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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**SOLOMON LOVED MANY STRANGE WOMEN**

**1 Kings 11:1-22**

***I Kings 11:1 "But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, [and] Hittites;"***

The word "strange" indicates they were forbidden to the Hebrews. One of the dangers of great wealth and power, is that we have a tendency to think too highly of ourselves. Solomon was no exception. He felt he could do no wrong. He obviously had forgotten the warnings of God about not keeping His commandments. Wealth, such as Solomon had accumulated, was associated with worldliness. God had never wanted Israel depending on horses and chariots to win their battles either. God was their strength. Perhaps, many of these marriages were marriages of state to avoid war with the girl's family. That still is no excuse for these many marriages. Marrying women, who worshipped false gods, would be Solomon's downfall.

***I Kings 11:2 "Of the nations [concerning] which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: [for] surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love."***

Solomon had done exactly what God told him not to do. He had married women, who would turn his head away from the One True God to false gods.

***I Kings 11:3 "And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart."***

Lust of the flesh causes Solomon to fall into deep sin. It really does not matter, whether the number of wives and concubines is an accurate number, or not. He did have numerous wives and concubines. Solomon, like most men, should have been more selective in his wives. He should have chosen women, who worshipped the One True God.

***I Kings 11:4 "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, [that] his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as [was] the heart of David his father."***

David sinned, but never turned his heart away from God. This is not the same with Solomon. He not only sinned, but his heart was turned away from God. He followed his wives into the worship of false gods.

***I Kings 11:5 "For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites."***

This is idolatry. Solomon has broken relationship with his God. When he built altars to these false gods for his wives to worship, he was agreeing that this was alright to do. Solomon did not stop worshipping the LORD. He just allowed his wives to worship their false gods with his approval. Ashteroth had to do with sensuous worship. Milcom included human sacrifice in its worship.

***I Kings 11:6 "And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as [did] David his father."***

The word "fully", in the verse above, lets us know that Solomon never stopped worshipping the LORD. His tolerance of the worship of false gods by his wives was not right, however, and his associations made him guilty of idolatry.

***I Kings 11:7 "Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that [is] before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon."***

Solomon was being tolerant of the worship of his wives of false gods. He was the leader of the country, and should not have permitted such. His success had come from the One True God.

***I Kings 11:8 "And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods."***

There were places all over Jerusalem, where they were erecting places of worship of these false gods.

***I Kings 11:9 "And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,"***

***I Kings 11:10 "And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded."***

He had broken the first of the Ten Commandments. Our God is a jealous God. He had been given everything his heart could desire, and yet, he was not faithful to the One, who gave it to him. God had favored Solomon more than any man, who had ever lived. He had even appeared to him twice. God had told him ahead of time of the consequences of going after false gods. He knew that there were blessings, if he remained faithful, and curses, if he did not. He had sinned in full knowledge.

***I Kings 11:11 "Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant."***

***I Kings 11:12 "Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: [but] I will rend it out of the hand of thy son."***

God's great love and blessings for Solomon have turned to wrath. It is almost certain that the LORD did not speak directly to Solomon this time, because He was so angry with him. He, probably, spoke through a prophet. Solomon had been blessed greatly, but he, also, had worked hard to get the kingdom where it was. It would be quite a come down, to hear that one of his servants would inherit the kingdom. Solomon would have the rest of his life to think about what he had done, and what would happen to the kingdom. The LORD would let him remain king, while he was alive, because of the love the LORD had for David. He would live in dread of the day, when the kingdom would not be in his family, however.

***I Kings 11:13 "Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; [but] will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen."***

This one tribe, of course, is Judah. God keeps reminding Solomon that this is not done because of Solomon. It is because God loved David. God, also, wanted Jerusalem to remain as the holy city. God had put his presence in the temple and in this city. It is much later, when the presence of the LORD leaves Jerusalem just before it burns.

***I Kings 11:14 "And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he [was] of the king's seed in Edom."***

Notice, this is from God. He chastises Solomon by sending enemies to cause problems. Hadad was an Edomite. He was a prince of the royal house. He married the sister-in-law of Pharaoh. He harassed Solomon.

***I Kings 11:15 "For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom;"***

***I Kings 11:16 "(For six months did Joab remain there with all Israel, until he had cut off every male in Edom:)"***

***I Kings 11:17 "That Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt; Hadad [being] yet a little child."***

From other Scriptures in Chronicles and Psalms, it is uncertain actually who was in charge of David's army, who killed the Edomites. We read in Psalms, that Joab killed 12,000, and we read in first Chronicles that Abishai killed 18,000. Perhaps, they both led troops into this battle, and each of them killed a large number. We do know it took Joab 6 months, before he was satisfied they were all dead. Hadad might not have been killed, even if he had remained, because he was a child.

***I Kings 11:18 'And they arose out of Midian, and came to Paran: and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him an house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land."***

***I Kings 11:19 "And Hadad found great favour in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen."***

This is an explanation of how Hadad was spared, when Joab killed all of the men of Edom. He had fled to Egypt for safety as a child, and grew up there. The Pharaoh liked him very much and actually gave him land to get a new start. He became brother-in-law to the Pharaoh. Pharaoh's wife, Tahpenes, was sister of the wife of Hadad.

***I Kings 11:20 "And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh."***

Hadad was like a son to the Pharaoh. He and his wife lived with the Pharaoh, when their son was born, and stayed there about three years, until they baby was weaned.

***I Kings 11:21 "And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country."***

Hadad wanted to go back, and take his land back. The dreaded Joab was dead, and so was David. The danger would not be as great, now. Notice, Hadad must get permission from the Pharaoh to go.

***I Kings 11:22 "Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise."***

Pharaoh obviously did not want him to go, but would give him permission, if he insisted. He first tried to talk him out of it, by reminding Hadad how good he had been to him. Hadad agreed that he had wanted for nothing, but he still wanted to go.

**QUESTIONS**

1. King Solomon loved many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ women.

2. Who had God forbidden the Israelites to intermarry with, that Solomon married?  
3. What other things had Solomon done, that was displeasing to God?

4. What were many of these marriages?  
5. What was wrong with marrying them?  
6. He had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wives and \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concubines.  
7. What should Solomon have done about choosing wives?  
8. What was different about his sin, and David's sin?  
9. Who was the false goddess of the Zidonians?  
10. Who was the abomination of the Ammonites?  
11. What shows us that Solomon never stopped worshipping the LORD?

12. How was he guilty of idolatry?  
13. What false gods did Solomon build high places for?  
14. How did the LORD feel about this?  
15. Who did the LORD speak through to Solomon?  
16. Who would inherit his kingdom, when he died?  
17. Why did the LORD not just remove Solomon immediately?  
18. What will be left, when the LORD rends away the kingdom?  
19. How does God chastise Solomon?  
20. Who had killed the males in Edom?  
21. Who escaped to Egypt?  
22. Who helped him, in Egypt?  
23. Who did Hadad marry?  
24. Who was Tahpenes?  
25. What was Hadad's first child named?  
26. How long did they stay in Pharaoh's house, after the baby was born?

27. What did Hadad ask Pharaoh?