

1Ki 11:1 ¶ But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; 2 Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. 7 Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. 8 And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. 9 ¶ And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, 10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded."

4 "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father." When I read this, my mind went directly to the scripture in *Pr 22:6 ¶ "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Although King David gave Solomon a lot of good instructions when Solomon was put on the throne. It seems apparent that David as a parent did not teach his children about the Lord and the laws of God. It seems that Solomon had not been taught, in his younger years, the laws of God. Even though God had spoken to Solomon twice and warned him to keep a true heart toward God. Apparently, David, his father, did not bring Solomon up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This was apparent in the lives of David's other children also.

We have mentioned several times already that Solomon was messing up right from the start, by making a league with Pharaoh of Egypt and taking Pharaoh's daughter to wife, which God strictly forbade both. Now, we are told that Solomon took many strange wives who were idolators, and we see that it happened to him just as God had predicted in *De 17:14-20; 14 ¶ "When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; 15 Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. 16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. 18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."* King Solomon has done everything that he was not to do, and as God predicted, Solomon's many wives turned his heart away from God to idolatry.

We would think that God would have struck him dead for these great sins, but we remember a promise that God made to King David, Solomon's father, in *2Sa 7:15; 12 "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee."* This scene alone proves to us that God is longsuffering and faithful to fulfill

every promise He makes, even when the actions of Solomon are bringing shame, and disgrace, to the name of God.

We point out that the anger of God was not stirred up until King Solomon's heart turned from God and he began to worship other gods. Do you remember the first of the Ten Commandments that God gave to Israel? **Ex 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**" If we are blest to keep this one commandment, everything else will be in the right place, and sin will not have dominion over us.

We point out that in scripture, most kingdoms fell that were consumed with sexual revolutions, where men took as many wives as they wanted. What does scripture tell us of this? Let's look at the time just before the flood: **Ge 6:1 ¶ And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.**" We see that sexual sin is the first thing that is listed, which led to the destruction of the earth through the flood. Only by God's grace were Noah and his family saved.

Now let's look at what Jesus told his disciples when they enquired of the time of the end. **Mt 24:37-39; 37 "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."**

And finally, let's look at the predicted end of the world, when the Pharisees demanded to know when the end would come: Jesus replied to them in **Lu 17:26-27; 26 "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."**

We notice that Jesus acknowledges that sexual sins are one of the first things mentioned in each text. This gives to God's people the warning that they are to live sexually pure lives as directed by Jesus in **Mt 19:5 "And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"** Did you notice "**shall cleave to his wife**," wife being in the singular form. The bible precedent is one man married to one woman. We add that this is one man married to one woman, at one time, not having multiple wives, since God has made provisions for cases where adultery is involved.

Solomon's turn to idolatry is what will rend ten tribes of Israel from the reign of his son. Solomon's turn to idolatry will end the zenith of the glory of God upon Israel and its kings. Wherefore, when someone tells you, or you convince yourself, that your sin does not effect anyone else, you remember this scripture and God's judicial judgment, not only upon King Solomon, but also upon the nation Israel. This is why God gives us the proper way to deal with sin in Matthew chapter 18.

One final point on these verses. Did you notice that when Solomon was old these wives turned his heart away to idolatry? The principle we do not want to miss is Solomon did not take all these strange wives at one time, but he gathered them over many years. This is one of Satan's best tools to turn God's people away from God. You commit one sin and there is no immediate retribution; then, it is easy for Satan to say to the flesh nature, see I told you nothing would happen, which makes it easier to commit more sin. Also, a reminder that the sin does not have to be sexual sin, but any sin that is a sin against God. If a child of God continues to commit sin and doesn't become grieved, in their heart, and humbly plead to God for forgiveness, they have been ensnared in Satan's trap and are being led further and further away from God, as was Solomon.

This is why we are told by scripture to purge our hearts and minds daily, seen in **2Ti 2:21; 19 ¶ "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. 24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."**

It is also why God has commanded us in *Mt 18:15-17; 15 ¶ "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."* And in *Ga 6:1-2; 1 ¶ "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."* Of course, if we all obey the first commandment of God we will not fall into Satan's snares, but our flesh is weak, this is why God gave us instruction to bear one another's burdens.

We can follow this up looking at the principle set in Solomon's life, that this is at least one reason Jesus gave the New Commandment in *Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."* How does Jesus love us? He loves us so greatly that he gave his life for our sins. He did not castigate his disciples when they sinned, but rather he addressed them in love, which is what we should do.

This is one of the reasons that we do as we are directed in *Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*" Why? Because in close, and constant, fellowship, we are less apt to fall into Satan's traps.