



# Solomon Turns Away From God

1 Kings 11:1-13

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Solomon Begins His Reign

During his reign, David made preparations for a temple to be built, and he commissioned his son Solomon to make sure that it happened (1 Chronicles 22:2-11).

Once the Temple was built, Solomon dedicated it with a magnificent prayer (1 Kings 8:23-53). He praised God's power, goodness, and mercy. He asked God to hear, forgive, and bless his people. After that prayer, God appeared to Solomon and reaffirmed his promise to establish an heir of David on the throne forever if Solomon and his descendants continued to walk before God in "integrity of heart and uprightness" (1 Kings 9:4-5). However, God also issued a warning: If Solomon or his sons turned away from the Lord and served other gods, God would reject them and make Israel an object of ridicule among all peoples (1 Kings 9:6-7).

## Solomon's First Mistake

Solomon's wisdom and Israel's prosperity made Solomon enormously wealthy. First Kings 10:14-29 describes some of his possessions, including huge amounts of gold, a fleet of ships, hundreds of chariots, and thousands of horses—all in spite of the fact that the accumulation of large numbers of horses and vast amounts of gold and silver was expressly forbidden in Deuteronomy 17:16-17.

## Solomon's Folly

The king of Israel was not to take many wives for himself because they would lead him astray (Deuteronomy 17:17). Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. But having foreign wives was even worse than having many wives, and many of Solomon's wives were from nations whose people the Israelites were expressly forbidden to marry (1 Kings 11:1-2). Indeed, the wives led him astray. After such an illustrious

beginning to his reign and many years of faithfulness and prosperity, Solomon turned to worshipping the gods of his foreign wives. The next time God spoke to Solomon, it was to tell him that the kingdom would be torn from Solomon's son.

## The Jesus Connection

Biblical wisdom isn't primarily knowing facts about Jesus—it's living out a friendship with and a respect for Christ. Wisdom produces transformation, not just information.

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. Long before Solomon went astray, God gave him and his people a road map to restore their friendship with God. Take a minute to reflect and confess your own sin to God. As you pray, you can draw a road map below that symbolizes your sin and repentance.



**Solomon Turns Away From God—1 Kings 11:1-13**

► **Bible Point**—Be devoted to God.

**Key Verse**—“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

**DIGGING  
DEEPER****Talk Topics**

- Talk about the things people do to try to gain meaning in life. Discuss the danger of trying to establish a sense of well-being on anything other than God.
- Talk about the importance of inviting God into the decisions you make about how you spend your time, how you spend your money, and how you relate to other people. How can you allow God to be more involved in every area of your lives?
- Talk about ways in which you could be more focused on God. Are there simple things you could do to make God a more central focus? Daily prayer times, serving, and Bible studies are all possible activities that could help.

**Daily Challenges**

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week.

- **Come up with at least one thing you will do this week to be more devoted to God, and then follow through on it.**
- **Find something in your home that you've been giving too much attention to, and put it away this week. Think about how much priority you've given this thing. You could even give it away to someone else, if that's a good idea.**
- **Serve a friend this week. It will not only help you forget about things that distract you from God, but will remind you of the importance of putting others' needs before your own.**

**Through the Week**

Use the following passages to explore additional biblical perspectives on becoming more devoted to God.

**Monday—John 15:4**

- **What does it mean to remain in Christ? How can you view yourself as a branch attached to his vine?**

**Tuesday—Proverbs 3:1-8**

- **How can you store God's commands in your heart and mind?**

**Wednesday—Romans 12:1-2**

- **How have you chosen to be a living sacrifice to God?**

**Thursday—2 Corinthians 11:3-4**

- **What's one thing that leads you away from devotion to Christ?**

**Friday—Matthew 6:24**

- **Have you ever been guilty of serving money instead of God? Why or why not?**

**Saturday—Deuteronomy 10:12**

- **How can you walk more fully in God's ways?**

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