

1Kings 11:1–13

How Hearts Can Turn Away from—and Back to—the Lord

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How do things with Solomon take such a turn for the worst? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. 1Kings 11:1–13 prepares us for the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these thirteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that poor marriage choices and the complacency of old age can turn away the heart even of someone with great experience of God and knowledge of His Word. But for the sake of His Christ and His electing love, even then the Lord can turn you back.

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 • Read 1Kings 11:1–13

Questions from the Scripture text: What kind (and quantity) of woman did Solomon love (v1)? Particularly whom, and particularly what ethnicities? What had Yahweh commanded about this (v2)? Why? How does v3a recap what Solomon did? With what result (v3b)? What was he like in the decades after the former/good building projects (v4)? After what gods did he go (in v5)? How does v6 summarize his life? What was the height of his wickedness (v7)? What was its breadth (v8)? How does Yahweh respond (v9a)? What had Yahweh done previously (v9b)? How had Solomon repaid him (v10)? What penalty does Yahweh announce (v11)? When will He do it (v12)? Why? What other concession does He make (v13)? For what two reasons?

How great is the danger of poor marital choices! As chapter 10 has reminded us, Solomon is wiser than anyone else. As v9 emphasizes, Yahweh had appeared to him twice. Despite having such knowledge and wisdom, despite having such experience of God Himself, Solomon not only turns against Yahweh with His heart (v4) but descends into the greatest wickedness imaginable: worshiping perverted fertility gods (v5a) and gods whose worship involved child sacrifice (cf. Lev 18:21, 20:2–5; Deu 12:31; 2Ki 16:3).

Do you have much knowledge and wisdom from God and His Word? Praise God! Have you had much experience of God and His Word addressing you? Praise God! But let us not think that we are immune to devastating spiritual fall. Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall (cf. 1Cor 10:12).

And there is no place to take heed more than in considering marriage. Satan tempted Adam through his wife. Satan left Job's wife alive to tempt him against God. The godly line was all but obliterated by poor marriage choices (cf. Gen 6:1–8). And now Solomon is "exhibit A" for the danger that the Lord had directly commanded against in v2 (cf. Ex 34:15–16, Deut 7:2–4).

Simply put, a prospective husband or wife is either going to turn your heart more toward the Lord or more away from Him. Does their involvement in your life stir you up to greater faith and repentance? More (and more conscientious) attendance upon public worship? More service of your family and worship with your family?

Or, do you end up serving inflamed romance (as with Ashtoreth)? And sacrificing your family in order to get closer to her/him (as with Molech)? Do you miss the worship of the one true God (either physically, or mentally even though you're there) as a result of your preoccupation with them? We may gasp with horror at the Solomon of 1Kings 11:1–12. But I grew up in a "reformed" "evangelical" youth group, and I can still remember my own heart and what I saw in others.

We're not so different as we think. Let us take heed that we not consider someone for marriage who is having such an effect on us, and let us doubly take heed that we ourselves not have such an effect on them. Instead, let us seek to make such connections in life as stir us up more toward the Lord, and let us seek to have that effect upon those with whom we are connected.

And there are many other things in life that become competing allegiances. Sports. Arts. Amusements. Even good things gone awry. Involvements. Disproportionate patriotism. Even just the laziness of complacency.

We may be ever so close to the Lord now, but let us beware lest we make choices that turn our hearts away from Him!

But let us not leave this passage without taking our hope from the Lord—lest we think that there is hope to be found in ourselves, our vigilance, or our past experience. At the end of his life, the Spirit uses Solomon to give us Ecclesiastes. But even more importantly, from Solomon came the Christ, according to the flesh. For the sake of His Messianic covenant with David, the Lord didn't take the kingdom until later (v12). For the sake of His Messianic covenant with David, the Lord didn't even then take the entire kingdom (v13).

He has kept His promises to us in Christ. And in Christ, He will keep us as promised. Only let us take heed of the dangers and turn from them to Him!

What/who is there in your life that turns heart and attention away from the Lord? What (Who!) is your hope for correcting this and being spared the consequences of it?

Sample prayer: Lord, we bless Your Name, who have kept all of Your promises in Christ, and given us knowledge and experience of Yourself by Your Word and Spirit. But we are not faithful like You are, and our hearts are easily turned away. Forgive us, O God, and preserve our hearts toward You! Make us those who refuse to be turned away or to become the occasion of others' turning from You, we ask through Christ, AMEN!!

Suggested songs: ARP45B "Daughter, Incline Your Ear" or TPH548 "O Blest the House"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

First Kings 11, 1 through 13. These are God's words. But King Solomon. Loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Farrah women of the Moabites ammonites Edomites, Cydonians and hit heights.

From the nations of whom. Yahweh had said to the children of Israel, you shall not intermarry with them, nor they, with you. Surely, they will turn away your hearts after their gods Solomon clung to these in love. And he had 700 wives, princesses and 300 concubines. And here's wives turned away his heart where it was.

So when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods, and it's heart was not loyal to always his God, as was the heart of his father. David for Solomon went after ashtareth the goddess of the Cydonians. And after Malcolm, the abomination of the ammonites Solomon, did evil in the sight of Yahweh and did not fully follow Yalley.

As did his father gave it Then Solomon built a high place for Khamosh. The abomination of Moab on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Malak, the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign lives who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

So y'all they became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned from Yahweh. God of Israel who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him. Concerning this thing that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what y'all? I had commanded therefore we all say said to Solomon because you have done this and not kept my covenant in my statutes which I have commanded you.

I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless, I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father, David. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away the whole kingdom, I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David.

And for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.

So far the reading of God's inspired and generic to work.

My dear children. We among those who have been on this earth and even to some extent, among those who have been in the church among God's people, we are ones who perhaps most or more greatly need to hear the warnings of this passage you see in verses 9 and 10.

Solomon was someone who had had much great experience of God and good. Instruction. You always had appeared to him twice. Now, we are in times in which, well, in the age following Pentecost in, which the God comes to His people, in Jesus Christ. By His Spirit through the Word and sacrament and prayer.

And he makes himself known to us and I hope by his grace you have had much experience of him and I know you have been instructed. Well, although not as well as Solomon, because Solomon didn't just have David as his teacher, but the Lord himself had appeared to him and given him instruction, but we who have had experience of God and instruction from him.

There are things that posed danger to our souls. One of them is wrong. Marriage, wrong marriage, marriage to the kind of person whose idea of fellowship is not worship that she would rather go on walks with you. And or he my dear daughters would rather go on walks with you and sit and snuggle and cuddle and things that aren't wrong, but they'd rather do those things.

Then certain stand next to you in the public worship of God and lead you or be led by you in the exercises of the public worship of God. What kind of person who perhaps, not just in the public, but in the home, They like everything, but family worship, and They'll give their attention to many other things.

Sadly, many people get married on the Saturday, your mom and I did this and yet God is merciful to us. Many people get married on the Saturday and the first thing they do the next day and then would is what day the Lord's day. First thing they do in the morning is leave for their honeymoon.

They do not make the public worship of God. The first great thing that they do together as a new household nearly married. Couple. There are many and I don't have to highlight examples to you, you know, them to your grief. In mind who make preparation for such things, You should have known before and because in the time of the courtship the public worship was not their favorite time together and who did not even identify, as I candidate it for courtship beforehand.

The sort of person who loves the Lord with all their hearts loves his word, it has good doctrine of worship. There's even a warning reminder here and verse 5 for Solomon. Went after ashtareth ashtareth was a female fertility. Goddess went by many names Ashrah Ishtar astray and this demon, that had deceived.

So many of the ancient Near Eastern cultures to to foster our religion, in which the goddess, and her husband would die in the fall and rise again in the spring and be worshiped in the spring, especially by symbols of fertility, like eggs and rabbits. And now that worship has bled into the church and not just in parts of the church where at previously done.

So among the Methodists and the Anglicans and the Lutherans, but up until the turn of the 20th century, it would have been rare among Baptists and Presbyterians and congregationalists. But many a household one by one Many align. One by one was polluted by uncared choices in marriage. We've seen many.

Many souls made not necessary shipwreck of but much harm done by a sabotarian or a covenantal. Covenant, Child who grew up with good convictions slowly deciding that their desire for this one to be their husband or their wife was more important. And we just gloss over the way we

keep the Lord's day or if we keep the Lord's day as a minor issue, we can just gloss over.

What a household is let alone. What a covenant child is as a minor issue. So long as I can have him so long as I can have her. And pretty soon. The Lord's day is not kept and worship is not treasured, pretty soon. The household does not a little church and worship is not offered morning and evening.

And the children are not consecrated unto God as belonging to him and loaned to them. For a time as holy ones, placed in their house by the Holy One.

So the word astrate in verse 5 is very sobering, very sad.

Solomon built a high place for Khamosh. The abomination of Moab on the hill that is east of Jerusalem. It's hard to read that and not remember standing on the hell of Jerusalem and looking to the hell that is east across the valley and seeing the alaksa mosque.

There's a temptation to think that the people of the land around us are not so bad as the Bible, read red red so literally and so extremely would have us think of them. This is something that is even done with Islam. You wonder how people could just ignore 1500 years of history and think of Islam as no big deal.

And something that in many ways is even admirable and so forth, but not just as long, but the way of thinking of the culture, the toleration of many abominations,

And where God would warn us on the the pain of the loss of our souls, and the generations of souls. That might come from us. There are many in the churches who say it's not a big that big a deal. They're not so bad and are willing to intermarry and to form.

Other lesser bonds of fellowship and God have mercy on you. And granted you to remember these times in his word and the spirits to write on your hearts. How serious this and yet, I want you to see that even Solomon who had done this. I mean, probably don't remember unless you're in first Kings 11, how bad Solomon's fall actually was.

And if I didn't tell you, which king, I was talking about and I said, went after Astrath. Built a high place for Hamash a cross. I can't remember. Now, if it's in a marketron, I think it's in them, don't know Kedron. Now, I can't did the kid run valley about built a high place for chemosh on the hill east of Jerusalem, built.

One for Malik who required child sacrifice? As part of his worship, just like abortion. If I told you that there was a king who did that in the Bible and I asked you who it was.

You Solomon probably would not be your first guess and yet it seems that it is at the end of his life. After having been brought to repentance for these things that he has written on the Holy Spirit by him, the book of Ecclesiastes. Now, how could he be brought back from that?

What if You come to a place in your life where you have failed to heed these warnings and you may So I got gives you these words and your father who pleads with your soul that you not be in this position is because you're actually in danger of it.

But what can you do if you fall like Solomon? I think that perhaps it was in response to the mercy that he heard in verses 12 and 13, not immediately.

Well, this is when he is old, right that? Oh, that was the second thing we didn't even get to that. Don't think that you've because you've made a good start, you will do. Well, when Solomon was old verse 4, his wife's turned his heart. After other gods, don't become complacent in your older age about your soul, renew zeal for God, and zeal for your soul towards God.

Every morning. Every evening don't grow complacent in your old age. But when he was old and he turned and then the Lord said this in verses 12 and 13, it may have been in response to these words, but it was definitely on the basis of the same covenanted love.

And mercy of God, Nevertheless, I will not do it in your day for the sake of your Father, David and it wasn't because of how righteous David had been. Remember the whole second half of second Samuel, Nevertheless for the sake of your father, David. And then, in verse 13, for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.

If you ever come to a time where you've backslidden and turned from God, there is mercy in Christ and His church whom God has chosen and set His love upon and give in Christ given as your Redeemer, even for a backslider. So, that is Solomon who built a high place for Khamosh and worshiped astrath and built a high place for Molech that you would be granted repentance.

Even at that last day, at that late day, You won't be able to claim train up a child on the way he should go. And when he is old, he will not depart from it because Solomon was trained up in the way that he should go. And when he was old, he did apart from it.

But you will be able to claim O God who yet brought Solomon back. Who not? Because of how well we do. But for the sake of Christ, and for the sake of Jerusalem, which you have chosen still. So mercy even to such as of since. So greatly show me the mercy of repentance and to turn to me back but then this is what Solomon is trying to save you from, in Ecclesiastes.

Isn't he saying, don't forget your Creator in the days of your youth learn from the beginning from the heart that you exist for him and let's pray.

Lord, please keep our hearts single-minded towards you grant to us of your spirit to be always growing by the grace and by the knowing of the Lord Jesus, that those aspects of Christ's life and character that you produce. And those who you say would be ours and increasing and that in your spirits sustaining our pursuit of them you would make our calling an election.

Sure we pray O Lord that you would help us not gloss over important, theological and spiritual differences. Especially when it comes to considering prospects for a spouse and Lord, if one of my children ever comes to the time where their hearts are entangled. And one of the things that this passage warns against becomes a red flag, give them and give their mother.

And me the courage and resolve to cause whatever the temporary pain is that is necessary in order to keep them and generations of their children from spiritual harm, help us O Lord. I pray for each of my sons that you would be even now causing the one whom they are going to be to marry to be brought up in a home where they are taught to love you or there's worship morning and evening and the rest of the day in between has lived out of worship to you where the day of worship is kept and the rest of the week is lived out of worship unto you.

Give my daughter's husbands who are being brought up this way and who will continue to lead them in this way. So that each of these children might have a marriage in which there is mutual reinforcement towards you. And rather than their spouse being a challenge and they're sanctification, they may know them as the greatest earthly aid, you had given them in loving you and growth, and grace being made.

Holy so that they might see you at last in the last day. How we thank you. Our God for the perfection of your covenant with our Lord. Jesus and the eternality of your love for your church and you have chosen. So that since it did not have a beginning in time.

Nothing in time. Can bring it into it. Bring it to an end. Now make us walk in love for you. We pray who have first loved us for we ask it even in the name of him. Who is the greatest display of that? Love our Lord Jesus. Amen.