

## PLAN 3: Solomon's story and how it shows what our true focus should be in life

7 days (roughly 20 minutes per day)

*In this plan we will tell the story of King Solomon. He was the wisest man ever, who also had 700 wives, and yet was depressed. He writes, in his deep wisdom, about the real meaning of life, and we discover that he had everything we typically put in front of God in life, yet it was worthless. He did great work for the Lord, who warned him about taking women that were ungodly, and ultimately even the great work that Solomon did for God was halted by the sinful choices that he made. This story, told in order from Solomon becoming King all the way to his death, will illustrate that our real focus needs to be on God and not these other things that ultimately cost Solomon his passion for the Lord and everything else, likely including his eternal life.*

**Day 1:** 1 Kings 3-6

**Day 2:** 1 Kings 7-10 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: We see here the greatness of Solomon. He was a great man because he pursued wisdom instead of glory, he followed God, he was a great king, he had it all. It was amazing. What could possibly go wrong? We'll get there. So you've seen Solomon's willingness to not only follow God but pursue Him over everything else, and how this has led to his greatness as king. We now turn to Proverbs, where Solomon puts his wisdom (the wisest man ever) to use and gives us Biblical guidance.

**Day 3:** Proverbs 1-8

**Day 4:** Proverbs 9-16

**Day 5:** Proverbs 17-24

**Day 6:** Proverbs 25-31, 1 Kings 11 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: So we saw in Proverbs just how amazing Solomon was spiritually. He not only followed God and led others in Godliness as a great king, but he was also amazing spiritually. Again, what could possibly go wrong? In 1 Kings 11 we get our answer and we see the amazing fire get put out. A man who was on fire for the Lord fell into sin. This happens to all of us in our everyday lives. For Solomon, it was women that God didn't want him to marry (because they would lead him away from God) - what is it for you? Porn? Bad language? A temper? Video games or poor usage of your time or a substance? Things lead us away from God. Even Solomon fell, so don't overlook this or get comfortable (God might be trying to communicate something to you that you need to change in your everyday life). You think he married all 700 of them at once? No it was 1 by 1, day by day - the more disciplined you are, the greater defense you have. 699 later, what was 1 more? But your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), so if you wouldn't burn down 700 churches, then don't even burn down 1 with sin! We now turn to Ecclesiastes, a book written by Solomon in his depression (I imagine he, still having all his wisdom, wrote this after

marrying the women to make the point that these things weren't fulfilling to him and they won't fulfill you either).

**Day 7:** Ecclesiastes 1-12 then read the following COMMENTARY on the text: We see here just how meaningless Solomon felt everything was. Keep in mind that he didn't feel this way before marrying those women. When originally granted any wish he wanted, Solomon chose wisdom instead of money or women or glory (1 Kings 3:5-15) - he did this because he knew that he needed the Lord's guidance in order to do well when he acquired these things. It was his way of putting God first. He didn't think things were meaningless then. It was only when he tried to add things God didn't want, it was only when he tried to find meaning through other things that he found everything meaningless. We do this all the time with porn and music and relationships and all sorts of other things. You might be like Solomon, following God, but eventually you start to participate in a little bit of stuff that's sinful, and eventually you find yourself fallen and everything is meaningless because you already had fulfillment with God but you rejected it for something else. Solomon ends Ecclesiastes with Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind." He was arguably the most successful human being to ever live - his money would have been trillions in US Dollars in the 21st century, and he had 700 wives, and he was the king of his nation. Yet he was depressed - I wonder why... Because success and achievement here on Earth is distracting, as he admits in Ecclesiastes 2:4-11. In Ecclesiastes 12:13, he makes clear that time with God and a life lived for Him is more valuable than anything else. So live for God, not yourself, today, not tomorrow. This is the story of Solomon, and how a great man of faith, even the author of Proverbs, fell into sin. Let it serve as a warning. Thanks for reading.