

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. When we obtain an abundance or excess of wealth, do we tend to turn away from God?
2. Why did God decide to take the kingdom away from Solomon's son instead of Solomon?
3. Were Solomon's wives his only downfall?
4. Compare the wealth of Solomon and Job and how they each handled it.
5. "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" (Proverbs 6:27)

### SUMMARY:

Solomon's wisdom was unsurpassed, as we have previously studied. His wealth as we can now learn also was unsurpassed being given by God. Yet in the midst of all these things Solomon's heart was turned and he began to do many things that displeased God. Can it be that we too, having received so many blessings from God are in danger of going a similar way as Solomon did? Let us yield not to temptation.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

September 21, 2003

Third Quarter

### SOLOMON'S FOLLY

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**LESSON TEXT:** *1 Kings 10:14 through 11:13*

**LESSON SETTING:** The king's palace in Jerusalem.

**TIME:** Approximately 980 B.C.

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#### I. SOLOMON'S MATERIALISM. 1 Kings 10:14-29

- A. His Riches (vs. 14-15) Job 1:3
- B. His Throne (vs. 18-20)
- C. His Luxurious Living (vs. 21) 1 Kings 4:22-23
- D. His Presents (vs. 24-25) 2 Chronicles 9:24
- E. His Prosperity (vs. 27-29) 2 Chronicles 9:25-28

#### II. SOLOMON'S SENSUALISM. 1 Kings 11:1-13

- A. Lust for Women (vs. 1-2) Proverbs 6:24-27
- B. Polygamy (vs. 3) Deuteronomy 17:17; Matthew 19:4-5
- C. Idolatry (vs. 4-5) Leviticus 26:1; 1 John 5:21
- D. Half-hearted love of God (vs. 6) 2 Chronicles 25:2; Hosea 10:2
- E. Disobedience (vs. 10) 1 Samuel 12:15; 2 Thessalonians 1:8

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS; FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR ELSE HE WILL HOLD TO THE ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER.*

Matthew 6:24

**NEXT SUNDAY LESSON:** Ecclesiastes 1:1 through 3:22

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Matthew 6:19-34

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Life and Writings of Solomon

**TOPIC:** THE EMPTY LIFE

**INTRODUCTION:**

The writer of this book, Ecclesiastes, undoubtedly was Solomon, although a possibility does exist that it could have been a “son of David” of a later generation. However, the many things described as being built could hardly have been accomplished by any other king. Key expressions are “vanity” and “under the sun” each appearing more than 25 times.

It is interesting to note some of the conclusions made by the writer. While speaking of all these accomplishments he realized that he must leave them all to one who would come after him who may not be as wise. (Chapter 2:18) He realized too that the wise man is not more remembered than anyone else and that the wise man sooner or later dies in the same way as the fool. (Ecclesiastes 2:16) Thus he could say “vanity of vanities; all is vanity.” (Ecclesiastes 1:2)

Just as Solomon, each one of us must face our creator and give account for how we have lived our lives. We shall not be judged by earthly labor or lack of it. We shall not be judged by great earthly accomplishments or lack of them, but we shall be judged by how obedient we have been to God’s Word. Some may think that this is not important but the lack of obedience to God’s commands is what changed God’s attitude from one of pleasure (1 Kings 3:10) to one of anger (1 Kings 11:9).

May we be so very careful that God may continually find pleasure in us in living obedient, yielded lives to Him.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Depending on material things of this life to bring happiness, results only in disappointment and disillusionment.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *LAY NOT UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES UPON EARTH, WHERE MOTH AND RUST DOTH CORRUPT, AND WHERE THIEVES BREAK THROUGH AND STEAL.* Matthew 6:19

The words of our Lord quite well emphasize some of the very things that Solomon taught. It is thus apparent that even these wise teachings were inspired by a higher power. We don’t know what Solomon’s end will be in eternity, but we can be assured that whether or not he ever repented for his transgressions at least God had worked in his heart and he realized the importance of serving God always.

May we today learn the lesson early in life that Solomon spent a lifetime to learn, that treasures on earth will be corrupted or stolen. These things cannot endure and will never benefit us in life. They can only be passed on to another generation usually to the hurt or destruction of that generation. May we rather “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 22 - 28**

- M. \*The Cycle of Life. Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
- T. \*The Search for Happiness. Ecclesiastes 2:1-13
- W. \*A Disillusioned King. Ecclesiastes 2:14-26
- T. \*The Schedule of Life. Ecclesiastes 3:1-9
- F. \*Finding a Purpose in Life. Ecclesiastes 3:10-22
- S. Planning for Eternity. Matthew 6:10-25
- S. The Folly of Materialism. Luke 12:13-21