

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
SPIRITUAL HEART TROUBLE
1 KINGS 10:14-18; 11:1-13

Introduction:

We continue to deal with the life and reign of King Solomon, David's son who followed him on the throne as king of Israel.

We've seen in our studies here in 1 Kings how that Solomon was a unique person. Most everyone knows that he was the wisest man to ever live and as well as one of the richest men that has ever lived!

Chapter 10 gives us an insight into Solomon's great wealth:

Vs 14 – The weight of gold for one year was 666 talents which would be about 50,000 pounds of gold.

Vs 15 – Additional revenue of an unknown amount is mentioned as having accumulated from trade, taxes, and tribute paid from other countries.

Vs 16 – Mentions that he had 200 targets made of beaten gold. Targets were large shields that could cover and protect the entire body of a person. Six hundred shekels or 7 ½ pounds of gold was used on each shield.

Vs 17 – An additional 300 shields were made of beaten gold. These were small shields worn on the arm. They each contained 3 ¾ pounds of gold. The purpose of these shields was for show, not for battle, because gold is very soft.

When we get to **1Kings 14:26**, we'll see that in 926 B.C., Shishak, king of Egypt, took these shields away from Solomon's son Rehoboam.

Vs 18-20 – Wealth was also reflected in Solomon's throne. The throne of a king reflected his glory. His was made of ivory overlaid with gold.

Vs 21 – Solomon's wealth was also seen in the drinking vessels made of gold.

Vs 22-25 – The navy displayed his wealth too. Every three years the navy would bring gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. Solomon's wealth exceeded the wealth of all the kings of the earth. Having wealth is not wrong in itself, but the problem with riches is that they can make one self-sufficient.

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Vs 26 – He also had 1400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen.

Vs 27 – Silver was so abundant that it was greatly depreciated. It was worth almost nothing.

Vs 28-29

Everything seemed to be going great for Solomon! We could say that Solomon was "*on top of the mountain*" so to speak!

All this wealth that is mentioned here has been estimated by some to have been like the wealth of Bill Gates (Microsoft), or Warren Buffet (Berkshire Hathaway), or Jeff Bezos (Amazon) in today's standards (i.e. billions)

But then **Chapter 11** comes. (By the way Chapter 11 is also a Bankruptcy Chapter!) Here in **Chapter 11** we find that **though Solomon had great wealth materially speaking, he had a spiritual heart problem!**

Not his physical heart mind you, but rather **his heart for God!**

I want you to notice that in these 13 verses the word "**heart**" is used 6 times! (**Read 11:1-13**)

Vs 3 and vs 4 say that his wives turned away his heart!

Vs 6 says Solomon's problem was that his heart was not sold out to God like it should have been.

This is strange in a way because Solomon was a heart specialist. He asked God in *1 Kings 3:9*– "*Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*"

The Lord's response:

1 Kings 3:12– "*Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.*"

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1 Kings 4:29–“And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.”
One of the great themes of the book of Proverbs, which was written by Solomon, is the “heart”. It is mentioned some 81 times in Proverbs.

The same Solomon who wrote in *Proverbs 4:23–“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life,”* **did not keep his own heart!**

The same Solomon who wrote in *Proverbs 3:5-6–“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths,”* **strayed from his own wise words!**

Jeremiah 17:9 says “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

We need to realize that if it was possible for one as wise as Solomon to have this kind of spiritual heart trouble, then it is also possible for us too!

Let’s examine Solomon’s heart problems. As we do, let’s probe the innermost depth of our own hearts to see if we suffer from heart trouble.

I. SOLOMON HAD A DIVIDED HEART! (11:1-5)

Solomon tried to divide his heart between his love for 1000 women and his God. The women won out!

Deuteronomy 6:5–“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

Matthew 10:37-38–“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”

Matthew 6:24–“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. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

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In Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 reveals how that Solomon gave his life to pleasure (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life) but found it was all full of nothing but vanity in the end!

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Though Solomon appeared to have learned some things in Ecclesiastes, sadly, he did not change but his heart drifted ever further from the LORD!

Solomon had a **DIVIDED** heart! Do some self-examination tonight! How about your heart? Does the LORD have priority and preeminence in your heart and life? Or, is your heart **DIVIDED** when it comes to your love for the LORD and the love of the things in this world?

James 4:8–“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

SOLOMON HAD A DIVIDED HEART...

II. SOLOMON HAD A DEFAULTING HEART! (11:6; 9:4-7)

We saw how that God made a covenant with Solomon in **9:4-7**, but Solomon did not keep his end of the bargain!

A. He Did Not Walk As His Father Walked!

B. He Did Not Walk In Integrity Of The Heart!

C. He Did Not Walk In Uprightness!

III. SOLOMON HAD A DISTANT HEART! (11:4, 9)

A. There had been a time in Solomon’s life when the LORD appeared to him and spoke to him! (1 Kings 3:5-14)

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- B. There had been a time in Solomon’s life when He prayed to the LORD and the LORD heard his prayer!**
(1 Kings 8:22-54; 1 Kings 9:2)

But those days were past! Looking at him here, we see that Solomon had a distant heart!

Now, thank God that with regard to our salvation *Hebrews 13:5* says “...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

But with regard to our fellowship it is a much different matter! Sin still CAN and DOES break our fellowship with God!
1 John 1:6–“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:”

So, if we are not as close to the Lord as we once were, who moved? I’ve got news for you! It wasn’t the LORD!

IV. SOLOMON HAD A DISOBEDIENT HEART. (11:7-10)

- A. Solomon Knew (Or Should Have Known) What Needed To Be Done! (1 Kings 2:1-4 - His Father David)**

1. **God’s Command Was Clear!**
(Deuteronomy 17:15-20)
2. **Solomon’s Understanding Was Undeniable!**
(1 Kings 8:54-61)

- B. But, Solomon Failed To Be Obedient To God! (11:10b)**
“...but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.”

And because of his failure, the Lord divided the kingdom and gave it to one of his servants.

How about our heart? Of what we know that the LORD wants from us, how much of it are we obedient to?

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Are we obedient to the LORD or do we have a disobedient heart like Solomon?

Conclusion

Listen again to one of Solomon’s proverbs:

Proverbs 4:23–“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

Is there a cure for this kind of heart trouble? Praise the Lord, there is!

Remember, Repent, Return.

Revelation 2:5–“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works...”

There was a cure, but Solomon died with his heart trouble!

Let me ask in closing, **What kind of heart do you have?**

First, do you have a pure heart?

Matthew 5:8– “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

Only the blood of Jesus can give you a pure heart!

Second, Does the LORD have your WHOLE heart?

Or is your heart DIVIDED?

Third, Are you walking in the way God has laid out for you to receive a blessing? Or is your heart DEFAULTING?

Fourth, Are you walking daily in fellowship with the LORD?

Or is your heart DISTANT?

Fifth, Are you walking in obedience to the LORD or in disobedience?

Psalms 51:6–Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”

Psalms 51:10–“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”