

INTRODUCTION:

God desires men and women who struggle well and remain faithful to the end.

David's prayer was that Solomon would always be faithful.

1 Chronicles 29:18-19

O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, our fathers, preserve this forever in the intentions of the heart of Your people, and direct their heart to You; and give to my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, and to do *them* all, and to build the temple, for which I have made provision.

This pray became a charge, a commission.

1 Kings 2:1-4

As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, so that the Lord may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

Five words tell the story of the life of Solomon.

I. WISDOM

(1 Kings 3; 2 Chronicles 1)

A. SOLOMON WAS A JUDGE

Solomon's wisdom gave him a foundation for a great reign and a godly life.

2 Chronicles 1:7-13

7 In that night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you."

And Solomon said to God, "You have dealt with my father David with great faithfulness, and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, Lord God, Your promise to my father David is fulfilled, for You have made me king over a people as

numerous as the dust of the earth. 10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, so that I may go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of Yours?" 11 Then God said to Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you did not ask for riches, wealth, or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor did you even ask for long life, but you asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge so that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king, 12 wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. I will also give you riches, wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed, nor will those who will come after you." 13 So Solomon went from the high place which was at Gibeon, from the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem, and he reigned over Israel.

B. SOLOMON WAS AN AUTHOR

1 Kings 4:32

He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.

C. SOLOMON WAS A PURVEYOR OF WISDOM

II. WORSHIP

A. A TEMPLE WAS DAVID'S DESIRE

2 Samuel 7

1. David Was Bloody

1 Chronicles 22:7-10

David said to Solomon, "My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the Lord my God. But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me. Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

1 Chronicles 22:5

David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. *Therefore* now I will make preparation for it." So David made ample preparations before his death.

2. David Planned The Temple

1 Chronicles 28:11, 12...19

Then David gave to his son Solomon the plan of the porch of *the temple*, its buildings, its storehouses, its upper rooms, its inner rooms and the room for the mercy seat; and the plan of all that he had in mind, for the courts of the house of the Lord, and for all the surrounding rooms, for the storehouses of the house of God and for the storehouses of the dedicated things;...*"All this," said David, "the Lord made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern."*

B. A TEMPLE WAS SOLOMON'S COMMISSION

Acts 7:4

1 Chronicles 22:6, 11-12

Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the Lord God of Israel. Now, my son, the Lord be with you that you may be successful, and build the house of the Lord your God just as He has spoken concerning you. Only the Lord give you discretion and understanding, and give you charge over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God.

C. THE TEMPLE WAS A MAGNIFICENT STRUCTURE

D. A TEMPLE WAS THE PEOPLE'S CONNECTION TO GOD.

God doesn't need a house. 2 Samuel 7; Acts 17:16, 17

1 Kings 6:12-13

"Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep all My commandments by walking in them, then I will carry out My word with you which I spoke to David your father. I will

dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

1 Kings 8:10-13...27-30

It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud. "I have surely built You a lofty house, A place for Your dwelling forever."

The presence of God vividly moving across the valley and infiltrating the temple that was built for Him, not because He needed a house, but because He wanted to honor the people of Israel with His presence. It has always been God's desire to live with people, the garden, the eternal state...But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You today; that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, 'My name shall be there,' to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place. Listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

III. WEALTH

A. GREAT RICHES

1 Kings 10:23

B. A MAGNIFICENT PALACE

1 Kings 7:1

C. OTHER BUILDINGS

1 Kings 9:15ff., 26

D. A STANDING ARMY AND THE PEACE THAT RESULTS

1 Kings 9:22

1 Chronicles 22:9

Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days.

E. A VAST INCOME

1 Kings 10:14-23

IV. WIVES

1 Kings 11:1-4

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 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.⁴ 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*.

V. WAVERING

1 Kings 8:59-61

And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day requires,⁶⁰ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else.⁶¹ Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day."

...he couldn't keep his own exhortation.

1 Kings 11:4-13

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*.⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites.⁶ 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, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, 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.

Now the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was 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 observe what the Lord had commanded.¹¹ So the Lord said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.¹² Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, *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 My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

? What is idolatry?

CONCLUSION: A FEW GOOD MEN

Solomon's life just leaves us with a lot of questions:

? How could a wise man be so stupid?

? How could a promiscuous man write a love song about marriage?

? How could a man who started out so well end so badly?

Nehemiah 13:26

Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin.

1 Kings 9:7-8

Ezekiel 10:18a

Then the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple...

Point: God wants men and women who struggle well and remain faithful to the end.

But we face the very pitfalls of Solomon in our struggle that led to his downfall.

Wisdom

You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

Put off sin. Put off lethargy. Put off shallow theology. Remain faithful always, faithful to the end.

Romans 1:22, 23

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures.

Wealth

1 Timothy 6:9

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge people into ruin and destruction.

Worship

Matthew 15:8, 9

This people honors Me with their lips,
But their heart is far away from Me.
And in vain do they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

Wives

Wavering

Revelation 2:10-11

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Mark 8:35

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

Mark 13:13