

I Kings Lesson 11

I Kings Chapter 11

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Memory verses for this week: *Psa 16:5 The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. Psa 16:6 The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.*

Introduction: In last weeks lesson, we studied about the queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon and how she learned that his wisdom far exceeded even the fame that she had heard. We discussed the continuing prosperity and the great sums of gold and money that flowed into Solomon. Unfortunately, we saw his disobedience to the Lord as he multiplied his horses and acquired a great number of wives. This continuing decline will be this weeks study in Chapter 11.

I. Solomon's Sins

1Ki 11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; 1Ki 11:2 Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

Solomon began to stray from the Lord by seeking strange wives and beginning in the sin of polygamy. There were rules for Israel and there were rules for kings. One of those we read about last week which was that they were to not multiply horses.

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

The kings were to not multiply in wives.

Deuteronomy 17:17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself that his heart turn not away...

Continuing in verse 17 of Deuteronomy it says they were not to seek great amounts of silver and gold.

Deuteronomy 17b .. neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

We see King Solomon breaking all three of these rules.

He was to have his own copy of the Law and obey it .

Deuteronomy 17:18-20 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them.

Whether a man is a king or a common Christian man, polygamy has always been wrong. In the beginning, God created one wife for Adam.

God preserved one wife for each man after the flood.

Genesis 7:13 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark.

Jesus taught on this topic in the book of Matthew.

Mat 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

Mat 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

Mat 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Mat 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Keith Brooks in his book said:

The way of sin is downhill and those who get into it cannot easily get untangled. God at first appointed one woman for one man, and he who thinks one not enough, will not be satisfied with two. When our love is set on the things of the flesh, we may be sure we have lost our love for God and are on the way to trouble.

1Ki 11:3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

Those who practiced polygamy in the Old Testament found it to be a source of trouble. There is not one instance where this did not happen. The first polygamist was Lamech the ungodly son of Cain, an ungodly man and the first murderer. It almost amusing how modern day Mormons have so many advertisements offering to help people strengthen their marriages. They would be more believable if they would repudiate the practice of Joseph Smith and

Brigham Young. They along with many of the other founders of Mormonism were notorious polygamists. It is history and they cannot deny it. Strange (foreign unbelieving) wives were wrong.

Exodus 34:11, 12, 16 Observe thou that which I command thee this day: behold, I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee. ... And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.

Nehemiah 13:26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.

Solomon gave many warnings that reveal the result of the wrong kind of a relationship with women. It is a shame that he did not heed his own warnings. See Proverbs 7:1-27

Proverbs 5:3-5 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

Proverbs 31:3 Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.

A Godly woman that knows the Lord is a great blessing to a man, but if she is strange (does not know the Lord), then she becomes a curse to him.

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

1Ki 11:4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

I have said many times that it is great to start out strong for the Lord, but much, much greater to finish strong. Solomon started great, but he did not finish strong like his father David. These wives set him up to the sin of idolatry. Every man and woman faces this in their life. It might not be a wife or a husband that turns you, but it might be a sport or a hobby. If something is more important to you than the Lord, that has become an idol. And one of the 10 commandments warns us to not worship idols.

This serving idols is the reason why foreign wives forbidden.

Deuteronomy 7:1-4 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

No Christian should marry a lost person today for the same reason. They should be of the same faith and be of the same mind which Church they will attend.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

In Solomon's old age his heart was not right with God and his wives turned him to other gods. We learn from this that even his great wisdom did not keep him out of sin. Many well-intentioned people associate themselves with the lost and intend to bring them to the Lord. But if the larger number of people in the group are lost, typically they have a bigger impact on the Christian than the Christian does on the lost.

However if you have a large number of Christians and bring in a few lost to that group, then the change is positive on the lost. As Solomon added more and more strange wives, he began to slowly slip away from serving God with a whole heart.

1Ki 11:5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

1Ki 11:6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

1Ki 11:7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

Note all the idol gods Solomon honored starting there in verse 5.

Ashtoreth was a Phoenician goddess of sexual love who was worshiped with impure rites. She was supposed to be the consort or lover of the god Baal. She was called the queen of heaven. The Phoenicians called her Astarte.

2Ki 23:13 And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for **Ashtoreth** the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the

Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

“Milcom” or “Molech” was the idol god of Ammonites. They burned their children by making them sacrifice to Molech. Some Israelites sacrificed their infants in the valley of Hinnom.

Leviticus 18:21 And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

Chemosh was the sun-god and the god of war, worshiped by the Moabites.

1Ki 11:8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

Verse 8 says there were many other false gods worshipped by Solomon. All of these idol places of worship were eventually destroyed, but this would be about 300 years later under the reign of Josiah. Think of the evil that continued on and on because of Solomon’s sin.

2 Kings 23:13-14 And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile. And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.

Never think that your life does not impact others. My wife and I were eating a hamburger downtown yesterday, and a Spanish man sitting across from us asked us what church we attended. It sort of surprised me, as we had said nothing about church as we prepared for our meal. Then I realized that he and his family had overheard us praying before our meal, and immediately recognized that we were Christians.

Even small things count in life, and never underestimate the power that your life has on others, both positive and negative. These false gods may have seen of little effect to Solomon originally, but a little leaven levels the whole lump we are warned. (Leaven of course speaks of sin.)

It is doubtful if Solomon ever lived with all these women as husband and wife. Among kings, they were judged by the size of his harem. This in no way justifies his disobedience in marrying them in the first place.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

It is clear (verses 4-8) that Solomon was personally turned to idolatry. This is tragic for this noble man to fall, but it should be a warning to all today.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

*1Ki 11:9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,
1Ki 11:10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.*

God became angry with Solomon. He was really without excuse. When we know to do right and don't do it, it is sin. It says in verse 10 that God commanded him about this very thing. Solomon was very wise, but in this matter about these many wives, he used little discretion and ignored the clear warnings of the Lord.

The bible is very clear about sin and how God views the wicked. It says in Psalms that God is angry with the wicked every day.

Psalm 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

It is amazing that so many people think that they can sin and God will not be angry for their rejection of His truth. The above Scripture reveals that God will judge the righteous for their sin. It is even more amazing that saved people have such a casual attitude toward sin and God's judgment.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

God had appeared to Solomon twice it says there in verse 9. It is not as though Solomon did not know. He knew but he did not obey. Every one of God's children need to diligently study 1 Corinthians 3, and then consider what is going to happen to their works.

*1Co 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.
1Co 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.
1Co 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?
1Co 3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?
1Co 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed,*

even as the Lord gave to every man?

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

1Co 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

....

1Co 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

1Co 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

1Co 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1Co 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Co 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1Co 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

1Ki 11:11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

1Ki 11:12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.

1Ki 11:13 Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

God announces His judgment beginning in verse 11. All but one tribe was to be removed from Solomon's kingdom. What a shameful end for a servant of the Lord and his work. It says that for David's sake, one tribe was to remain. "The house of David must, in spite of everything, be kept intact, because out of it was to come the Messiah. As it was spared on account of the promise to David, so all God's favors shown to us are for Christ's sake and the covenant made with Him." —Keith Brooks

When God's judgment falls after His warnings, it will be irrevocable and severe. When the Holy Spirit deals with our heart, we should be quick to respond and get

our lives straightened out and serve God with a pure and whole heart.

II. Foreign Enemies are Stirred Up

1Ki 11:14 And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom.

There had been peace in the land for several years, but now there are enemies stirred up against Solomon. Hadad the Edomite was the first to come against Solomon. When God stirs up enemies against you, it is not a pleasant experience. We are promised that we will have peace with our enemies if we follow after the ways of the Lord.

Pro 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

Pro 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

So why did Solomon have this trouble. His ways were not pleasing in God's sight, and this was caused by the many sins of Solomon. It is something God promised if he refused to follow after God's commands.

2 Samuel 7:14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men.

If Solomon had obeyed God, this would not have happened.

1 Kings 5:4 But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent.

Be sure that in our lives, disobedience will bring chastening.

Psalm 89:30-32 If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Psalm 94:12 Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law.

The Edomites were the descendants of Esau. In Genesis, we find that Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob.

Genesis 25:32, 34 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Esau was also a fornicator and a profane person.

Hebrews 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

It is a serious thing when God stirs up chastisement on His people, for God can use wicked people to do it without being responsible for their wickedness. Christians should take note of this event of long ago.

1Ki 11:15 For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom;

1Ki 11:16 (For six months did Joab remain there with all Israel, until he had cut off every male in Edom:)

1Ki 11:17 That Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt; Hadad being yet a little child.

1Ki 11:18 And they arose out of Midian, and came to Paran: and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him an house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land.

Beginning in verse 14, we see the background of Hadad's enmity. A war had taken place and David won a great victory. Joab occupied their territory and proceeded kill all the males. Then Hadad and the others fled to Egypt where they found favor with Pharaoh.

1Ki 11:19 And Hadad found great favour in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen.

1Ki 11:20 And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh.

1Ki 11:21 And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country.

1Ki 11:22 Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise.

Hadad lived there in Egypt for years and married the sister-in-law of Pharaoh. It is noteworthy that Solomon also married into this family, so that in marriage Solomon and Hadad were kinfolks. When he heard that David and Joab were dead, he received permission to return to his own land where

he dwelt and was ready to be the instrument in God's hand at the proper time. Pharaoh questions why he wants to go back, and he tells him that nothing was lacking in Egypt, but he wanted to return.

1Ki 11:23 And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:

1Ki 11:24 And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus.

1Ki 11:25 And he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, beside the mischief that Hadad did: and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

After Hadad, Rezon of Damascus was stirred up by God to be an adversary to Solomon. David had defeated Hadadezer, and this was likely the time that Rezon fled from Hadadezer.

2 Samuel 8:3 David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.

He gathered other remnants of the army and was eventually to take over the leadership of Damascus in Syria. He became Solomon's next adversary. He exploited the old age of Solomon.

III. A Jewish Rebel is Stirred Up

1Ki 11:26 And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king.

1Ki 11:27 And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king: Solomon built Millo, and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father.

1Ki 11:28 And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

Jeroboam was from a rebellious tribe. Hadad and Rezon were foreign enemies of Solomon, but Jeroboam was an internal dangerous adversary. Jeroboam was of the tribe of Ephraim and he rebelled against Solomon. Those of your own people who are against you are many times the worst of enemies. In verse 27, it says he was stirred up because of some of Solomon's building projects.

The tribe of Ephraim was often the enemy of Judah. Jeroboam had been noticed some time before these events, and was made ruler over Ephraim and Manasseh. We must always be on guard and know ourselves and our weaknesses. Power has a tendency to corrupt some people.

God's word warns us to be careful of the sin that so easily besets us.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon once said:

The grand, infallible book is our sole court of appeal, the sword of the Spirit in the spiritual battles that await us. I zealously exhort you to take this part of the whole armor of God that you may be able to resist the great enemy of our souls. I commend to you this unfailing weapon "It is written."...This is our Champion's own weapon. When Jesus Christ was assailed by Satan in the wilderness, He had a great choice of weapons with which to fight Satan, but He took none but this sword of the Spirit: "It is written."..."It is written" enabled Him to look down from the dizzy height and baffle the tempter still.... "It is written" swept aside the snares of ambition and laughed at the fascination of power. No change in His mode of warfare was required. The infallible Word vailed in every position in which our Lord found Himself, and so shall it be with us.

1Ki 11:29 And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field:

1Ki 11:30 And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:

1Ki 11:31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

1Ki 11:32 (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem and received a revelation from God. Ahijah the prophet gives the prophecy. He tells Jeroboam that he would rule over ten tribes. The son of Solomon would have one tribe, and that one tribe was for David's sake. Another reason was to preserve the royal family line, from whence would come the Christ. The genealogy of both Mary and Joseph show that they were descendants of David.

The family line of Joseph is found in Matthew chapter 1. If Joseph had been the actual father of Jesus, then Jesus could never rule sitting on David's throne, because Jechonias (Matthew 1:11) could never have had a descendant sit upon the throne of David. See where he is called Coniah.

Jer 22:28 Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?

Jer 22:29 O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD.

Jer 22:30 Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

The family line of Mary goes all the way back to David, but not through Jechonias (Coniah). Luke 3:31 traces her back to David through Nathan. Jesus

is not a descendant of Solomon. Solomon missed a great blessing. It is important that Jesus have the throne rights of David, or He could never sit on David's throne and rule from Jerusalem.

1Ki 11:33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.

1Ki 11:34 Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes:

1Ki 11:35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes.

1Ki 11:36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

1Ki 11:37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.

1Ki 11:38 And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee.

Verse 33 tells us what the reason was for God's judgment being upon the house of Solomon. Solomon had forsaken the worship of God and had turned to these many false idols. Because of this, Jeroboam is given a great opportunity. How different Solomon's life could have been, had he but listened. The consequences of sin are ignored and the blessing that could have been, never happened.

1Ki 11:39 And I will for this afflict the seed of David, but not for ever.

1Ki 11:40 Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

Notice that the affliction of David's seed would "not be forever." Solomon once again seeks to oppose God's will and seeks to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam is also wicked and shows his evil ways by fleeing into Egypt and making two golden calves which the 10 tribes worshiped.

2 Kings 10:29 Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan.

When people have a righteous leader, they rejoice. But if not, there is great sadness.

Pro 29:2 *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*

Many times the Bible says, “Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.” (2 Kings 15:28). Evil king after evil king were connected to him in this way. Not one of the kings that ruled over the ten tribes was a descendant of David, nor could they ever have reigned in Jerusalem.

1Ki 11:41 And the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?

1Ki 11:42 And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

1Ki 11:43 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

We come to the end of Solomon’s life. All through the word of God, men were born, they lived a short time, and they died. And Solomon's record was made in says in verse 41. This book referred to is an uninspired book not included in the inspired Holy Bible. After a long life and 40 years on the throne, his race was run. His reign was of good length, but it is a shame that all the quality of it was not good. He started strong but did not finish strong. He died at about the age of 60, which was quite short when compared to Moses and many others.

We close this chapter by giving the following quote from

“All the Men of the Bible,” by Herbert Lockyer.

With reference to the character and reign of Solomon, we cannot but agree with Alexander Whyte that, “The shipwreck of Solomon is surely the most terrible tragedy in all the world. For if ever there was shining type of Christ in the Old Testament ... it was Solomon ... but everyday sensuality made him in the end a castaway.” Taking him all in all, Solomon stands out as a disappointing figure of Hebrew history.

Think of the advantages he began with! There were the almost undisputed possessions of David’s throne, immense stores of wealth laid up by his father, exceptional divinely imparted mental abilities, love and high hopes of the people. Solomon’s start like cloudless dawn of a summer’s morning, might have been beautiful his life through, but it ended in gloom because he wandered into God-forbidden paths. Thus a life beginning magnificently ended miserably. The man who penned and preached a thousand wise things failed to practice the wisdom he taught.

* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Nov. 2013.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.