



Lesson 108

Solomon's Decline

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 1 Kings 11:1-43 • Setting: circa 946 B.C. • Main Characters: God, Solomon, Hadad the Edomite, Rezon the son of Eliadah, and Jeroboam the son of Nebat. • Plot: Solomon's heart is turned away from the LORD through the influences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of his many foreign wives. • Key word(s): “they will turn away your _____” • Climax: 1 Kings 11:9 <i>And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel...</i> |
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Solomon's Wives

1. (1 Ki. 11:1-8) Solomon's marriages increased as his power grew. There were two types of wives: primary wives and secondary wives (“concubines”).

(a) The primary wives of foreign kings were taken to solidify relations and establish _____.¹

(b) Concubines were added to the harem as a _____.

2. Solomon multiplied his marriages contrary to the explicit prohibition in the Law of Moses:

Deuteronomy 17:17 Neither shall he [the king] multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

Exodus 34:16 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.

3. (1 Ki. 11:5) These wives, through the power of influence, drew Solomon's heart away from following the LORD.

(a) Solomon began to worship Ashtoreth, Chemosh, and Milcom (Molech) in addition to Jehovah.

(b) _____ were built in and around Jerusalem to accommodate the worship of Solomon's many pagan wives.

4. (1 Ki. 11:9-11) Solomon was unusually blessed by having two separate divine visits (3:5; 9:2), yet despite these privileged dialogues with God, Solomon angered the LORD by

¹ Matthew Henry took a dimmer view of Solomon's polygamy saying, “Some think it was in policy that he married these foreigners, by them to get intelligence of the state of those countries. I rather fear it was because the daughters of Israel were too grave and modest for him, and those foreigners pleased him with the looseness and wantonness of their dress, and air, and conversation.”

breaking the covenant. God spoke to Solomon again, but this time he told him of his coming wrath: instead of peace, Solomon could expect war; instead of kingdom unity, Solomon could expect kingdom _____.

5. (1 Ki. 11:12-13) In God's gracious faithfulness to his covenant with _____, he would not remove all the kingdom from David's house; one tribe would be left – and this rending of the kingdom would not take place until the time of Solomon's son's reign.

Solomon's Enemies

6. (1 Ki. 11:14-26) The LORD raised up three enemies to afflict Solomon:

(a) _____ the Edomite – a descendant of the Edomite King, he was a small boy when he was whisked out of Edom during the conquest of David and Joab. He was given refuge in Egypt and became allied with Pharaoh. Upon the news of David and Joab's death, he desired to reestablish his kingdom and thus became an enemy of Israel.

(b) _____, the Son of Eliadah – he was a military leader under Hadadezer King of Zobah but after Zobah's fall to David, Rezon went into banditry. As he grew in power, he returned to Damascus and became king of Syria.

(c) _____ the son of Nebat – a talented young leader and an Ephrathite (Ephraimite). He would be the one who would rend the kingdom away from Solomon's successor.

Application

7. Sadly, those who possess wisdom do not always pursue wisdom. Solomon, despite all of his privileges, strayed from the LORD. His father David, who was not himself spotless, was commended for his “perfect heart.” (11:4) How was David's heart perfect while Solomon's was not? _____

8. Solomon, as a wise, peaceful king and son of David is a type of Christ. In what ways is he an anti-type? _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): heart • 1. a) treaties, b) status symbol • 3. b) High places; • 4. division • 5. David • 6. a) Hadad; b)Rezon; c) Jeroboam • 7. Though David sinned tragically, he never turned to another god; he was consistently faithful to Jehovah • 8. Solomon caved into temptation and lived a life of ease; Jesus was sinless and lived a life of humility and even poverty

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.