
The Book of Ecclesiastes: Written by Solomon; a man to whom God gave wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the seashore; the scriptures teach us that he was wiser than all men

He introduces himself as the Preacher, the son of David, King in Jerusalem. Of David's nineteen (19) sons listed in 1 Chronicles, Solomon, (also known as Jedidiah) was the only son born of David's direct line who could call himself the son of David, King in Jerusalem. He also wrote:

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, King in Israel

Of course, we know that the Lord Jesus was rightly called the Son of David; God long promised that the Messiah would descend from David's lineage.

2 Samuel 7:11-13, Psalm 89:3-4, 132:11

History of Solomon: He was the eighth (8th) son born to David:

Solomon was the second (2nd) son of David born of Bathsheba his mother.

Solomon is in the lineage of Christ, born to David after David's terrible sin with Bathsheba who was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, one of David's most valiant and loyal soldiers.

Matthew 1:5-6

The Word of God tells us the truth (as it always does); here about David, the father of Solomon's life; YES, he was the sweet Psalmist of Israel and a man after God's own heart; YES, he loved God and he love God's Word; but there were also times in David's life when he departed from God's ways and God's Word; in those times, David sinned terribly against God!

The sins of saints are so much worse than the sins of unbelievers! The sins of the saints push unbelievers further away from God, and worse, they stir them up in their minds to dishonor God more than before they beheld the sins of those who believe in God.

And what was David's sin in regard to Solomon? He took another man's wife and committed adultery with her, while her husband, (Uriah the Hittite), one of David's most valiant soldiers was on the battlefield.

(Finish account: David/Uriah/Bathsheba)

After Uriah was dead and buried, and Bathsheba had mourned his death; David took Bathsheba to be his wife. 2 Samuel 11:26-27.

When David was confronted about his secret sin, probably about 10 months later by Nathan the prophet; David acknowledged his sins, repented of his sins, and confessed his sins.

If we confess our sins, (and David did ~ Psalm 51:1-4), He, God, is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness~1 John 1:9:

God forgave David; He put away his sin; God cast it into the depths of the sea, and as far as the east is from the west.

David's sin was remembered no more by God! Psalm 32:1-5

But the damage of David's sin in his life and in his family and kingdom from that time forward was irreversible. David's

sin had life-long consequences; the trouble and grief caused by David's own sins would follow him for the remainder of his days.

The immediate consequence for David's sin; but also, God's judgment would fall upon the child. David, the guilty one was set free, but the innocent child would surely die! 2 Samuel 12:11-14

Understand Christian, from this example in David's life, that your sins have terrible consequences; they will bring griefs, sorrows, and troubles into your life; and the collateral damage of your sins will affect those that are closest to you.

Every time you and I sin against God, we give unbelievers another occasion/another reason to blaspheme and dishonor God, and worse, our sins turn unbelievers further away from believing/trusting in God. When we, as Christians sin against God, we COMPLETELY misrepresent God, whom we profess to worship and believe in!

- b. Another negative impact of David's sin was that it was committed in secret; secret sins are the worst kind of sins because no one sees us commit them; when we sin out in the open, we can be reproved and corrected; others can pray for us and our restoration and repentance; and our sins can be brought to our attention! Now I am not saying that there is ever a good way to sin, I am just warning you about how dangerous it is to sin in secret! But also know that, though your sins are hidden from the eyes of those around you; they are not hidden from the eyes of God!

Jeremiah 23:23-24, Psalm 139:7, 11-12

David was aware of the great danger of secret sins! Psalm 19:12-13

As God put away David's sins, God will put away your sins, Christian; when you acknowledge & turn from your sins, and when you confess & forsake them, you will be forgiven by Him; but the world will not so quickly forget your sins; the enemies of the Lord will throw them up in your face and dishonor and blaspheme God every time you are discovered to have sinned against Him.

After this lamentable time in David's life, and after the child died who would have been Bathsheba's first son, the Lord, having forgiven and restored David, gave him another son of Bathsheba, whose name was Solomon. 2 Samuel 12:24-25

In all of this I hope you will see that, if not for the intervention and grace of God, not even the saints/believers would not survive against the power and dominion of sin in this present world. Apart from the grace of God, none of us would be able to endure to the end of this life and make it to heaven.

Now, we begin in earnest to learn about Solomon.

Among natural men who sat on the throne of Israel, there was none so wise as Solomon. In fact, apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, there has never been a wiser man to walk the earth than Solomon!

1 Kings 3:5-15, 4:29-34, Matthew 12:42

But even though Solomon possessed God given wisdom and understanding far above that of any mortal man before or after Him (to this day); his understanding and largeness of heart did not prevent him from falling into many grievous and hurtful sins in his life.

The Book of Ecclesiastes, which I believe perhaps to be his final writing, is from a man who was, in effect, given the wherewithal to get whatever he wanted in this life and in this world, and to prove and to find out if there might be anything in this present world that could give lasting & enduring happiness and satisfaction to the soul. Ecclesiastes 1:2-3 Solomon truly was a man who gained the whole world but did not lose his soul! But he does well teach us the NT truth of Christ:

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Matthew 16:26:

For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? Luke 9:25:

I believe God allowed Solomon to get anything and everything he wanted and desired in this world to teach us NOW, that after he had gotten it all; it brought no satisfaction at all to his soul.

The amazing thing is, that even after God gave him more wisdom and understanding and largeness of heart than any man before him or after him, he still fell into some of the most grievous sins against the Lord.

Nehemiah 13:26, 1 Kings 11:1-13

Let this serve as an introduction to Ecclesiastes, which I believe to be a writing of Solomon's repentance, and the confessions of a man who gave his heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven.

When it was all said and done, Solomon confessed:

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity

There are vast multitudes of people in this world today, even from previous ages gone by, who worked and labored and wearied themselves, (so many today want the biggest piece of this world and it's riches that they can get; Solomon had it all, and after he had gotten it all, more than any other man; he found it to be worthless and insufficient; there was no lasting happiness in any of what he got; it was unable to satisfy the soul.

In closing, the prevailing theme of the entire book is that man will never find true and eternal happiness in this present world; it is all vanity and vexation of spirit; true happiness and contentment can only be found in Christ! Matthew 16:26

Turn from your sins and from your love of the world NOW; believe Christ to the saving of your soul, and you will learn what true happiness is!

