³⁴ *From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.*

The Book of



Proverbs

4. KING SOLOMON'S WEAKNESS

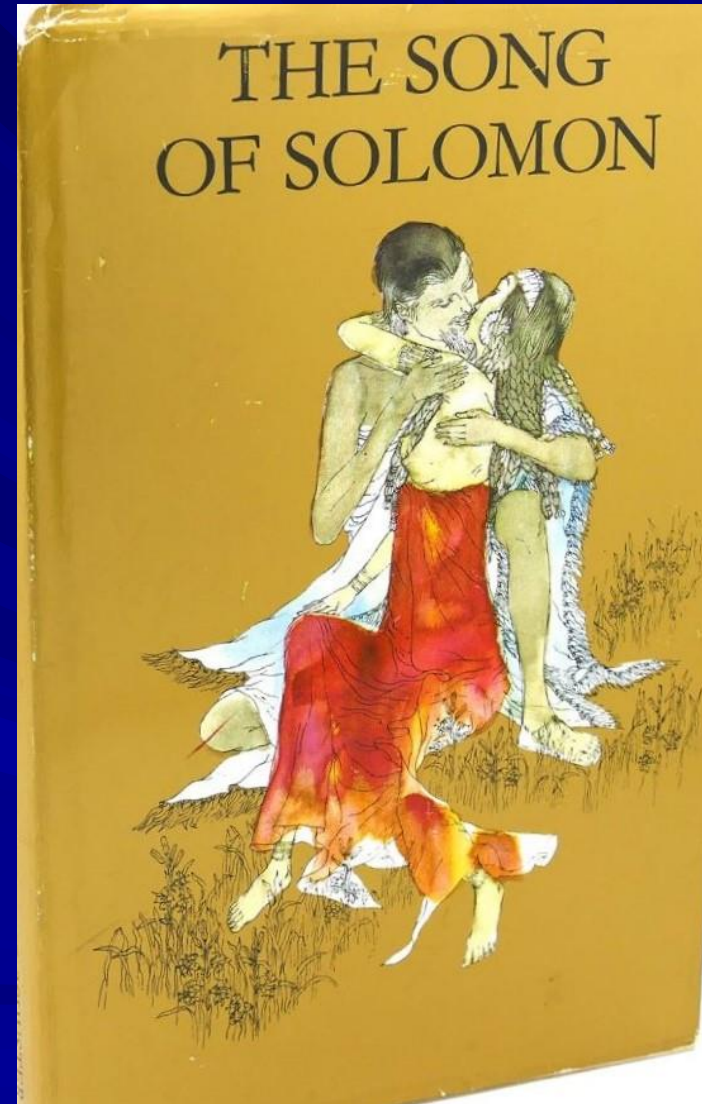
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■ **Nehemiah 13:26** *Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations, there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women. (NIV)*



4. KING SOLOMON'S WEAKNESS

- (2) IN THE AREA OF MARRIAGE, SOLOMON HAD GREAT SUCCESSES AND GREAT FAILURES.
- (i) SOLOMON SUCCEEDED IN MARRIAGE in that God inspired Solomon to communicate the joy and love of a good marriage in the Song of Solomon (Song of Solomon 1:1-2)
- (ii) SOLOMON FAILED IN MARRIAGE however, in that he chose to allow his marriage partners to influence his relationship with God.



4. KING SOLOMON'S WEAKNESS

■ **(iii) IN THE CASE OF HIS NON-JEWISH WIVES AND CONCUBINES**, Solomon allowed lust to rule his heart instead of obedience to God. Apparently, he let his foreign wives worship their native gods and even had altars to those gods built in Jerusalem (**1 Kings 11:7–8**).

■ **APPLICATION: WHEN CHRISTIANS MARRY AN UNBELIEVER OR COMMIT IMMORALITY**, they can also expect trouble. God ought to be our first love, and we should let nothing come before Him.



4. KING SOLOMON'S WEAKNESS

- (3) TO SATISFY HIS CURIOUS MIND, SOLOMON TURNED TO WORLDLY PLEASURES INSTEAD OF THE PURSUIT OF GOD.
- HE COLLECTED ALL SORTS OF TREASURES AND SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH LUXURY.
- Solomon taxed his subjects heavily, conscripted them into his army and into slave-like labour for his building projects.
- **APPLICATION: KING SOLOMON'S GREED FOR LUXURY & FAME**, speak loudly to us in our current day materialistic culture. When we worship possessions and fame over God, we are headed for a fall.



*Be Content
With What You Have*

Hebrews 13:5



KING SOLOMON'S WEAKNESS

■ (4) CONSEQUENCE OF NOT PURSUING AFTER GOD:

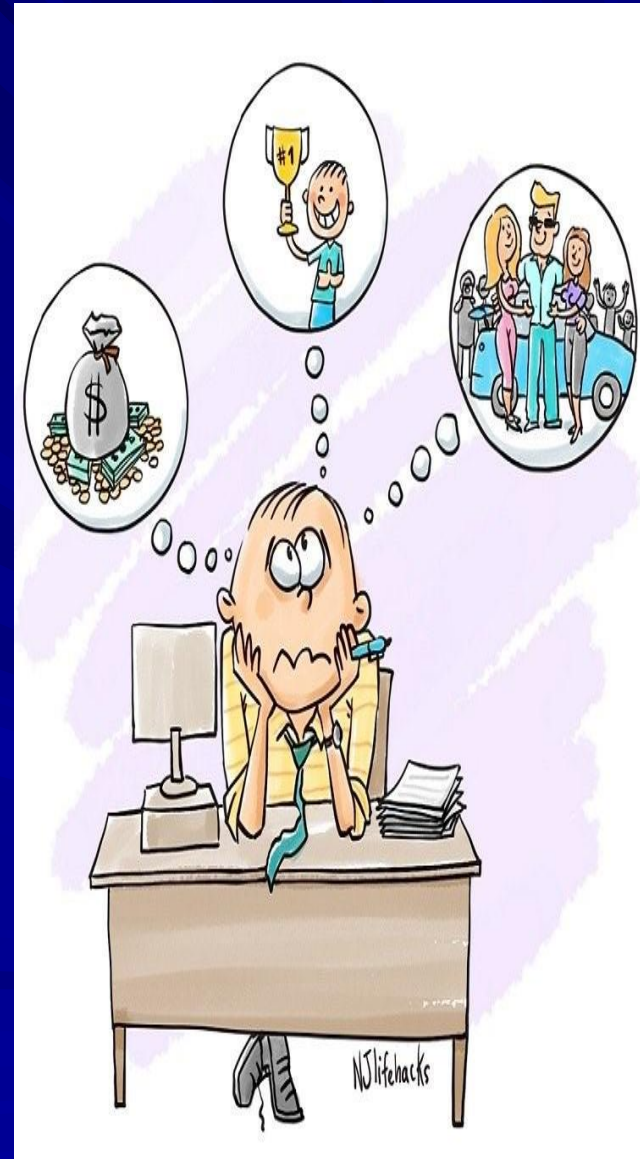
■ Over his 40-year reign, Solomon did many great things, but he succumbed to the temptations of lesser men. The peace a united Israel enjoyed, the massive building projects he headed, and the successful commerce he developed became meaningless when *Solomon* stopped pursuing God.

■ **APPLICATION:** Our life on earth is short & our pursuit of materialism, fame & pleasure **IS FUTILE, THE ONLY THING WE WILL BRING TO ETERNITY IS OUR CHARACTER.**



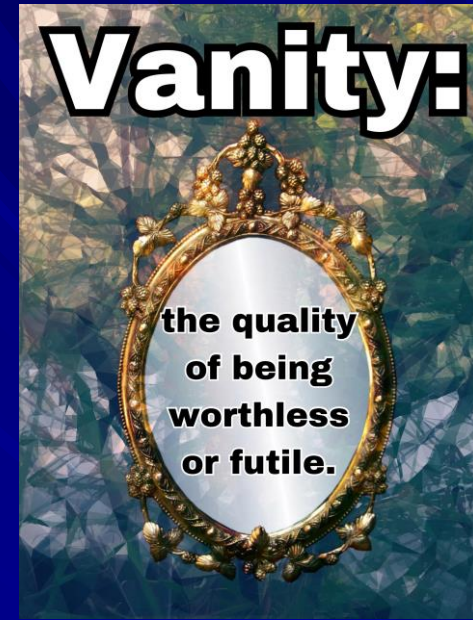
LIFE'S LESSONS

- **SOLOMON TRULY “HAD IT ALL.”**
- **(1) WEALTH** (1 Kings 10:10-25) Silver was made as common as stones (vs.27).
- **2) POWER** (1400 chariots 1200 horsemen 1 Kings 10:26)
- **3) RELATIONSHIPS** (700 wives, 300 concubines, 1 Kings 11:3)
- **4) PEACE** (1 Kings 4:24 “For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river, ... and he had peace on all sides round about him.”)
- **EARTHLY WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS CANNOT SATISFY US.**



CONCLUSION

- (1) SOLOMON CONCLUDED THAT, ALL THAT WAS WORLDLY WAS MERE VANITY (vanity = useless, worthless, meaningless)
- (i) **Ecc.1:2** *"Vanity of vanities saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity."*
- (ii) **Ecc.1:12-14** *"I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit."*



- **(iii)** Solomon thought that his own wisdom could save him, but this was also vanity (Ecc.1:16-18).
- **(iv)** Solomon thought that he could satisfy his life with pleasure and mirth, but this was vanity (Ecc.2:1, 2).
- **(v)** Solomon gave himself to wine and food, but this was vanity (Ecc.2:3).
- **(vi)** He built houses, vineyards, servants—vanity.

Apart From God
All Is Vanity
(useless, worthless, meaningless)

■ (2) KING SOLOMON'S SINS SPEAK LOUDLY TO US IN OUR CURRENT DAY MATERIALISTIC CULTURE.

- (i) When we worship possessions and fame over God, we are headed for a fall. (ii) When Christians marry an unbeliever, or lives in sin, they can also expect trouble. (iii) The only thing we can bring with us to eternity is our character. (iv) **THE CONCLUSION OF**

THE MATTER: Ecclesiastes 12:15

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. (NIV)



**Fear God
and keep his
commandments:
for this is the
whole duty
of man.**

-Ecclesiastes 12:13

LET US PRAY

- Heavenly Father we pray and ask for your divine wisdom of God to come upon us to lead us in all our ways and directions for life. We pray for your heavenly wisdom from above. We pray for our marriage life that we will keep it pure for your glory. Help us to flee from worldly pleasure. We pray that riches and wealth will not be our No.1 priority in life and that we will not worship possession and wealth but only You Jesus the only God of all gods. In Jesus Name, Amen!

BENEDICTION

■ “May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

■ (Heb. 13:20-21)