

Title: LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF KING SOLOMON

Text: I Kings 3:5-15

Intro: The story that we are most familiar with in Solomon's life is that of his asking for wisdom from God (**I Kgs. 3:5-11**). Not only did God grant Solomon's request for wisdom but also gave him power, riches, fame, and prosperity. Solomon had all that a man could ask for in this life. But was he really happy after all?

I. THE BLESSINGS & ACHIEVMENTS OF KING SOLOMON

- A.** He was the son of King David by Bathsheba.
- B.** He was charged of building a magnificent temple for God.
- C.** He had fame among the nations (**I Kgs. 4:31**).
- D.** He possessed expertise in many fields (**I Kgs. 4:32-34**).
- E.** He wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.
- F.** He was the richest and wisest king (**I Kgs. 10:23, 27**).
- G.** He had great military strength (**I Kgs. 10:26**).

II. THE TRAGEDIES & FAILURES OF KING SOLOMON

- A.** He had 700 wives and 300 concubines (**I Kgs. 11:3**).
- B.** He concluded in the end that all that the world could offer was mere vanity and cannot satisfy a man (**Eccl. 1:2**).
- C.** He thought that his own wisdom could make him happy, but this was vanity (**Eccl. 1:16-18**).
- D.** He thought that pleasure and merriment could satisfy him, but this was vanity (**Eccl. 2:1-2**).
- E.** He thought that food and wine could please him, but this was vanity (**Eccl. 2:3**).
- F.** He thought that wealth could content him, but this was vanity (**Eccl. 5:10**).
- G.** 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." "Fear God and keep his commandments?." (**Eccl. 12:13**).

CONCLUSION: The wisdom that is from God is more valuable than the most precious substances on earth (**Prov. 16:16**). The life of Solomon is both of great accomplishment and great tragedy. Solomon's life began with great purpose, but it was led astray and ultimately destroyed. This was by Jesus when He warned in **Mark 8:36-37**, "**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**"

I Kings 3:5-15> *Read from the Bible.*

I Kgs. 4:31> For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.

I Kgs. 4:32-34> **32** And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five. **33** And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes. **34** And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.

I Kgs. 10:23, 27> **23** So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom... **27** And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycomore trees that are in the vale, for abundance.

I Kgs. 10:26> And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem.

I Kgs. 11:3> And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

Eccl. 1:2> Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

Eccl. 1:16-18> **16** I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. **17** And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. **18** For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

Eccl. 2:1-2> **1** I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity. **2** I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?

Eccl. 2:3> I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

Eccl. 5:10> He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

Eccl. 12:13> Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Prov. 16:16> How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!