

Dear Friend,

I normally don't include such a long passage of scripture in my monthly letters, but this one is critical to read again in order to understand the implications for how it affects our lives as Christians today. I have put several phrases in BOLD letters for emphasis. I will mention them in the rest of the teaching letter:

**1 Kings 11:1-13** But king Solomon loved **many strange women**, together with the daughter of **Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites**; [2] Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, **Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.** [3] And he had **seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines**: and **his wives turned away his heart.** [4] For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that **his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.** [5] **For Solomon went after Ashtoreth** the goddess of the Zidonians, and after **Milcom** the abomination of the Ammonites. [6] **And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father.** [7] Then did **Solomon build an high place for Chemosh**, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, **and for Molech**, the abomination of the children of Ammon. [8] **And likewise did he for all his strange wives**, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. [9] **And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,** [10] **And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded.** [11] Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, **I will surely rend the kingdom from thee**, and will give it to thy servant. [12] Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it **for David thy father's sake**: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. [13] Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son **for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.**

The seduction of Solomon by strange women is such a good type and shadow of how loving the world, and having intimate fellowship with the world, turns our heart ever so slowly to the point we eventually become an enemy of God. We start out good but we wind up building altars to things that God abhors. We end up actively doing evil on earth because we allowed the seduction of the world through fellowship with it, and ultimately it is no longer just flirting ... we have intimate relations with it. The end result of that path is becoming a person with a reprobate mind.

The apostle James likens friendship with the world to adultery. Solomon, along with all of Israel, had been forbidden by God to have intimate fellowship with strange women who worshiped other gods. Solomon did so anyway. Notice it says Solomon "clave unto these in love." But the apostle John writes;

**1 John 2:15-16** **Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16] For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**

In order for Solomon to have intimate relations with these strange wives, it was necessary that he disrobe. What is that a type and shadow of? He had to remove the garments of righteousness in order to fellowship with these women of the world. He had to remove his kingly garments in order to have such intimate relations with the world. The commandment of God forbade an Israelite from marrying strange women. Solomon knew the commandment and he knew full well he had to "remove his robe of righteousness" through disobedience in order to have these intimate encounters with the strange women of the world.

How many times have we all watched something on television that are born again spirit was saying through the conscience ... turn that off. That is sinful. Don't watch it ... but we watched it anyway. Same with movies. Same with books. Same with ... lots of things of the world.

Some might protest, "But Solomon married these women. He was having these relations legally." There is no "legally" when what you are doing violates the commandment of God. Israel, including Solomon, was forbidden to take wives from those heathen nations. "Marrying" them did not make it acceptable in God's sight.

It is the same with everything that violates the commandment of God. Making abortion "legal" does not make it acceptable in God's sight. Making homosexual marriage "legal" does not make it acceptable in God's sight. Fornication between consenting adults has long been "legal" in the USA, but it is not acceptable in the sight of God.

Notice how this sin of adultery with the world affected the relationship of Solomon to the kingdom. Had it not been for the promise God had made to King David, God would have ripped the kingdom away from Solomon right then. How is that a type and shadow for us today?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 **Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, [10] Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.**

Since abortion was made "legal" in the United States of America in 1973, more than sixty million children have been murdered in this nation. In all the world, the USA has become the number one nation for murdering babies. God forbid! God have mercy! God forgive us for our adultery with worldly thinking. God send revival!

The children of God are under constant assault from the world, trying to cause our thinking to abandon the commandments given in the Word of God. Rather than letting the world direct our thinking, let us press even harder to obey the instructions given to us by the apostle Paul:

**Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

Your friend and co-laborer,

*GARY*