



were talking about Solomon's wisdom. When the Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon, she traveled to Jerusalem to see if it was true. She had many questions for King Solomon.

The Queen of Sheba traveled "with a very great train" (group of people and camels). She also brought a large amount of gold, spices, and valuable stones. When she came to where King Solomon was, she told him "all that was in her heart." No doubt, she spoke of her "hard questions," and Solomon answered them all.

After the Queen of Sheba "had seen all Solomon's wisdom," he showed her "the house that he had built." He also showed her the food on his table, his servants, ministers, his cupbearers, and their apparel (expensive clothing). The queen was amazed at everything she saw!

The Queen of Sheba told Solomon that all she had heard of him was true. She had not believed it, so she had come to see for herself. She could see that what she had heard was not even close to describing the true wisdom and actions of Solomon. It exceeded what she had heard!

The queen blessed the God of Israel who had made Solomon the king of Israel. Before she went back to her country, the queen gave Solomon "an hundred and twenty talents of gold" and many spices and valuable stones.

Many years passed. Solomon was richer and wiser than "all the kings of the earth." All these kings came to hear the wisdom "that God had put in his heart." God had blessed Solomon greatly!

Solomon loved God, but he also "loved many strange women" (women from other nations). Solomon married 700 wives and 300 concubines. This was against God's law. God knew that many wives (especially wives from heathen nations) would turn a man's heart away from God. But Solomon did not take heed

Church of God Sunday School

SOLOMON TURNS AWAY FROM GOD

1 Kings 10:1 — 11:43; 2 Chronicles 9:1-31

God had greatly blessed King Solomon with wisdom and riches. People who lived far away in other countries

to the warnings.

"When Solomon was old . . . his wives turned away his heart after other gods." Solomon's heart was not perfect with God, "as was the heart of David his father." Solomon built altars and "high places" (a place of worship built on a hill or mountain) for the false gods of his wives.

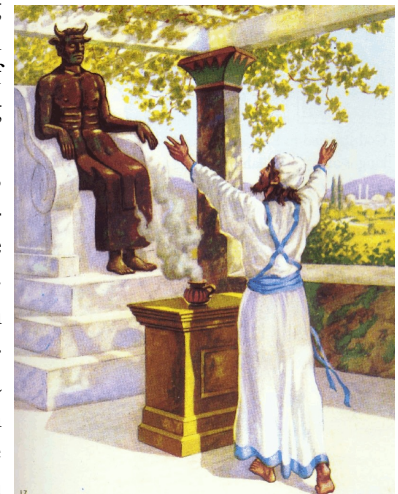
Solomon built a "high place" for Ashtoreth (*ASH-tuh-reth*), Chemosh (*KEE-mosh*), and Milcom (*MIL-kuhm*), the gods of Israel's enemies (2 Kings 23:13). Much wickedness went on during the worship of these gods. How could Solomon in all his wisdom not know the terrible consequences of setting up places of worship for these false gods?

The Lord had appeared to Solomon twice and talked with him. The Lord had given Solomon all he needed and much more. Now the Lord was very angry with Solomon! Solomon knew better! God had warned him against this very sin.

The Lord told Solomon that He was going to take the kingdom away from Solomon and give it to his servant. For David's sake, the Lord said that it would not happen during Solomon's lifetime, and He would give a small part of the kingdom to Solomon's son.

Then, the Lord stirred up two men—Hadad (*HAY-dad*) and Rezon (*REE-zahn*)—to trouble Israel. God would use another man, named Jeroboam (*jer-uh-BOH-uhm*), to bring judgment against Solomon. Jeroboam was a hardworking man, whom Solomon had put in charge of the king's building projects.

As Jeroboam was traveling out of Jerusalem, God sent the Prophet Ahijah (*A-high-juh*) to meet him with a message. Ahijah was wearing a new garment, which he tore into twelve pieces. He gave ten



pieces to Jeroboam, telling him that God was going to take the kingdom away from Solomon and give ten of the twelve tribes to him.

Two of the tribes would remain with Solomon's son (Judah and Benjamin; 2 Chronicles 11:1).

The Prophet Ahijah told Jeroboam that as long as he did what was right in God's sight and kept His laws, God would be with him. Soon Solomon tried to have Jeroboam killed. To spare his own life, Jeroboam fled to Egypt, where he stayed until he heard that Solomon was dead.

Solomon had begun his reign as king so well! He realized his lack of ability and asked God for wisdom. He loved the Lord and built a beautiful place for the people of Israel to come and worship. God blessed Solomon abundantly with great riches, wisdom, and fame. Where did Solomon go wrong? His love for his many foreign wives turned his heart away from God. Anything that takes first place in our hearts (God's place) is sin.

King Solomon, the wisest man in the Old Testa-

ment, "did evil in the sight of the LORD," causing God to be angry! In the end, sin caused Solomon to do things that he must have thought he would never do.

Some of the last writings of Solomon are thought to be found in Ecclesiastes. After Solomon had experienced everything this world could offer, he said that "all is vanity [or worthless]" (Ecclesiastes 12:8).

No doubt, while thinking back on his own life, Solomon wrote this advice: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

After reigning for forty years, King Solomon died, and his son Rehoboam (*ree-uh-BOH-uhm*) became the king.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father."  
—1 Kings 11:6*  
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Match the Descriptions to the Bible Character by Writing the Letter Below Each Picture

A. I am the king with great wisdom.

C. I am King Solomon's son.

B. I am the queen who visited King Solomon.

D. I am the prophet who tore his new garment.

E. The Lord stirred me up to cause trouble.

G. The Lord also stirred me up to cause trouble.

F. I fled to Egypt to spare my life.

Unscramble the Names of People From the Story



A j h a i h

Letter: _____



**Queen of
S b a h e**

Letter: _____



H a a d d

Letter: _____



R e n o z

Letter: _____



J e o r a b o m

Letter: _____



S o o l o m n

Letter: _____



R e o h a b o m

Letter: _____