

Character Study: Solomon
Part 4 – Solomon’s Final Days
I Kings 11:9-43

What’s happening?

• The Lord became angry with Solomon because “his heart had turned away from the Lord.” As a result, the Lord said He would take the kingdom away from Solomon (i.e. his family) after his death. (11:9-13)

• The Lord raised up three men who brought trouble to Solomon and robbed him of the peace he had enjoyed: Hadad, whose people Israel had attacked under King David; Rezon, a captain over a band of raiders; and Jeroboam, Solomon’s servant, who was told by a prophet that God would give him ten tribes of Israel to reign over. (11:14-40)

• After 40 years of serving as king over Israel, Solomon died. He was about 60 years old. (11:41-43)

What’s God doing?

> God had demonstrated that He does not show favoritism to anyone. Solomon, the richest and wisest man of his day, still faced consequences for his sin. God judges those who sin equally, regardless of their status.

> Because of His promise to maintain David’s royal family line, God only gave ten of the twelve tribes over to Jeroboam. Judah and Benjamin (often referred to as one tribe – “Judah”) would be ruled by Solomon’s son Rehoboam. (On how the kingdom became divided, read 12:1-24.)

What’s to learn?

→ Solomon made the mistake of allowing his focus to be on his gifts and abilities, rather than on his Creator. His passions and affections were after what his abilities could accomplish, rather than on what God could accomplish through him.

→ Having wisdom does not guarantee success in life. Having the ability to make right decisions and choices is meaningless if one does not apply wisdom to everyday situations. Success will only be found when wisdom truly impacts the way someone lives.

→ Just as God judges all people equally for sin, His grace and mercy is offered to all people equally as well. Everyone deserves God’s judgment for their sin, but forgiveness is offered to all through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Have you turned to Christ for God’s forgiveness?

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