

"God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

Section 16: "Take Care Lest Ye Fall From God's Love Story"

1 Kings 1-10, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

There are many intriguing characters in the Bible, but none more than King Solomon. Jesus remarks in *Matthew 6:28-29* "*And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,²⁹ yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.*" He was reminding the listeners of the glory at the high point of his life. He was a man whom started out so great in the eyes of the Lord, but failed miserably in the end. A brief look at his life through the Books of 1 Kings, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes will expose him as a classic example of falling from God's Love Story.

He was the second son of David and Bathsheba from as revealed in *2 Sam 12:24-25*. His name means "peaceable" and his nickname Jedidiah means "beloved of the LORD" and that he was, for he was the "Golden Child" of David his father. Solomon was promised the throne years prior as indicated in *1 Kings 1:17* "*My lord, you swore to your maidservant by the LORD your God, saying, 'Surely your son Solomon shall be king after me and he shall sit on my throne.'*"

His Wisdom

- In 1 Kings 3:5-9 when God granted Solomon one wish, Solomon said, "...*So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?*" He could have asked for money, power, a long life or the latest model of flat screen television, but he chose the best request of all, wisdom. Because of that God gave him not only the wisdom, but many other blessings.
- An early demonstration of this wisdom in 1 Kings 3:16-28. Two women who were harlots came to him for justice. They both lived in the same house and each had a newborn child. One of the women accidentally lay on her child in the night and upon discovering her child was dead, secretly swapped with the other mother's infant. When the latter mother awoke and found the dead child and realized what had happened, she sought justice to rectify the situation since the first denied it all. Solomon ordered a sword to be brought and ordered the child to be divided in two, giving one half to one mother and half to the other. Verses 26-28 states *Then the woman whose child was the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him!"²⁷ Then the king said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother."²⁸ When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.*

The Construction of the Temple

- Many years prior to his reign it was predicted that he would be the builder of God's holy temple (*2 Samuel 7:12-13*). Not even the great David was afforded this privilege.
- *1 Kings 6:1* "...*in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel...he began to build the house of the LORD.*" It was a seven year project that became one of the most ornate

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structures on earth. Hundreds of hand carvings, ornate woods and hangings, hundreds of pounds of gold, hand cut stones and craftsmanship that was the very best in the world.

- Upon dedication of the temple he spoke to the nation, saying *1 Kings 8:13* "I have surely built You a lofty house, A place for Your dwelling forever." *1 Kings 8:63* further explains that Solomon *offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings...22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the sons of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.* Everyone was quite impressed!

His Fame

- *1 Kings 4:30-32* says Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt...and his fame was *known* in all the surrounding nations. ³² He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.
- *1 Kings 10:1-8* states that the "...*queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with difficult questions.*"
- Anyone having read the Proverbs can clearly see that Solomon was a wise man. It is in the Proverbs that he used wisdom to address topics such as parenting, leadership, money, marriage, sex, morals, anger, happiness, stress, contentment, resentment, life, death and dozens of other pertinent topics. Here is just a sample.
 - *1:7* The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
 - *3:5-6* Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.
 - *13:4* The soul of the sluggard craves and *gets* nothing, But the soul of the diligent is made fat.
 - *14:12* There is a way *which seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
 - *22:6* Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.
 - *27:17* Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.
 - *29:18* Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.

His Fortune

- *1 Kings 4:21-28* confirms the daily provision for his palace was 300 bushels of fine flour, 600 bushels of meal, 30 oxen, 100 sheep and much additional wild game. He had 40,000 stalls of horses, 12,000 riders and unlimited feed for both.
- He made money on every transaction and on every trade route. *2 Chronicles 9:27* says that he "...*made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamore trees that are in the lowland.*" *1 Kings 10:14* states that he received more than 50,000 pounds of gold per year. There have been some economists that have estimated his earnings to nearly a billion dollars per year.
- Solomon spent thirteen years building a palace for himself which. It was 150'X75' in dimension, having more than 11,000 square feet of living space. It was the greatest palace of any king in that day. It was filled with many costly carvings, stones, gold, linens and whatever else was extravagant. He was a billionaire and the house communicated that

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point. The fee alone for the contractor to build the palace was twenty cities in Galilee and 400 pounds of gold.

Solomon was the direct recipient of blessing, wisdom, power and wealth. In the early years of his reign, he lived God's Love Story. He prospered because he fully bought into God's plans for him. In the second half of his reign this all changed because he would not stay faithful to God's plan.

God warned Solomon to stay faithful.

- 1 Kings 9:6-7 "But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, ⁷ then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples."

He fell into "Love" with a lot of women.

- 1 Kings 11:1-3 *Now King Solomon loved many foreign women...from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, "You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods." Solomon held fast to these in love. ³ He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away.*
- He wrote the Song of Solomon to illustrate the love of one of the women. One can see his deep passion for the opposite sex within the pages of that writing. HE LOVED HIS WOMEN!

He fell out of love with the Father.

- 1 Kings 11:4-9 *For when Solomon was old, 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 had been...Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done. ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab...and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. ⁸ Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. ⁹ Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD."*

It is said that Solomon wrote Proverbs at the height of his relationship with God and that Ecclesiastes was at the lowest depths of the same. In the latter he exposed futility in light of all he attained. Here is a brief summary of what transpired in his fall from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

- He stated in Eccl 1:18 "...in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain." How did this come about?
- He turned godly wisdom into worldly wisdom. Eccl 2:13 *And I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness.*
- He enlarged his own kingdom over the kingdom of God. Eccl 2:3-8 *I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine...and how to take hold of folly...I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and*

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parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves...I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem...I collected for myself silver and gold...I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines.

- He became empty and depressed.
 - Eccl 2:17 *So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.*
 - Eccl 2:20 *Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.*
 - Eccl 2:24 *There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good.*
- He reflected on his pitiful position.
 - Eccl 5:10 *He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity.*
 - Eccl 5:15 *As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand.*
 - Eccl 6:7 *All a man's labor is for his mouth and yet the appetite is not satisfied.*

It is rather a depressing book that must be read in the context of a man that lost his passion for the Lord. It is not until the end that he comes to the most brilliant thought of the twelve chapters. It is very likely that these are the last recorded words of Solomon that we have, therefore listen closely.

- *Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. ¹⁴ For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.*
- It appears that he might have come to his senses near the end of his life. His unfaithfulness did lead to the division of the kingdom, but hopefully he was right with the Lord in the end.

Application:

Church, take heed lest ye fall (1 Cor 10:12). Don't be like Solomon and flirt with disaster, but make sure to hang onto God's love with all our heart, soul and mind! Don't let the things of this world turn "God's Love Story" into "Our Hate Story". Grow God's kingdom first and our kingdom last. Make sure to know God's love, embrace God's love and never let it go!