

# SOLOMON, A SUMMARY

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*“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”*

Ecclesiastes 12:13

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Any attempt to study the life of the wisest man who ever lived is bound to result in many life changing truths and ideas. Solomon was a man specifically chosen of God to led His people through the golden age of their history. He had the finest upbringing. He was given the best of preparation for the job of being king. In many ways he set the example of a great leader. Yet, as great a man as he was, he was still a mortal man with strengths and weaknesses; failings and successes. To study his life should yield several important lessons. There are many ideas that stand out in this study but several can be highlighted to great profit.

## **1. Solomon followed the godly example that had been set for him.**

Solomon was born into the home of a great man. His father was King David, “a man after God’s own heart.” He was a flawed man but a man who loved God and who, when he failed God, took quick steps to repent and

seek forgiveness. No doubt Solomon saw this and realized the reality of God in David's life. He felt this same reality in his own life. *"And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father."* (1 Kings 3:3) This passage from the start of his reign shows us that as a young man he loved God, lived his life in obedience to God's laws and worshiped the God of Heaven. The result was the blessings of God on his life and reign. Today we often exhort one another to set a good example for other believers. It should be remembered that we need to remember follow the godly example that has been set for us by those who came before us.

## **2. Solomon answered an important question with wisdom and maturity.**

God asked Solomon a very important question. *"God said, Ask what I shall give thee."* (3:5) Faced with a question which could provide anything for him, he answered, *"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?"* (Vs.9) He

asked for the ability to empathize with the needs of his people. God was so pleased with this response that he blessed him abundantly above this one request. This was the key to his success as a leader.

### **3. Solomon demonstrated his understanding heart.**

The first example of Solomon's wisdom given in Scripture deals with two women who disputed the motherhood of a child. Solomon tested the heart of the real mother by threatening the life of the child. His response revealed her willingness to sacrifice for the child. Solomon would never have allowed the child to be hurt. (Vs. 27) But he revealed his understanding of the mother's heart and the supernatural wisdom he possessed. The result was the confidence of the people in their new king. (Vs. 28)

### **4. Solomon realized God's desire to dwell among His people.**

God chose Solomon, a man of peace, to lead His people. Since the days of the Exodus and the Tabernacle, He had expressed a desire to abide closely with His people. Now

He chose Solomon to build a Temple in the city of David so that He might live closely with the People. *“And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying, Concerning this house which thou art in building, . . . I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.”* (6:11-13) The heavenly Father desires to fellowship with His children. Even today He takes residence in the heart of his followers. (I Cor. 6:19)

### **5. Solomon knew that God keeps his promises.**

As Solomon built the Temple of God and led his people, he was aware of the truth that God keeps the promises that He makes. Even from history long past God has kept His word. Solomon reminded the nation, *“Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.”* (Vs. 8:56) There is a reason for this beyond the integrity of the Father. *“That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else.”* (Vs. 60) The

lesson for today is that God will do all that He said that He will do. He keeps his promises.

## **6. Solomon knew that God loves His people.**

When the Queen of Sheba spoke with and examined King Solomon her conclusion was, *“Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel forever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.”* (Vs. 10:9) Even today God sheds His love upon his creation, demonstrated by the death of His son, the Lord Jesus, on the cross for the sins of all mankind.

## **7. Solomon’s disobedience changed his heart.**

The heart break of the life of Solomon is that it does not end at the conclusion of chapter 10 of I Kings. Chapter eleven recounts the disobedience of Solomon in the idolatry of His many wives. Even a man so wise was led astray by disobedience. He even “forsook” the Lord. And he caused the

people of Israel to stray into idolatry also. Even with all the great things he had done for Israel, God was angered and punished this great man. His legacy has for ever been tainted by the apostasy at His end.

### **8. Solomon, Adokimos.**

Paul in I Corinthians 9:27 teaches that the servant who does not keep his body under control and serve God faithfully will be declared “unapproved” (Adokimos). His failure at the end made him a “castaway”. He ended his life under the judgement of God. The Child of God, today can be judged unapproved by God. However, with God there is forgiveness. I John 1:9 speaks of forgiveness and restoration by confession and repentance. Like David of old we need to walk close to the Savior every day.

Solomon told us to fear God and keep His commandment. The reason, he said was, *“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”* (Ecc. 12:13) This was a lesson he learned all too well. Of all the lessons from Solomon’s life we should

learn to walk closely to the Father and keep fellowship with Him.

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