

Israel: Drive through History Pt 2

2 Chronicles – The Foolish Wise Man- Summary of Solomon's Life

- At the end of describing Solomon's great wealth and splendor **2 Chron 9:28** gives a quick but final quote > **"they brought horses to Solomon from Egypt and from all lands"**. At first glance this seems like a good thing, as it's in line with what **9:25** says, where Solomon kept chariot cities to house his **4,000** horse stalls and **12,000** horsemen to ride his vast horse empire. It proved once more what an entrepreneur Solomon was, as he continued to not only expand Israel's borders, but he did so while also increasing his vast personal fortune at the same time.
- It would seem that Solomon had accomplished that which both neither Saul nor his father David could in their lifetimes, which were peace, prosperity, and power, the question is at what costs? Everything God had promised him he received, as Solomon was wise, wealthy and successful, and he used that influence to make Israel and Jerusalem the center piece of the world, but again I ask at what costs? There is always a cost to any and everything we do, the question is am I willing to pay it and is it worth the charge, the only person who can answer that question is you!
- For Solomon he thought it was worth it, he felt the reward was worth the cost, so he was willing to **disobey God's Word, ignore God's warning, resist God's discipline, and oppose God's servant. 1 Kings 11** we see clearly exactly what Solomon did, when he did it and why he thought it necessary. **V1-4** his first step backward **was going back to Egypt** which was a type of the world **to secure a bride**, this was done so that Egypt would become Israel's powerful ally against their enemies, although he thought it necessary, and this was what all the other nations did to make treaties, Solomon needed only to **trust- rely on the Lord to ensure his protection**.
- God told him and Israel not to intermarry with these nations, and God told Solomon that for blessing him with wisdom, riches, and honor, all that was required was his **"obedience"**. So he secures a bride in Egypt and he purchases horses- chariots there **10:28**, and in doing so he committed the age old error that has plagued the Christian community for centuries and that is > he thought that because he was a child of God that he could compromise truth and then control sin, but it could never control him, and as we know boy was he wrong!
- As **1** politically motivated marriage wife turned into **700** more, throw in **300** girlfriends, and a thousand women caused him the wisest man on the earth to turn away from the source of all his blessings. If he would have just believed that God would protect the land, that what his father wrote in **Ps 20:7** was absolutely true, then he wouldn't have seen the need to marry Pharaoh's daughter to establish a peace treaty, or to buy horses-chariots to guard the land.
- His marrying and procuring of horses was in direct disobedience to the Lord's clear command of **Deut 17:16-17, Josh 23:12-13. V5-8** gives the results of the disobedience as Pharaoh's daughter started out living outside of Jerusalem but you can't control sin once you've opened the door.

- Solomon instead of converting them to believe in the Lord they turn his heart and influence him to bring idolatry into Israel, as he builds temples to these false gods and even goes in them to worship them himself wow! Notice as he got older his guards became heavier to carry and he dropped them and the very thing he was given a charge to oppose he joins and spreads it.
- **V9-13** after disobeying God's Word, instead of repenting and re-tracing his steps after hearing God's consequences he doubles down on his sin **by ignoring God's warning- 3** important facts mentioned here of what sin does to the heart > **1st sin causes us to forget V10-** God says I warned you remember, **2nd sin rips blessings apart V11-** Israel once enjoyed peace and prosperity **4:20**, now it's going to experience chaos and discord as the nation splits in two, **3rd sin has lasting effects V13**, Solomon wouldn't see it all in his lifetime, but his children will.
- **V14-28 Solomon resists God's discipline-** his many marriages were done in order to guarantee Israel peace with its neighbors, but that begins to fall apart as the Lord stirs up **3** adversaries against Solomon > **1st Hadad** an old enemy of David-Joab, Hadad an Edomite who up until now has been in Egypt living the good life, without a care in the world, in fact Pharaoh asks him what more can he give him as he has everything in Egypt that he could ever want, but the Lord stirs him up, **2nd Rezon** the Syrian who initially allied with David but now has allied with Hadad against Solomon, **3rd Jeroboam** from within his own gates, jealousy and envy will drive this.
- **4th opposing God's servant V29-40-** God raised Jeroboam up for this and Solomon knew it was the Lord and why, and yet he fought against it instead of accepting the consequences of his sin. Remember David had a similar situation, after sinning with Bathsheba his child became sick, what did he do he went to the Lord and repented and asked Him to heal the child when the child died David didn't sulk, or go on the attack instead he sat down, prayed and ate. Solomon doesn't do that he's fighting back, trying in his own might to stem the tide, for although he was wise, wealthy and successful, he was foolish and it led him down a path to misery > **Eccl 1:12-14.**