

## THE END OF THE REIGN 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. A Brief Review

- A. Solomon began his reign as King with humility and submission to God.
- B. When God allowed him to ask for any blessing, Solomon desired wisdom.
- C. His early reign demonstrated his submission to and the benefits of the wisdom of God.
  1. "Song of Solomon" revealed wisdom toward love and marriage.
  2. "Proverbs" recorded wisdom for living a godly life.
  3. The Temple was built and dedicated as the House of God.
  4. The King's house and surrounding buildings were constructed in Jerusalem.
  5. Many cities in the nation were fortified and strengthened.
  6. Territory was gained, and the economy boomed.
  7. The visit of the Queen of Sheba showed how Israel had become a light to the nations of the world.
- D. Sadly, in spite of God's abundant blessings and numerous warnings, Solomon began to reject the wisdom of God for the world.

### II. A Bold Rejection

(1 Kings 11:1-8)

- A. Solomon rejected God by marrying many foreign women.
- B. Solomon rejected God by trusting in human defenses (horses, chariots, etc.).
- C. Solomon rejected God by tolerating and supporting the idolatry of his wives.
- D. Solomon rejected God by practicing idolatry himself.
- E. Solomon rejected God by introducing idolatry to the nation.
- F. Solomon rejected God by following human wisdom and philosophy.

### III. The Bad Results

(1 Kings 11:9-43)

- A. The anger of the Lord was against Solomon (vs. 9-10).
- B. The kingdom would be taken from his descendants, save two tribes (vs. 11-13).
- C. The Edomites began to harass Israel, ending Solomon's reign of peace (vs. 14-22).
  1. Edom had been conquered during the reign of David.
  2. Joab had decimated the male population during a six-month siege.
  3. However, Hadad (descendant of the king) and a few others escaped by fleeing to Egypt when Hadad was a youth.
  4. Pharaoh accepted Hadad and an allegiance between Egypt and Edom was formed.
  5. When Hadad learned of the deaths of David and Joab, he returned to his country and began to attack Israel on its southern border.

1 Kings 11

- D. The Syrians began to attack Israel (vs. 23-25).
  - 1. David had defeated Syria at the town of Zobah (2 Sam. 8).
  - 2. However, a man named Rezon had fled into Damascus.
  - 3. He became the leader of a band of fighters and soon was ruling in Damascus and Syria.
  - 4. He harassed Israel continually on its northern border.
- E. Jeroboam troubled Israel from within (vs. 26-40).
  - 1. Jeroboam was a servant of Solomon from the tribe of Ephraim.
  - 2. Solomon saw that he was a good worker and appointed him over the compulsory labor of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.
    - a. Remember that Solomon had forced the Israelite's into labor in connection with the building of the Temple (5:13-18).
    - b. It seems that he had continued this practice for his other building projects.
    - c. Now, men from the northern tribes are being forced to labor on building walls around Jerusalem, far to the south.
    - d. The people were growing tired of this system and, no doubt, made their grievances known to Jeroboam.
  - 3. God sent a message to Jeroboam by the prophet Ahijah.
  - 4. He tore Jeroboam's cloak into 12 pieces and told him to take 10.
  - 5. This symbolized that God would tear the kingdom from Solomon's descendants and 10 tribes would be ruled by Jeroboam.
  - 6. The reason for this was two-fold:
    - a. Solomon's (and Israel's) idolatry
    - b. Solomon's (and Israel's) disobedience
  - 7. God promised Jeroboam that he would be with him and establish his descendants as a dynasty in Israel if he would obey Him and follow the example of David.
  - 8. God would afflict the seed of David, but not forever – indicating the promise of the Messiah from the line of David.
  - 9. Sadly, instead of accepting God's discipline and repenting, Solomon sought to kill Jeroboam – once again rebelling against Jehovah.
  - 10. Jeroboam was forced to flee to Egypt where he remained until the death of Solomon.
- F. After reigning for 40 years, Solomon died and was buried in the city of David.

Conclusion:

- 1. Saul was the King after man's own heart.
- 2. David was the King after God's own heart.
- 3. Solomon was the King after his own heart.