

1 Kings 11:1-13

## THE SINS OF SOLOMON

### Introduction:

1. Solomon's early life demonstrated a desire to honor God and to serve Israel with wisdom.
2. As a result, Solomon was blessed, and the nation achieved its greatest territory, prosperity, and influence in its history.
3. However, as Solomon grew older, he drifted away from God into sin.
4. There would be difficult consequences for himself and for the nation of Israel.

### I. Solomon's Polygamy

(1 Kings 11:1-3)

- A. God's instructions concerning marriage were simple and understandable.
  1. Genesis 2:18-24 – One man joined to one woman for one lifetime.
  2. Exodus 34:11-16; Deuteronomy 7:1-6 – Israel was not to intermarry with the inhabitants of Canaan (cf. Joshua 23:12-13; Judges 3:6-7).
- B. God's instructions concerning Israel's king were simple and understandable.
  1. Deuteronomy 17:14-15 – God was to choose their king.
  2. Deuteronomy 17:16 – He was not to multiply horses to himself (cf. 1 Kings 4:26; 10:26-28).
  3. Deuteronomy 17:17 – He was not to multiply wives to himself.
  4. Deuteronomy 17:18-20 – He was to write and to keep God's law.
- C. Solomon loved and married many foreign women – 700 wives and 300 concubines!
- D. Solomon sinned in his multitude of marriages (Nehemiah 13:23-27).

### II. Solomon's Idolatry

(1 Kings 11:4-8)

- A. Solomon's immoral marriages led him deeper into sin, just as God had warned.
- B. Note that this occurred when Solomon was old.
  1. Some have the idea that temptation and sin only affect the young.
  2. One must be on guard against sin at any and every age!
- C. His wives turned his heart away from God and toward false gods.
  1. The many wives of Solomon played a role in his sins.
  2. However, it was Solomon who rejected God's Word and allowed his heart to be turned.
- D. As a result, his heart was not perfect (complete) with the Lord – Solomon became a double-minded man with a divided heart (cf. James 1:8; 4:8; Matt. 6:24).
  1. First, he tolerated the idolatry of his wives.
  2. Next, he aided the idolatry of his wives by building temples for their gods.
  3. Finally, he participated in the idolatry of his wives.
- E. Consider the false gods that Solomon supported and/or worshipped:
  1. Ashtoreth was the female counterpart to the god Baal of the Canaanites – also known as Astarte (Tyre & Sidon) and Ishtar (Babylon).
    - a. She was the goddess of fertility (along with Baal), responsible for the fruitfulness of the land.
    - b. She was worshipped with ritual prostitution (female and male).
    - c. This denied Jehovah's power to care for the world and to provide for His people.
    - d. Judges 2:13; 10:6; 1 Sam. 7:3-4; etc.

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2. Milcom is another name for Molech, worshipped by the Ammonites.
  - a. He was known as a fire god.
  - b. He was worshipped by sacrificing human infants and young children as burnt offerings.
  - c. His worship was specifically forbidden in Lev. 18:21; 20:1-5.
  - d. He was worshipped in the valley of Hinnom which became a representation of Hell (Gehenna) (2 Chron. 33:6; 2 Kin. 23:10; Matt. 10:28; Mark 9:43-48).
3. Chemosh was the chief God of the Moabites.
  - a. He was a god of war.
  - b. He seems to have been worshipped by human sacrifice.
  - c. Num. 21:29; 2 Kin. 23:13; Jer. 48
- F. Solomon, who had built the Temple for Jehovah, was now building temples for the false, corrupt gods of the Gentile world.

III. Solomon's Penalty (1 Kings 11:9-13)

- A. Jehovah was angry with Solomon.
  1. He had abandoned many blessings of Truth for error!
    - a. The influence, teaching, and prayers of a godly father
    - b. Two appearances from God
    - c. The Old Testament Scriptures
    - d. The wisdom and truth revealed to him personally
  2. Now, Solomon would face the punishment of God.
- B. The kingdom would be rent (torn) from Solomon.
  1. This would not happen during his lifetime for the sake of David and God's promise to him.
  2. This would not be a complete removal, for one tribe would remain loyal to the descendants of David (Judah, where Jerusalem was located).
  3. *{Also, the tribe of Benjamin, most of the Levites, and faithful Israelites from other tribes would join with Judah.}*
- C. In spite of the good he had done, Solomon would not escape the judgment of Jehovah.
- D. This begins a time of doubt, despair, and cynicism in the life of Solomon – reflected in the book of Ecclesiastes.