



A DAY WITH THE
KING



The Folly of Solomon

Daily Devotional 45



SUNDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for loving me so much. Help me to make good choices today and please guide and direct my path. Help me to be kind and helpful, and to be a blessing to someone today.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - ECCLESIASTES 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 9:15-28



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today tells us about some of Solomon's achievements in the land of Israel. His extensive workforce spent time on various building projects around the land. Solomon's first wife was Pharaoh's daughter from Egypt. Have a look at 1 Kings 3:1. When they married, Pharaoh gave them, as a wedding present, the city of Gezer, which Solomon rebuilt. After Solomon had finished building his palace and the Temple, he also built a special house for his Egyptian wife.

Verses 26-28 also tell us about Solomon's exploits of the sea. It was the king of Tyre who assisted Solomon with this venture. Verse 28 mentions Ophir as the place from where they obtained their gold. To us it is a mystery where Ophir was located. Some say it could have been somewhere in Saudi Arabia, while others think it was down the coast of Africa, or even over in India! Today, four



hundred and twenty talents of gold are worth hundreds of millions of dollars. As well as being wise, Solomon was a very rich man. When Solomon married the Pharaoh's daughter it was one of the first mistakes he made. Mrs White's writings tell us that Solomon's wife did leave her gods behind and converted to Solomon's God, which was wonderful, but the mingling with the nations around him was the start of something negative about which we will study later.

FIND A WORD

In our reading today how many times did the words 'build' or 'built' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





MONDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for my family who takes good care of me. Lord, please bless me with wisdom so that I make the right choices in life. Help me to keep Your commandments and be faithful to You.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - ECCLESIASTES 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 10:1-13



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today's reading tells us that Solomon had a royal visitor from the south – the Queen of Sheba. Today, it is a mystery where the Queen of Sheba came from. There is speculation she could have come from either Yemen or Ethiopia, but wherever she came from, she travelled a great distance because she had heard about the fame of Solomon's wisdom. The Queen of Sheba brought many camels loaded with gifts. After listening to Solomon and seeing everything for herself, verses 6, 7, and 9 tell us that the Queen realised God was the giver of Solomon's riches and wisdom and this caused her to praise God! Verses 10 and 13 tell us of the gifts that King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba gave to each other. Verse 10 particularly mentions the amazing amount of spices, which the Queen gave. Spices were very precious back then and worth a lot of money. Verses 11 and 12 talk about almuq wood, also known as almuq wood. This was a very precious wood, which was known for its beauty. It was mainly used to make the musical instruments for the temple. When Solomon sent the ships to Ophir to bring back gold, this wood was also among the treasures brought to him.

At this time in his life Solomon acknowledged God in everything and pointed everyone to the goodness and greatness of God. It was God's purpose that the Israelite kingdom would be a spectacle to the world that would shine God's character to other nations, leading them into a relationship with Him. This is evident in the case of the Queen of Sheba.



FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading how many times did the name 'Queen of Sheba' appear? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





TUESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dearest Heavenly Father, thank You for blessing me with food to eat, a roof over my head and clothes to wear. Help me to think of others today who are less fortunate than myself. Help me to be grateful and thankful. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - ECCLESIASTES 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 10:14-29



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today our Bible tells us about the incredible wealth of King Solomon. Verse 14 tells us that on a yearly basis Solomon received six hundred and sixty six talents of gold. That's beside what his merchants and traders brought in. One talent of gold is about thirty-three kilograms in our measurement today. Six hundred and sixty six talents of gold in today's Australian gold prices are worth over one billion dollars! We read in verses 18-19 that Solomon had five hundred golden shields made, to go into one of his palace buildings called 'the house of the forest of Lebanon'. Verses 18-20 describe Solomon's beautiful throne room. You can also find an explanation in 2 Chronicles 9:17-19. Solomon's throne, or chair, in which he sat was made of ivory and covered in gold. There were six steps leading up to the throne and on each side of the steps stood a carved lion, so there were twelve lions in total. There were also another two lions, one on each side of the armrests of his throne. Verses 28-29 tell us about the horses and chariots that Solomon imported from Egypt. Keep that thought in the back of your mind, as we will talk more about that in tomorrow's devotional! Verse 23 informs us that king Solomon was one of the richest kings of the then known world. We have studied that God blessed Solomon with this, but with wealth comes responsibility. God wants us to use the blessing of wealth to help and assist others and for the spreading of the gospel, not for selfish personal wants.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times does the word 'gold' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





WEDNESDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You keeping me safe. Help me to be faithful in following You. Help me not to have any idols in my life, which take me away from worshipping You alone. Please help me to understand what I read in the Bible today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - ECCLESIASTES 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 11:1-10



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Our reading today is a very sad one. As we have studied so far, the first part of Solomon's reign was pretty amazing! Solomon pointed everyone to his Creator and he honoured God in everything he did. Because of this God blessed him abundantly. But our Bible reading today tells us of Solomon's fall. Solomon loved having foreign wives. Remember this started with marrying his first wife who came from Egypt. But instead of just marrying one, he married seven hundred! When Solomon made that first alliance with the Pharaoh of Egypt, it was a trend he continued with the other nations around him. With his many unholy alliances came many women for him to marry. The sad thing was that Solomon started to worship the gods of his many foreign wives, to the point that he actually built temples for these gods in Jerusalem. Verse 9 tells us that God was not happy with Solomon



because he was not faithful in keeping His commandments. Solomon thought himself wise enough to not fall for his wives gods. He thought he could convert them all as he had done with his first wife. Unfortunately, they converted him! Moses had written out laws for kings to live by. Read *Deuteronomy 17:14-20*. Verses 16-17 particularly talk about how the kings were not to purchase horses from Egypt, which we mentioned yesterday, and not to have multiple wives or to gather a lot of gold and silver.

FIND A WORD

In today's Bible reading how many times did the word 'wives' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





THURSDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to this earth to die on the cross for my sins. You are mighty to save! Please forgive me for my sins. Help my light to shine bright today so others can see Jesus in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - ECCLESIASTES 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 11:11-25



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Verses 11-13 of our reading today tell us that God was going to end Solomon's magnificent kingdom and tear it apart during the reign of Solomon's children. As Solomon's father, David, was faithful in not worshipping other gods, God was going to leave one tribe to Solomon's son. Verses 14-25 mention two enemies or adversaries of Solomon. One of them was Hadad an Edomite and the other was a man named Rezon. Both of these men had a history with Solomon's father David. God was trying to wake Solomon up from his spiritual slackness so He allowed these men to harass Solomon and his nation. God loved Solomon but his false worship was not acceptable. This was the start of many Israelites choosing to leave God and worship the false gods and idols. God placed Solomon in an amazing position as the king of Israel. Israel was to be the light of the world sharing the love of God with people from other countries. Israel was in a great position geographically because the main trade routes were well established and went straight through the nation. This was supposed to provide many opportunities for them to witness to the foreigners travelling through Israel. Sadly, the Israelites didn't do that.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times was the word 'adversary' mentioned? _____

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





FRIDAY

LET'S PRAY Dear Lord, thank You for taking care of me this past week. You are great and mighty, Lord, and I praise You for how patient You are with me. Thank You for loving me so much and guiding my path every day. I love You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - ECCLESIASTES 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.”

THERE'S POWER IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

1 Kings 11:26-40



LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS

Today's reading is about a man named Jeroboam who was one of Solomon's servants. Jeroboam was made an officer, or ruler, over part of Solomon's work force. We are told from verse 29 onwards that the prophet Ahijah visited Jeroboam to deliver some amazing news from God. Ahijah told Jeroboam that God was going to tear the kingdom of Israel away from Solomon's descendants. (God told this to Solomon in 1 Kings 11:11-13.) Ahijah explained this to Jeroboam by using twelve pieces of cloth. Ten tribes were to go to Jeroboam after Solomon died, and two, to Solomon's son. These two tribes were the tribes of Benjamin and Judah combined. God told Jeroboam that if he was faithful and kept God's commandments, God would bless Jeroboam and Israel. When Solomon found out what happened between the prophet Ahijah and Jeroboam, Solomon tried to seek out Jeroboam to kill him. Jeroboam fled to the safety of Egypt to stay with king Shishak. God must have seen some amazing potential in Jeroboam, as sending a prophet to him was a great honour. God sees great potential in us as well. All He asks of us is to be faithful and follow Him.



FIND A WORD

In today's reading how many times did the name 'Jeroboam' appear?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY WITH THE KING?





SABBATH

LET'S PRAY Dear Father, thank You for the Sabbath day of rest, which you have provided for me. Help me to be faithful and keep the Sabbath Holy. Please forgive me for all my sins and help me to have a closer walk with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE - ECCLESIASTES 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all.”

THERE'S **POWER** IN THE WORD!

LET'S READ:

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11, 9:13-18,
12:9-14 & 1 Kings 11:41-43



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The message God gave to Solomon about taking the kingdom from him during his son's reign and the harassment from Hadad and Rezon was enough for Solomon to wake up and come to his senses. Solomon repented and turned his heart back to God. We have a record of this in the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes as a warning against the folly of sin. Solomon wanted everyone to know that happiness did not come through wealth and power but through surrendering our hearts to God. Solomon spent the remainder of his life trying to undo the damage he had caused by teaching the people the truth. Some of the verses in Ecclesiastes refer to himself as the 'preacher'. Unfortunately, though, the damage had been done to his nation. Many of the Israelites had left the worship of the true God and followed and worshiped the idols. Today's reading in 1 Kings tells us that Solomon died, and his son Rehoboam, was to take his place on the throne. The Story of Solomon is something from which we can all learn. God is ever ready to forgive us for our sins if we come to Him with a repentant heart, no matter what we have done. The big lesson is that we can avoid the consequences of our sins by repenting and staying close to God.



SABBATH QUIZ

1. Who was the royal visitor that came to see Solomon's wisdom for herself? _____
2. What was the one thing that she gave in great quantity as a gift? _____
3. What was the palace building called that held Solomon's gold shields? _____
4. What did the merchant ships bring to Solomon every three years? _____
5. Who turned Solomon's heart away from worshipping God?



A DAY WITH THE
KING

This week we will study about what happened to King Solomon and the results that occurred because of the choices that he made.



Torchlight

“Though the king confessed his sin and wrote out for the benefit of after generations a record of his folly and repentance, he could never hope entirely to destroy the baleful influence of his wrong deeds.”

– Prophets & Kings p. 85