

SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS

Godly leadership in the house of God and the heart of the believer

TITLE: From favor to Folly

TEXT: 1 Kings 10; 2 Chronicles 9,10

Favor of God

2 Chron. 1:11

¹¹ God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, ¹² therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."

- It is clear that God blessed Solomon in every area of existence.
- Wisdom, knowledge, wealth, possessions, honor, love.
- God favors him and even withholds any consequence regarding judgement until after Solomon passes away.

Favor of Men

Kings

1 Kings 4:34

³⁴ From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

2 Chron. 9:23

²³ All the kings of the earth sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.

Queen of Sheba

1 Kings 10; 2 Chron. 9

⁶ She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷ But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. ⁸ How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! ⁹ Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness."

The People

1 Kings 8:66

⁶⁶ *On the following day he sent the people away. They blessed the king and then went home, joyful and glad in heart for all the good things the LORD had done for his servant David and his people Israel.*

Favor to Folly

It seems to me that **the key to Solomon's downfall** is found in one of his own proverbs.

Proverbs 19:27 *"Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."*

Wisdom

Wisdom of Proverbs traded for the very Foolishness he describes

He thought that his own wisdom could make him happy, but this was vanity (Eccl. 1:16-18).

Fun and Adventure

Joy and Gladness found in God replaced with nothing satisfying him

He thought that pleasure and merriment could satisfy him, but this was vanity (Eccl. 2:1-2).

Food and Wine

The abundance of God's table replaced with dissatisfaction

He thought that food and wine could please him, but this was vanity (Eccl. 2:3).

Wealth

The wealth of the world given freely by God replaced with hoarding and relying on one's own wealth

He thought that wealth could bring contentment to him, but this was vanity (Eccl. 5:10).

1 Kings 10:23-25

²³ *King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth.* ²⁴ *The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.* ²⁵ *Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules.*

2 Chronicles 9:22

²² *King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth.*

Security --He traded the relying on God for reliance on his army.

1 Kings 10:26-28

²⁶ Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. ²⁷ The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills. ²⁸ Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue.

Love

He traded the love of the One for the love of many.

He traded His heart For God for the hearts of his wives.

The heart of one who would write Song of Solomon traded for the foolishness of many wives

He had 700 wives and 300 concubines which turned away his heart after other gods (I Kgs. 11:1-4).

The Egyptian and many others

1 Kings 7:8

Solomon also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had married.

2 Chron. 8:11

¹¹ Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the LORD has entered are holy."

1 Kings 11:1-3

King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter— Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. ² They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. ³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.

1 Kings 11:3-4

"...his wives led him astray. ⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God,"

We can see the slip into opulence and lavishing oneself in the blessings of God to the point where Solomon forgot God.

We hear those words again... *"Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."*

The law gave instruction regarding the king.

Deut. 17:16-17

¹⁶ *The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the Lord has told you, "You are not to go back that way again."* ¹⁷ *He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.*

He did all three of those things.

It's as if he had forgotten it all.

Here is the man who wrote...

The Greatest Book of Wisdom.

The Greatest Book of Love.

And the Finest Book on the Assessment of Life.

The Conclusion

In the end that all that the world could offer was mere vanity and cannot satisfy a man (Eccl. 1:2).

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

A final note from Solomon is found in Ecclesiastes 12

In essence Solomon is saying to us, "I've done it all and there is only one thing that is constant and upon which you can depend your entire life."

"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments." (Eccl. 12:13).

The Take-away

Pursue that reverence to remember God in all times and in all circumstances.

Set the boundary that you will not sin against God and others.

Keep the commands.