

Solomon – Things look good for God's family, but they still reject Him



King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. 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. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done.

On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command. So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

~ 1 Kings 11:1-13 ~

When Solomon became king things looked really good God's family. God's family were huge and were living in the land that God had promised Abraham, and people from the nations near and far came to Solomon to be blessed and learn from his wisdom.

However, things didn't stay that way. Even though Solomon was the wisest man ever to live and God had appeared to him two times, he still rejected God and followed other fake gods.

Wrongly, Solomon had way too many wives and wives that didn't worship God. And instead of wanting to please God, Solomon wanted to please his wives, so he turned away from God.

Because of this, the things that were going well for God's family stopped going so well. Instead of being one people, they split into two kingdoms and eventually both kingdoms were defeated and people taken away from the land God gave them.

But that isn't the end of the story. God's promises were still going to come true. Even when people reject God, he is still working and making a way for everyone every where to be part of his forever family.

Solomon's life also is a reminder to us that we need to keep following Jesus, even if those around us don't want to. It can be hard at time to live God's way and follow Jesus, but it is always worth it, and we can help each other do it!

Some questions to think about:

1. What was the reason that Solomon rejected God and living his way?
2. Did God give up on his promises because people rejected him?
3. What things might tempt us to reject Jesus and living his way?
4. What things can we do to help ourselves and others keep following Jesus and living his way?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you didn't give up on your promises because people rejected you. Help us not to follow temptations that lead us away from you and to live your way always.

Amen.