



A DIVIDED HEART

1 KINGS 11

INTRODUCTION

Imagine watching someone build something incredible over the course of their life. Years of hard work, sacrifice, and dedication. From the outside, everything looks successful. But what nobody notices is that something inside is slowly beginning to fall apart. And by the time the damage becomes visible, it's been happening for years.

That's where we find Solomon in chapter 11. We've just seen a king with incredible wisdom, wealth, and success. A man who seemed to have everything. But behind all that success, something was happening in his heart. How does the wisest man in the world end up making some of the most foolish decisions? And perhaps the more important question is, could the same thing happen to us?

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

JEREMIAH 17:9
(NKJV)

1. SOLOMON'S LOVE FOR FOREIGN WOMEN

1 KINGS 11:1-3

- 1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites.
- 2 They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love.
- 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.

- The word "nevertheless" signals a change.
- God had already warned Israel not to intermarry with these nations (Deuteronomy 7:3-4) because they would turn their hearts after their gods.
- Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, and his wives led him astray.
- This wasn't just about the number of wives, but what it revealed about his heart.

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

GENESIS 2:24

"A man shall leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (NIV)

- God established marriage as one man and one woman.
- Multiple wives are recorded in Scripture, but that does not mean God approved of it.
- Many of those marriages led to jealousy, conflict, and division.
- Even David, a man after God's own heart, had multiple wives, but not everything he did was pleasing to God.



2. SOLOMON KNEW THE WARNING

DEUTERONOMY 17:17–20

“He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray.”

DEUTERONOMY 17:17 (NIV)

- God was concerned about the king's heart, not just the number of wives.
- This was a specific instruction for Israel's kings.
- Solomon knew the command. Deuteronomy 17:18–20 instructed the king to write for himself a copy of God's law, keep it with him, and read it throughout his life.
- Solomon wasn't being held to a standard that nobody knew existed.



3. SOLOMON TURNED TO OTHER GODS

1 KINGS 11:4–6

- 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of his father David had been.
 - 5 Solomon followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Amorites.
 - 6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as his father David had done.
- Solomon's heart was no longer fully devoted to the Lord.
 - He began following the gods of his foreign wives, including Ashtoreth and Molek.
 - Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord because he did not follow Him completely.



4. SOLOMON BUILT PLACES OF WORSHIP

1 KINGS 11:7–8

- 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, on the hill east of Jerusalem, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites.
 - 8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.
- Solomon didn't just tolerate these gods—he actually built high places for them.
 - He provided places for his wives to worship and sacrifice.
 - What started in his heart eventually became a visible compromise.



5. THE LORD WAS ANGRY

1 KINGS 11:9–10

- 9 So the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and had expressly commanded him regarding this matter, that he should not follow other gods. But Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.
 - 10 Despite knowing the truth, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.
- The Lord was angry because Solomon's heart had turned away.
 - God had clearly commanded him not to follow other gods.
 - Despite knowing the truth, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.

“Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.”

1 KINGS 11:10 (NIV)

STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1 Solomon loved many _____ women because they would turn their hearts after their gods.
(1 Kings 11:1–2)

- 2 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after _____ and his heart was not fully devoted to the _____ his God.
(1 Kings 11:4)

3 CHALLENGING QUESTION

Where do you see areas in your own life where your heart might become divided? What steps can you take to ensure your heart remains fully devoted to the Lord?