

Adult Sunday Bible Study Lesson

June 19, 2022

Solomon the Antinomian

Compromises and Consequences

Situational Context: The Lord had greatly honored Solomon by appearing to him twice. This is an honor accorded very few in Israel's history. The Lord had granted Solomon great wisdom, honor, and glory which drew the attention of the nations, the queen of Sheba. Israel had become powerful, rich, and feared.

Lesson Theme: 1 Kings 11:9-13

1. Ruled by the Flesh: 1 Kings 11:1-3 (ESV) ¹ Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ² from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. ³ He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.

Interpretation: Compromises start small and are hard to contain. Solomon was being ruled by His carnal appetites and seen clearly in the Book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon needed an intervention. He got one from God. Ancient kings tended to be judged by their wealth, power, and harem. The size of Solomon's harem made him the envy of every other king and promises to give him many children as his legacy and ensure his children would rule Israel for a long time. Solomons disobedience was spiritual adultery. Solomon lived a libertine life contrary to God's law.

Supporting Texts:

Deuteronomy 17:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

Exodus 34:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, ¹⁶ and you take of their daughters for your sons,

and their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-4 (ESV) ¹ I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But behold, this also was vanity. ² I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?” ³ I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. ⁴ I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself.

Ecclesiastes 2:8 (ESV) ⁸ I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

Matthew 26:41 (ESV) ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Discussion Starters:

What does Ecclesiastes add to our understanding of Solomon?

Describe the wisest man’s folly.

2. A Divided Heart:1 Kings 11:4-8 (ESV) ⁴ For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. ⁸ And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

Interpretation: David was a sinner. But he was a sinner who extravagantly repented of his sins, demonstrating David’s heart sought God. David’s devotion to God was unparalleled. Solomon’s many sins violated fundamental principles of

Israelite religion: multiplying wives, worshipping other gods, and building sanctuaries for the foreign gods.

Supporting Texts:

Hosea 2:13 (ESV) ¹³ And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals when she burned offerings to them and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry, and went after her lovers and forgot me, declares the LORD.

2 Kings 23:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech.

Discussion Starters:

Why does the Holy Spirit compare David's and Solomon's hearts?

What were the ultimate consequences of Solomon's sins?

3. A Divided Kingdom: 1 Kings 11:9-13 (ESV) ⁹ And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice ¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded. ¹¹ Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. ¹² Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, 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 David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen."

Interpretation: God's great love for David causes Him to temper His judgment on Solomon in two respects: first, God postpones the division until the reign of Solomon's son; and second, God does not remove the entire kingdom from the Davidic dynasty. [**One tribe**] This probably refers to Judah. Judah may be understood without being mentioned. If another tribe is meant, it may refer to

Benjamin. It was probable assumed that David's tribe would remain in Israel thus maintain the prophecies concerning Judah. Judah would ensure that Jerusalem and the temple would remain in Israel not the northern breakaway.

[For the sake of Jerusalem.] Jerusalem was God's chosen city, the site of Israel's central sanctuary anticipated in Dt 12 and constructed by Solomon.

Supporting Texts:

1 Kings 9:2 (ESV) ² the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon.

Discussion Starters:

Why didn't Solomon's covenant violations annul the Davidic Covenant?

Why didn't Solomon's violations result in exile?

It was God's plan from the beginning to isolate Judah from the rest of Israel, why?