

## **Mixed-up Values**

### **(I Kings 11:1-3; 12:9-14; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11)**

#### I. Introduction

A. Answer to last week's challenge concerning Esau's wives (Genesis 26:34, Genesis 28:9, and Genesis 36:2).

1. Dr. J. Vernon McGee did not even mention the conflict among the verses.
2. Dr. John H. Sailhamer, The Expositor's Bible Commentary, "Genesis", wrote, "The names of the wives of Esau vary considerably in the three references to them. ... Keil suggests that the difference arose from the fact that Moses availed himself of genealogical documents for Esau's family and tribe, and inserted them without alteration." This view puts the problem on Moses. Dr Sailhamer went on to write, "Though there is nothing improbable in Keil's explanation, it must remain merely an explanation of the difficulty and not the final answer." However, II Peter 1:21 says, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**"
3. The Documentary Hypothesis - this view maintains that four different people (not Moses) wrote the first five books of the Bible and that they were not in agreement about Esau's wives. The four different authors would be "E" (Elohim), "J" (Jehovah), "P" (Priestly), and "D" (Deuteronomy). **This view denies the deity of Christ, and it should be rejected.** Matthew 8:4 says, "And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them."
4. The NIV Study Bible footnote says, "Possibly the lists have suffered in transmission, or perhaps alternate names or nicknames are used. It may also be that Esau married more than three wives" (Dr. Ronald Youngblood).

#### B. ***This Week in Clear Living***

1. Misplaced desire leads to a sensual lifestyle.
2. Misplaced love turns our hearts from the worship of God.
3. Misplaced worship brings judgment.
4. Misplaced desire, love, and worship cause mixed-up values.
5. Mixed-up values lead to wrong decisions

**Question:** What Holy Spirit-given quality do Christians possess that Old Testament saints were not given? Theresa gave the answer last week. It is discernment. Were Solomon's problems evident in his early life?

#### C. What happened to King Solomon?

1. In I Kings 11:1-3, Solomon married three hundred wives and seven hundred concubines.
  - a. Strange (**nokriy**) - foreign woman, even a harlot.
  - b. In verse 2, those women had been off-limits to Jewish boys because they would turn the guy's heart from the Lord.

## **Mixed-up Values**

### **(I Kings 11:1-3; 12:9-14; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11)**

- c. Like most people, Solomon thought that he could handle it, but he was wrong.
  2. Toward the end of his life, he possessed God-given earthly wisdom but not so much godly wisdom. **In some very critical areas of his life, he lacked discernment.**
  3. He started out by marrying an Egyptian woman to establish an alliance with Egypt and build a stronger southern border. ***That was probably a mistake.*** He ended up with seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines.
  4. Genesis 2:24-25 says, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and *they shall be one flesh*. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."
  5. He married outside Judah, and he had multiple wives. This is one more instance where a child of David had learned that women were objects to be taken at will.
  6. When Jesus died on the cross and the Holy Spirit began to indwell people, a woman's value on earth rose dramatically. What that means is that God always placed high value on women even when humanity did not.
  7. Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."
- D. In verses 4-10, Solomon's condition deteriorates.
1. In verse 4, his heart was not perfect (***shalem*** - whole or at peace) with the Lord.
  2. An indwelling Holy Spirit would have made a difference in Solomon's life. What the Law could not do, the Holy Spirit can do. John 16:13 says, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
  3. In verse 5, he was directly involved in the worship of other gods.
  4. In verse 7, he built a high place for idol worship. **Were these problems evident in his early life?** I think they were.
    - a. In I Kings 3:1, he married the Egyptian woman.
    - b. In I Kings 3:3, the verse says "***only*** he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places." The NIV says "***except that*** he sacrificed and burned incense on high places." Most commentators understate the significance of those highlighted words, but maybe those words show that Solomon's activities were not entirely right.
    - c. In I Kings 9:2-9, God appeared to Solomon a second time and specifically warned him about falling into idolatry. Notice I Kings 9:6.
  5. In verses 9-10, the Lord was very upset with Solomon.

**Mixed-up Values**  
**(I Kings 11:1-3; 12:9-14; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11)**

**Question:** Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes about the futility of life. What is your hope today, and what keeps our lives from being futile and without purpose?

- II. In Ecclesiastes 1:1-11, Solomon wrote his conclusions about life.
- A. He spoke about the brevity of life. Our life is like a vapor.
    1. Preacher (*qoheleth*) - collector (of sentences), public speaker, speaker in an assembly,
    2. Vanity (*hebel*) - breath or vapor.
    3. In verse 4, he spoke about the hopelessness of this life. A person works hard to make gain, but he or she leaves it all behind. Each generation is replaced by a new generation.
  - B. In verses 5-7, he spoke about everything in cycles.
    1. Sunrise is followed by sunset, which is followed by sunrise.
    2. The wind goes in circles.
    3. Water runs into the rivers, which are never full, and the original water is replaced by new water from rain.
  - C. What is our hope in life, or is there any hope in life. Solomon wrote his conclusion in the last two verses of the last chapter in Ecclesiastes.
    1. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: ***Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."
    2. He came to the right conclusion after having lived a life of great excess and wild acts.
    3. He did a lot of good things, but he also did a lot of bad things. Then, his life like all others ended.
- III. In I Kings 12:9-14, the Bible shows that Solomon had become a ruthless ruler.
- A. I Kings 10:8 says, "Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom."
    1. Solomon started out being good to everyone in his court.
    2. Everyone was happy, but it did not last.
  - B. I Kings 12:10 says, "And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins."
    1. Solomon's kingdom was being split. In the background was a man named Jeroboam, who would seize rule from Rehoboam.
    2. However, it was Rehoboam's fault.

**Mixed-up Values**  
**(I Kings 11:1-3; 12:9-14; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11)**

3. He forsook the advice of the older wiser men and listened to the guys that he had grown up with. That was a mistake.
- C. I Kings 12:13 says, "And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;"
- D. The Lord's statement to Solomon was coming true. I Kings 12:16-17 says, "So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents. But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them."

**Question:** Where do you think Solomon's soul went to be when he died? Most commentators suggest that Saul died lost and that David and Solomon died saved. Do you agree or disagree, and why?

IV. Solomon was punished for his deeds.

- A. In verse 11, the kingdom was taken from him.
1. Rend (qara`) - to tear away or out as a wild beast might
  2. Because of David, one tribe would remain (Judah). This prophecy was fulfilled during Rehoboam's reign.
- B. The Lord punishes His own in four ways.
1. Hebrews 12:7-8 (chastisement)
  2. I Corinthians 3:11-15 (loss of rewards)
  3. John 15:2, 6 (premature death)
  4. PERSONAL FAILURE !!!

V. Next week's lesson: "When God's in the Boat" (Luke 8:22-25)