

E31. Solomon Turns from the Lord

1 Kings 11:1-13; 41-43

Memory Verse

"I am the Lord your God.....Do not put any other gods in place of me."

--Deuteronomy 5:6-7 (NIRV)

Bible Lesson

Message:

Choose your friends wisely.

Solomon's Wives Turn Him Away from the Lord

King Solomon had many wives that he loved, many who were from other nations. The Lord had warned Israel about women from other nations. He had said, "You must not get married to them. If you do, you can be sure they will turn your hearts toward their gods."

But Solomon continued to love them anyway. He wouldn't give them up. He had many many wives who came from royal families. His wives led him down the wrong path.

As Solomon grew older, his wives turned his heart toward other gods. He didn't follow the Lord his God with all his heart. So he wasn't like his father David. Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth. Ashtoreth was the goddess of the people of Sidon. He also worshiped Molech. Molech was the god of the people of Ammon. The Lord hated that god.

Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He didn't follow the Lord completely. He didn't do what his father David had done.

There is a hill east of Jerusalem. Solomon built a high place for worshiping Chemosh there. He built a high place for worshiping Molech there too. Chemosh was the god of Moab. Molech was the god of Ammon. The Lord hated both of those gods.

Solomon also built high places so that all of his wives from other nations could worship their gods. Those women burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

The Lord became angry with Solomon. That's because his heart had turned away from the Lord. He is the God of Israel. He had appeared to Solomon twice. He had commanded Solomon not to follow other gods. But Solomon didn't obey him. So the Lord said to Solomon, "You have chosen not to keep my covenant. You have decided not to obey my rules. I commanded you to do what I told you. But you did not do it. So you can be absolutely sure I will tear the kingdom away from you. I will give it to one of your officials. But I will not do that while you are still living. Because of your father David I will wait. I will tear the kingdom out of your son's hand. But I will not tear the whole kingdom away from him. I will give him one of the tribes because of my servant David. I will also do it because of Jerusalem. That is the city I have chosen."

1 Kings 11:41-43 ~ Solomon Dies

The other events of Solomon's rule are written down. Everything he did and the wisdom he showed are written down. They are written in the official records of Solomon. Solomon ruled in Jerusalem over the whole nation of Israel for 40 years. Then he joined the members of his family who had already died. His body was buried in the city of his father David. Solomon's son Rehoboam became the next king after him.

Talk About It

In today's story, something tragic happened. Solomon turned his heart away from the Lord because he chose to listen to the people around him. Talk with your child about their friends. Remind him/her that we all have friends from all different places. The big questions for us to consider are: 1. Who are my friends? AND 2. What kind of influence do they have on me? We want our friends to be a good role model in our lives, because if they are not, we may be led down a path that is not pleasing to God, just as Solomon was led by his "friends". Remind your child of how important it is to choose their friends wisely. Talk about it.

