

Major Event: Solomon

Lesson 5: Solomon's Folly

Scriptures: 1 Kings 11

Central Text: 1 Kings 11:11-13

11 So the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Versus 1-2 – We see that Solomon loved foreign wives although this was a covenant violation for Israel and her people. *"You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods."*

Versus 3-4 – We see that Solomon had many wives and concubines and his heart was turned away from the Lord as the Lord had warned Solomon and the nation. "His wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father. We see that Solomon failed to worship God only and turned to other gods. (The First Commandment)

Versus 5-6 – We have some details of the other gods that Solomon actually worshipped in his later years. He even worshipped the god Molech, the false god of the Ammonites. This false religion was known for sacrificing children. Again we see references to Solomon building alters to worship the false gods of his wives. We also saw this same pattern in Israel's previous history. Worship, Blessing, Falling Away and then Curses.

Versus 7-13 – We see the Lord's anger is kindled against Solomon for not obeying the Lord. *"Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded".* I am sure that Solomon did what he thought was right in his own eyes, but he was blinded and led astray because he did not follow the Lord's commandments as his father David had done.

Versus 14-33 – As God promised to Solomon, He rose up adversaries against Solomon, including his servant Jeroboam which took part of his kingdom exactly as the Lord had predicted. Can anyone mock the Lord or disregard his commandments? Are we under his authority even today in the church age?

Suggested Attributes:

1. Of God: Sovereignty, Faithfulness, Immutability, Grace
2. Of Man: Faithlessness, Lack of Thanksgiving, Lack of Truthfulness

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 1 Kings 5; Duet 28

Notes: This is terrifying, is it not? A man with the wisdom of Solomon, a man who had had the Lord appear to him twice and who had heard the Lord command him not to turn after other Gods, still turned away. Though a wise man, the Lord told him "you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you." How could this happen? This is a warning to all Christians to not be wise in their own hearts, but trust in the Lord in all things.