



Solomon's Degeneracy Summarized, 1 Kgs 11:1-13; Corrupted by His Wives' Idolatry, 1 Kgs 14:31; Identifying Your Right Person: Who Not to Marry

13. Solomon's degeneracy is summarized in:

1 Kings 11:1 - Now King Solomon loved [אָהַב 'ahav: **to give oneself over to polygamy**] many foreign women besides the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites [**Chemosh**], Ammonites [**Molech**], Edomites, Sidonians [**Ashtoreth**], and Hittites.

v. 2 - They were from the nations about which the Lord had warned to the sons of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, neither shall they intermarry with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon maintained intimate relations with them.

v. 3 - Solomon had seven hundred wives of royal birth plus three hundred concubines. His wives turned his heart away (from God).

v. 4 - It came about, when Solomon grew old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

v. 5 - For Solomon worshipped Ashtoreth \ash' to-reth\ the goddess of the Sidonians [**same as the Babylonians' Ishtar**] and after Milcom \mil' cum\ [**or Molech \mō' lek**] the detestable idol of the Ammonites.

v. 6 - And Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow after the Lord fully, as David his father had done.

1 Kings 11:7 - Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh \chē' mosh\ the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem [**Mount of Olives**], and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon.

v. 8 - Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

v. 9 - Now the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice [**1 Kings 3:1-14; 9:1-9**],

v. 10- and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.

v. 11 - So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept My covenants and My laws which I commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant [**Jeroboam, from the tribe of Ephraim, was secretary of the departments of treasury and labor under Solomon and became the first king of the Northern Kingdom**].

v. 12 - "Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son [**Rehoboam**].

v. 13 - "However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe [**Benjamin**] to your son [**Rehoboam**] for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

14. We read about the death of Rehoboam plus an interesting fact in:

1 Kings 14:31 -And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and his mother's name was Naamah \nā' a-ma\ the Ammonitess.

15. A summary of Naamah is provided by:



Lockyear, Herbert. *All the Women of the Bible*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1984), 116:

Naamah was from the royal line of the Ammonites, and her evil influence was abhorrent to the people of Israel as they witnessed her leading Solomon into her idolatrous ways. Since she was chief lady, the king erected a high place for her god, Moloch. Naamah became the mother of Rehoboam, who succeeded Solomon, and who was the last king of the united kingdom of Israel. Rehoboam lived and died a monument of his evil mother's hatred of the true God.

16. From this we learn some principles for identifying one's right person:

- 1) The Lord imposed a prohibition against the Jews entering into marriage with other races, "You shall not intermarry with them, neither shall they intermarry with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods" (1 Kings 11:2).
- 2) This prohibition had nothing to do with the race of the aliens but rather with their religions. All were involved in idolatry and the Lord did not want any citizen of Israel, let alone her king, intimately involved in "evil associations" with their women.
- 3) Solomon disobeyed this mandate and married them for many reasons not the least of which was to satisfy his insatiable sexual lust.
- 4) As predicted by the Lord, Solomon's norms and standards were corrupted by his wives as he not only built heathen altars for the perverted rites that were practiced by these religions but he also became involved in worshiping these gods as well.
- 5) Solomon's disobedience led to the fall of the kingdom of Israel. His son Rehoboam was borne by his wife Naamah who was from the royal line of the Ammonites. It was for her that he built an altar for the worship of her chief god Molech on the Mount of Olives.
- 6) When a believer becomes attracted to someone romantically, the first obligation is to determine as soon as possible that person's spiritual status.
- 7) This effort may reveal that the person is an unbeliever, a believer who is negative to the Word of God, or a believer who is positive to the Word of God.
- 8) The unbeliever should be evangelized with the hope of bring the person to salvation at which point a romantic relationship could continue.
- 9) The negative believer should be introduced to Bible study with the intent of interesting the person in the mechanics of spiritual growth.
- 10) The positive believer is someone with whom a cordial and beneficial relationship can be built and as it continues compatibility may or may not occur.
- 11) This system will eventually lead a believer to the person with whom he or she can become equally yoked. Solomon's problem was that he was unequally yoked to over 1,000 women.
- 12) The problem of being unequally yoked is the subject of several rhetorical questions presented by Paul in a series of parenthetic units in 2 Corinthians 6.
- 13) Parenthetic refers to warnings and disapproval given as friendly earnest advice against perceived error and in this case these units show conflicts of interests in spiritually mixed marriages:

2 Corinthians 6:14 - Stop becoming unequally bound together [ἑτεροζυγέω, *heterozugeō*] with unbelievers [ἄπιστος, *apistos*: **faithless]; for what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness [ἀνομία, *anomia*: **lawless; no knowledge of divine policy**], or what fellowship has light with darkness [σκότος, *skotos*: **spiritually dead**]?**