

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SOLOMON: A HEART LED ASTRAY

*“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” (Colossians 3:5)*

### Objectives

Knowledge of God’s Will	Solomon asked for a wise heart, but grew insensitive to God’s commands over time. He allowed his own desires to deteriorate his spiritual life.
Knowledge of God	God is a jealous God. His warnings are always clear and precise.
Good Work	Idolatry is a danger to our faith when left unchecked. We should search our hearts daily and strive to remove any sin that we find.

### A. Solomon’s Wisdom (1 Kgs 3:5–9)

God was so pleased with Solomon’s request that He gave Solomon more than he asked for. As a result, Solomon was able to demonstrate the existence and sovereignty of the Lord so that even Gentiles saw and respected God’s power.

### B. Solomon Builds God’s Temple (1 Kgs 6:7)

Solomon dedicated an incredible amount of time, resources, and labor to the building of God’s temple. The result was a modern wonder that would last in the Israelites’ memory for years on end.

### C. God’s Second Appearance to Solomon (1 Kgs 9:4–9; 2 Chr 7:14)

God gave both a promise and a warning to Solomon. His warning did come with hope, however; if Israel sinned, as long as they repented and turned back to Him, the Lord would show mercy.

### D. Solomon’s Downfall

God included in His laws the standards Israel’s kings should abide by (Deut 17:14–17). Unfortunately, Solomon did not follow these guidelines, resulting in a weak faith and spiritual ruin.

1. *“But he shall not multiply horses for himself”*: If Israel’s kings relied on their military strength, then they would forget to rely on God.
2. *“Neither shall he multiply wives for himself”*: God’s warning is clearly a valid concern. Because he couldn’t control his desires, Solomon allowed his wives to pull him away from God.
3. *“[Nor] shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself”*: God didn’t want His kings to forget that they were not in that position for the purpose of riches or power, but were merely caretakers for His people.

### The Debilitating Power of Small Sins

Solomon’s deterioration in faith was a gradual process. Each piece of gold he gained and every woman that he married may not have been cause for concern individually. But accumulating so many added up bit by bit, until he finally allowed his pleasures to become a solid wall between him and God.

### Life Application: The Danger of Idolatry

#### 1. What Is Idolatry?

An idol can be anything that takes the place of God. It is anything that receives our passionate devotion. Can you identify the idols in your heart?

#### 2. Putting Idolatry to Death

The more we want the things of the world, the more destructive our desires become to our spiritual lives. We should never underestimate our physical desires, but ask God for a wise and discerning heart, so that we can see the desires hidden in ourselves and learn to control them.

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## Lesson 11 Homework Assignment

### Solomon: A Heart Led Astray

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Colossians 3:5):

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1. What does it mean to put something inside us “to death”?
2. “[...] \_\_\_\_\_ God and keep His \_\_\_\_\_, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_, including every \_\_\_\_\_ thing, whether \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14)
3. What was the Queen of Sheba’s reaction upon meeting Solomon? Why is this unusual?
4. Aside from His warnings and blessings to Solomon, what additional promise did God give to Israel?
5. Why did God not want Israel’s kings to “multiply horses for [themselves]”?
6. What can we learn from the process of Solomon’s deterioration in his faith?
7. Why do you think Solomon concluded that the duty of man is to “fear God and keep His commandments”? Do you think you follow this principle in your own life? Why or why not?