



GOD'S ROUTE 66, PART 6: CIVIL WAR & DECONSTRUCTION

Nobody wakes up one day and decides to destroy a marriage, abandon their faith, lose their character, or wreck their relationship with God. It happens gradually. The nation of Israel didn't fall overnight. The kingdoms didn't collapse in a day. The people slowly drifted away from God through compromise, idolatry, and neglect. The same danger exists today. Spiritual drift is often subtle, silent, and unnoticed until the consequences become impossible to ignore. Let's identify areas where we may be drifting, and remember that God's grace always leads us back home.

BIG IDEA: Nobody drifts toward God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been floating in an ocean or lake and suddenly realized you had drifted much farther than you intended? What made you realize you had drifted?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, [read 1 Kings 11:1-13](#).

¹ Now King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh's daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites. ² The LORD had clearly instructed the people of Israel, "You must not marry them, because they will turn your hearts to their gods." Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway. ³ He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines. And in fact, they did turn his heart away from the LORD. ⁴ In Solomon's old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the LORD his God, as his father, David, had been. ⁵ Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁶ Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight; he refused to follow the LORD completely, as his father, David, had done. ⁷ On the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, he even built a pagan shrine for Chemosh, the detestable god of Moab, and another for Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁸ Solomon built such shrines for all his foreign wives to use for burning incense and sacrificing to their gods. ⁹ The LORD was very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. ¹⁰ He had warned Solomon specifically about worshiping other gods, but Solomon did not listen to the LORD's command. ¹¹ So now the LORD said to him, "Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my decrees, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants. ¹² But for the sake of your father, David, I will not do this while you are still alive. I will take the kingdom away from your son. ¹³ And even so, I will not take away the entire kingdom; I will let him be king of one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, my chosen city." [1 Kings 11:1-13 \(NLT\)](#)

3. What was Solomon's weakness? Why didn't his great wisdom save him? What weaknesses hurt your relationship with God?
4. Why was intermarriage forbidden in Jewish law? ([see Deuteronomy 7:1-4](#))
5. What purpose do royal weddings serve? ([see 1 Kings 3:1](#)) What was Solomon trying to accomplish under his own power? Why have concubines?
6. *Solomon's divided heart eventually led to a divided kingdom.* Why do you think spiritual drift often begins with divided loyalties? What are some modern idols that compete for our devotion to God?
7. What gods divide your attention today? What's wrong with 90% devotion to God and 10% devotion to modern idols? What's easier to do: get your attention or divide it?

8. *Nobody drifts toward God.* Why do you think drift and erosion is usually gradual instead of sudden? What are some warning signs that someone is drifting spiritually? Why is spiritual drift often difficult to recognize in ourselves?

9. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read Proverbs 4:20-27](#).*

²⁰ My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. ²¹ Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, ²² for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. ²³ Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. ²⁵ Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. ²⁶ Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. ²⁷ Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

[Proverbs 4:20-23, 25-27 \(NLT\)](#)

10. Solomon wrote the verses above. How does this verse connect with Solomon's life? Why is the condition of our heart so important? What practical habits help guard your heart from drifting?

11. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read 2 Kings 17:22-23](#).*

²² And the people of Israel persisted in all the evil ways of Jeroboam. They did not turn from these sins ²³ until the LORD finally swept them away from his presence, just as all his prophets had warned. So Israel was exiled from their land to Assyria...

[2 Kings 17:22-23 \(NLT\)](#)

12. The Northern Kingdom experienced over 200 years of ungodly leadership before being conquered. What happens when people repeatedly ignore God's warnings? What happens to your conscience?
13. Why is it dangerous to assume we can continue compromising without consequences? How have you seen small compromises create larger problems over time?

14. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read Psalm 137:1-4](#).*

¹ Beside the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept as we thought of Jerusalem. ² We put away our harps, hanging them on the branches of poplar trees. ³ For our captors demanded a song from us. Our tormentors insisted on a joyful hymn: "Sing us one of those songs of Jerusalem!" ⁴ But how can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a pagan land?

[Psalm 137:1-4 \(NLT\)](#)

15. The Israelites sat in exile remembering what they had lost. What emotions do you hear in Psalm 137?
16. Why do people sometimes appreciate God's blessings only after they lose them? Have you ever experienced a season where distance from God made you realize how much you needed Him?

17. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read Lamentations 3:21-23](#).*

²¹ Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: ²² The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

[Lamentations 3:21-23 \(NLT\)](#)

18. Even during exile and judgment, God remained faithful. What does this passage teach us about God's character? Why is hope so important during seasons of failure or regret? How does God's faithfulness encourage people who feel far from Him?
19. The sermon mentioned several things that drift: *Faith drifts. Marriages drift. Churches drift. Character drifts. Nations drift.* Which of these areas do you think requires the most intentional attention in your life right now?
20. If spiritual drift is gradual, spiritual growth is also gradual. What is one practical step you can take this week to move closer to God? What spiritual habits help you stay anchored when life becomes busy or difficult? Who in your life helps keep you accountable and pointed toward Christ?

MOVING FORWARD

This week, take an honest inventory of your spiritual life. Ask God to reveal any areas where you've been drifting. Don't focus on how far you've wandered; focus on the direction you're moving today. Repentance simply means turning around. God specializes in restoring people who return to Him.

WEEKLY READING

This week, spend some time reading and reflecting on 1 Kings 11-12, 2 Kings 17, 2 Chronicles 36, Psalm 137.