

**LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON
THE DANGER OF HEART TURNED AWAY
FROM THE LORD**

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SOLOMON WAS WRITING TO A REAL SON. THIS BOOK IS NOT MERELY A COLLECTION OF PROVERBS BY SOLOMON, THE EDITOR, WRITTEN AT RANDOM WITH NO SPECIFIC PURPOSE. PROVERBS WAS WRITTEN MAINLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS SON, THE HEIR APPARENT. THIS PURPOSE BECOMES THE THREAD THAT RUNS THROUGHOUT PROVERBS AND PROVIDES A UNIFYING THEME FOR THE ENTIRE BOOK¹.

THE THEME IS VERY POIGNANT - SOLOMON HAD SPENT THE LATTER PART OF HIS LIFE LIVING IN SIN. BECAUSE OF THIS HE HAD LOST THE CLOSE VITAL RELATIONSHIP HE HAD WITH THE LORD AND, IN FACT, HAD BECOME ADVERSARY TO THE WILL OF THE LORD².

IN DOING A SEARCH IN PROVERBS FOR "SON" OR "SONS" I FOUND NO FEWER THAN 44 REFERENCES. SOLOMON IS CERTAINLY REFERRING TO HIS HEIR APPARENT, REHOBOAM. BUT IN A STRANGE TWIST IT TURNED OUT HE WAS ALSO REFERRING TO HIMSELF³. SOME OF THESE VERSES ARE IN THE THIRD PERSON BUT OTHERS BECOME VERY PERSONAL;

Prov 23:15 **My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad; 16 my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. 17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. 18 There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. 19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.**

SOLOMON THE WISE, TURNED HIS HEART AWAY FROM THE LORD.

1 Kings 11:4 **As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.**

1 KINGS 11:4. AS SOLOMON GREW OLDER HIS HEART WAS TURNED AWAY FROM THE LORD. FINALLY, THE LORD'S PATIENCE CAME TO AN END AND HE APPEARED ONE MORE TIME TO SOLOMON. THIS TIME THE LORD WAS GOING TO PLACE SOLOMON UNDER HEAVY DISCIPLINE. AS A RESULT OF SOLOMON'S SINFUL LIFE-STYLE HIS DYNASTY WAS TO LOSE THE TEN NORTHERN TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

SOLOMON, IN HIS REBELLION, COULD NOT ACCEPT THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE. THIS IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO DAVID'S SOFT HEART - WHEN TOLD OF HIS SIN, SAID "I HAVE SINNED."⁴ SOLOMON CHOSE TO DENY HIS SIN. AFTER HE FOUND OUT THAT THE LORD WAS GOING TO ANOINT JEROBOAM AS THE NEW KING OF THE NORTHERN TEN TRIBES HE SOUGHT TO MURDER JEROBOAM IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT IT WAS THE LORD'S PLAN TO SEPARATE THE KINGDOMS AND GIVE THE NORTHERN KINGDOM TO JEROBOAM⁵. HOW FAR SOLOMON HAD FALLEN

¹ Solomon wrote three books that are part of the canon of Scripture. In his earlier years he wrote Song of Solomon, perhaps while in love with a Shulammite girl. During the peak of his years as king he wrote this book of Proverbs probably out concern for his sons, especially Rehoboam. Finally, in his latter years, disillusioned by his life without the Lord's blessing he wrote Ecclesiastes.

² **1 Kings 11:28-40.** When the Lord revealed His plan to take 10 of the tribes of Israel from Solomon's rule and give it to Jeroboam Solomon tried to murder Jeroboam. This has a familiar parallel to Saul's attempt to murder David, one who was to take the kingdom away from Saul's dynasty. Many times believers living in sin can become the enemies of the cross which Paul the Apostle may have referred to in Phil 3:18.

³ Proverbs 4:3, 4. Here Solomon was thinking back to the times when both his dad, King David and his mom, Bathsheba taught him tenderly of the importance of remaining true to the Lord. This must have been pricked the heart of Solomon later when he had become estranged from the Lord.

⁴ 2 Sam 12:8-13

⁵ 1 Kings 11:40

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IN HIS SINFUL LIFE-STYLE! HE BECAME AN ADVERSARY OF GOD'S PLAN. HE WAS NOW WILLING TO USE MURDER TO MAINTAIN THE PREDOMINANCE OF HIS DYNASTY. THAT WAS THE HEATHEN'S SOLUTION TO COMPETITION OF A KING'S DYNASTY.

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LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON - 1 Kings 12.

AFTER SOLOMON DIED HIS SON WAS ABOUT TO ASCEND TO HIS FATHER'S THRONE. BUT FIRST, REHOBOAM HAD TO FACE HIS FIRST NATIONAL CRISIS. DURING THE LATTER YEARS OF SOLOMON'S RULE, THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN HEAVILY TAXED. THEIR SONS HAD BEEN CONSCRIPTED TO DO THE WORK OF BUILDING JERUSALEM⁶. WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR REHOBOAM TO BE CROWNED AS THE KING OF ISRAEL THE PEOPLE TRIED TO PERSUADE REHOBOAM TO REMOVE SOME OF THE OPPRESSIVE POLICIES OF SOLOMON. THE WISER, OLDER ADVISORS TOLD HIM TO LIGHTEN UP ON THE DEMANDS OF HIS TAX AND CONSCRIPTION POLICIES BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN. INSTEAD, HE WENT TO HIS "BUDDIES" OF THE COURT (THE KIDS WHO HAD GROWN UP WITH HIM) WHO TOLD HIM TO INCREASE THE BURDEN OF THE PEOPLE.

1 Kings 12:4 "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you." 6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked. 7 They replied, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants." 8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.

AS A RESULT THE PEOPLE REVOLTED AND GOD'S WILL WAS CARRIED OUT THROUGH THE PRIDE OF MAN. REHOBOAM HAD LOST THE NORTHERN PART OF THE KINGDOM THROUGH PRIDE AND NAIVETÉ.

2 Chron 12:1 After Rehoboam's position as king was established and he had become strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the law of the LORD. 2 Because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem in the fifth year of King Rehoboam.

AND SO REHOBOAM BECAME LIKE HIS FATHER AND ABANDONED THE LAW OF THE LORD. BECAUSE OF THIS HE MISSED THE PROMISED PROSPERITY THAT LADY WISDOM OFFERS TO ALL.

THE PROBLEM OF PARTIAL COMMITMENT TO THE LORD - 2 CHRON 12:1-9

YET IN HIS ABANDONMENT HE STILL LISTENED TO THE LORD'S PROPHET FROM TIME TO TIME TO STAY OUT OF SERIOUS TROUBLE. EVEN SO, THE LORD DELIVERED HIM FROM TOTAL DESTRUCTION. WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN GREAT BLESSING FROM THE LORD TURNED INTO SERVITUDE TO THE ENEMY. REHOBOAM LISTENED TO THE LORD'S PROPHETS FROM TIME TO TIME TO AVOID THE LORD'S PUNISHMENT IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS BUT HIS HEART WAS STILL TURNED AWAY. SO WHEN THE KING OF EGYPT SHISHAK WAS ABOUT TO UTTERLY DESTROY JUDAH THE LORD DELIVERED REHOBOAM BUT PUT HIM UNDER SHISHAK'S RULE SO THAT HE COULD LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SERVITUDE TO THE LORD AND SERVITUDE TO HEATHEN KINGS⁷.

MANY CHRISTIANS TRY THE SAME APPROACH. THEY TREAT THE CHURCH AND CHRIST LIKE IT'S AN OPTIONAL THING IF THEY'RE NOT TOO BUSY. GOD'S WORD HAS TO BE WATERED DOWN SO THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TO THINK. YET WHEN THEY GET INTO TROUBLE THEY COME RUNNING TO THE CHURCH FOR COMFORT. WHAT BLESSINGS THESE CHRISTIANS MISS OUT ON BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTIAL COMMITMENT TO CHRIST.

TRADING THE GOLD FOR THE BRASS - 2 Chron 12:9, 10

WHEN SHISHAK RANSACKED JERUSALEM HE TOOK THE TREASURES OF THE TEMPLE AND THE ROYAL PALACE INCLUDING THE GOLDEN SHIELDS THAT SOLOMON MADE. THE GOLD SHIELDS STOOD FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROSPERITY OF THE LORD WHEN HIS CHILD SERVES HIM WITHOUT RESERVATION. NOW UNDER THE HEAVY DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD REHOBOAM HAD NO

⁶ In all Solomon had conscripted 30,000 men from Israel to do the work of the temple and his palace. This was certainly a hard thing for the families of Israel to endure as these same sons were to help with the family business, whether it be farming or some other trade.

⁷ 2 Chron 12:8

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CHOICE BUT TO USE BRONZE. IRONICALLY THE BRONZE SHIELDS REPRESENTED PRESERVATION BUT WITH THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE. WHAT BLESSINGS REHOBAM MISSED BECAUSE HE SERVED THE LORD WITH HALF A HEART ONLY TO AVOID SURE DESTRUCTION.

THE TRAGEDY OF A HEART TURNED COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY FROM THE LORD IS THAT THE BELIEVER MISSES OUT ON THE WONDERFUL BLESSINGS OF THE LORD.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.

THE LORD WILL PROVIDE AND PROTECT HIS OWN. HOWEVER, JESUS POINTS OUT THAT OUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO SEEK THE LORD'S KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. WHY TRADE THE GOLDEN SHIELDS OF HIS PROSPERITY AND PROTECTION FOR THE BRASS SHIELDS OF HIS DISCIPLINE AND PROTECTION?