

## **The World's Wisest Fool** **I Kings 11:1-13**

### **Introduction:**

- A. People are paid to write warnings that appear on the packages and products we buy (ex: show warnings).
- B. They pay people to write warnings because people, even intelligent people, make very foolish decisions.
- C. Let's look at the life of a man who was known for his wisdom and yet, still made a very foolish decision.

### **Solomon's Wisdom and Eventual Failure**

- A. Up until this point, it would seem that Solomon was doing well. Solomon had been blessed by God.
  - 1. The Kingdom was well established under his rule (I Kgs. 2:46).
  - 2. He loved the Lord and worshipped Him (I Kgs. 3:3-4).
  - 3. God gave him a wise and discerning mind like none who was before or after him (I Kgs. 3:12-14).
- B. Unfortunately, Solomon's great wisdom did not prevent him from making a very tragic decision.
- C. When Solomon was old (I Kgs. 11:4) he allowed his heart to be turned away from the Lord (I Kgs. 11:9).
  - 1. It's not just about how well you start, it's about how well you finish (Ex: 2007 Patriots).
  - 2. Many people start the Christian life well, but how many finish it well? That's what matters.

### **Reasons Solomon Turned Away from the Lord:**

- A. He ignored the word of God (vs. 1-3a).
  - 1. The Law prohibited intermarriage with the foreign nations of the land (Exo. 34:16; Deut. 7:1-5).
  - 2. The Law prohibited kings from multiplying three things: horses, wives, silver & gold (Deut. 17:14-17).
  - 3. Like Solomon, are we guilty of ignoring some of what God has said (I Thess. 5:14-15; 22; Mt. 5:43-44)?
- B. He hung with the wrong crowd (vs. 3b-5).
  - 1. Solomon married foreign women because of political alliances and allowed them to influence him.
  - 2. Those we spend time the most time with have the greatest influence on us (Prov. 13:20; I Cor. 15:33).
- C. He made small compromises along the way (v. 6).
  - 1. Solomon made an alliance with the king of Egypt in his early years (I Kgs. 3:1).
  - 2. Solomon did not stop worshipping the Lord and offering sacrifices at first, but eventually his heart was compromised.
  - 3. Small compromises can lead to big consequence (Prov. 4:14-15, 26-27).

### **Conclusion:**

- A. Solomon may have started out well but he allowed his heart to turn away from the Lord.
- B. We serve a jealous God (Ex. 34:14). If Jesus does not have first place in your life, He has no place.
- C. Don't follow the path of Solomon; follow the path that leads to a faithful life to God.