



## Timeless lives from the God-Story

### **SOLOMON: HALF A HEART**

#### **1 KINGS 1-11**

How can the wisest man who ever lived end up separated and alienated from his Creator? Solomon's life is an incredible story of privilege, wealth, political alliances, and ultimate idolatry. Probably the richest king who ever lived, Solomon's wisdom was a marvel that brought people from kingdoms all over the earth to pay homage.

While Solomon may have been the wisest man who ever lived, he fell into the trap of thinking that he did not need to rely upon God for the condition of his heart.

#### 1 Kings 1-5

How does David's family history impact his heirs? What is going on here relative to the transfer of power? How does David "bless" his son Solomon? In your mind, what would be David's epitaph? What are your perceptions of Solomon as a young ruler? Why were there so many executions and how should that make us feel about God and His people? What appears to be Solomon's core desire for his reign? Why is the story of the two women and the baby so telling?

#### 1 Kings 4-7

What are your impressions of Solomon as a leader? Solomon makes many alliances, including the one with King Hiram. Why were these alliances necessary and what do you think is their impact? Whose idea was it to build a temple? Why was it necessary? Why was it so ornate? What would have been the scope and impact of this kind of craftsmanship? Compare Solomon's house with the building of the Temple. What were the similarities? The differences?

#### 1 Kings 8-10

What was the significance of the Ark's introduction into the Temple? What do you learn about Solomon's relationship with God at this point in his life? What is the significance of the extent of sacrifices made at the dedication of the Temple? What was God's response to Solomon and how does it make you feel? What were Solomon's relationships like with those around him? Why is the story of the Queen of Sheba given so much emphasis? How much was a talent of gold? What was the extent of Solomon's wealth in today's terms?

#### 1 Kings 11

What do you feel was Solomon's vulnerability? How could he have avoided it? With what he knew, how could Solomon possibly have made this kind of spiritual error? What was the result of his choices?

David had a whole heart for God. Saul had no heart, and Solomon appears to have half a heart *when it came to his spiritual life? What instruction does this give the Christ-follower today?*

*My conclusions from this study...*

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