The Sad Downfall of King Solomon

This lesson is about the downfall of a great man. It is one of the great tragedies of the Bible. The truth is, that King Solomon could have been regarded as the epitome of wisdom, class and intellect. However, because of his decisions, he is also regarded as a sad example of disobedience. Solomon’s rise to fame began as a glorious and beautiful tale of divine intervention and purpose. Unfortunately, by the end of his life, he was as a man spiraling out of control.

Have you ever witnessed the downfall of a person? Downfalls usually start slow and steady, but they all end with loss and irreversible collateral damage.

The good news for us is clear: Downfalls are preventable, reversible and (in some instances) recoverable. It is possible, with God’s help, to recover after a downfall. However, the further the fall, the harder the recovery. I have seen people start over after a downfall, (if they learn from the past), and go on to create a new and lovely (new) future. I have also seen people who never manage to get over the pain that downfalls cause.

The Best of Times

It would seem that King Solomon reigned during the peak of the nation. Two of the happiest days of Israel could be the day King David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, and the day King Solomon dedicated the beautiful Temple. Both were completed by a beautiful prayer of blessing over the people.

In David’s case, the Lord provided a special assistance in helping the people bring the Ark. And the result was a great celebration and blessing. II Samuel 6:14, 17-18, and I Chronicles 15:26-28

When Solomon prayed the dedicatory prayer over the Temple, some amazing things happened: Consider II Chronicles 5:1-2, 11-14, II Chronicles 7:1-4

Consider, in context II Chronicles 7:12-14

These commemorative prayers are a reflection of their leadership and their heartfelt love for God. No two men were as dedicated to building a house for God as Kings David and Solomon.

As a side note, the Bible suggests that the first twenty years of King Solomon’s reign were spent building. He built the Temple, his home, and several key cities. (I Kings 9:1, 10)

**Life Lesson #40 -** Doing things for God is no substitute for having a personal and meaningful relationship with God. We should not worship the things we do for God, but do things for God as an offering. Consider Matthew 7:21-23

The Tale of Pharoah’s Daughter

There is an important woman in King Solomon’s orbit. She is listed as a daughter of Pharoah of Egypt. Solomon seems to have married her early on in his reign. There are three key points to be made about Solomon and his first (initial) wife.

Consider Deuteronomy 17:14-17, I Kings 3:1-4, II Chronicles 8:11

Point #1. During the building of the Temple, he worshipped where The Ark was set.

Point #2. After the Temple was completed, he moved her out of Jerusalem. This move seems to be an attempt at separating her influence from the sanctity of Yahweh’s worship.

Point #3. Eventually, Solomon added other wives and began to worship idols along with the women he added. Solomon dabbled in so many ungodly things that he ended up drifting away from solid ground. That was Solomon.

The Downfall

Consider I Kings 11:1-8

How does a person, a Spiritual person, get so far from God? The answer is obvious, one step at a time. Satan specializes in corrupting the mind, slipping in misdirection, offering bad advice, infiltrating inner circles, blocking potential, and yes luring good people away from God.

**Life Lesson #41** - When the Word of God is our compass, there are some things that we will refuse to engage in. However, when the Word of God is not our compass, little compromises can systematically and strategically redirect a soul from its full potential.

The Bitter End

Consider I Kings 11:9-13

Consequences are real. Consequences are painful. Consequences are divine!

The sad truth about Solomon is that we do not know what he could have accomplished if he had simply obeyed God and stayed away from the toxic contagious people.

**Life Lesson #42** - If God has to, He will bring anyone down, regardless of who they are or what they have done.

**Life Lesson #43** - If Solomon, the wisest man to ever live, could drift away from God, so can we. Which is why we must not allow ourselves to ever be distracted.

**Life Lesson #44** - We must pray for one another that we not be susceptible to a personal downfall.

**Life Lesson #45** - We must pray for those in leadership (of any kind) that they not yield to the temptations that cause a downfall.

Consider Proverbs 31:3b, I Peter 5:8

Homework: Read I Kings chapters 11-14