



“Great Start But Poor Finish” (1 Kings 1-11) **May 15, 2022 — Pastor Robert Reid**

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes we think, “How can intelligent people do such dumb things?” We can all recall people who started out well and ended up poorly because they made poor decisions, took careless actions, or for a few moments of passion ruined their careers, reputation, another’s life, or their own. What possessed them in those moments to make those decisions and pursue such a disastrous course of action? Today we look at the wisest of all people of his day, Solomon, and see how he made life choices that caused his world to implode. He started out well but ended poorly. Eugene H. Peterson, in his book *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, writes, “There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.” Solomon started well by seeking God to give him wisdom. He ended poorly when the wisdom God gave him clashed with the culture around him. He left his heart unguarded and chose foolishly.

FOCUS – A privileged life ruled by an unguarded heart is likely to be a disaster.

FIRST OBSERVATION

I. Solomon started out well

A. *Aware of his destiny* (1 Kg. 1:28-31)

B. *Anointed by David as king* (1:34-48)

C. *Admonished by David as to how to live* (2:1-4)

D. *Afforded a godly example* (3:6)

E. *Awarded wisdom from God* (3:7-9)

Follow-up
thoughts to
explore later.

1 Kings 1:13;
2 Sam.7:12-
16

<p><i>F. Accumulated blessings (4:20-34)</i></p> <p><i>G. Acknowledged achievements (Ch. 5-8)</i></p> <p><i>H. Amazing worship experience (Ch. 8)</i></p> <p><i>I. Appeared before God – three times: 3:5-14; 9:1-9; 11:9-11</i></p>	<p>2 Sam. 6:7</p> <p>1 Kg. 10:9 9:4-9 Philip. 1:6</p>
<p>SECOND OBSERVATION</p> <p>II. Solomon finished poorly</p> <p><i>A. Mesmerized by things of earth (1 Kings 10:1-29)</i></p> <p><i>B. Misplaced passions (1 Kings 11:1-3)</i></p> <p><i>C. Misdirected loyalties 1 Kings 11:4-8</i></p>	<p>Dt. 17:17 Neh. 13:26</p> <p>2 Kg. 23:13 Lev. 18:21; 20:1-5</p> <p>Job 28:20-28 Jam. 3:13-18 Matt. 7:24-27</p>
<p>FURTHER REFLECTION OR ACTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are some of the privileges and blessings that God has given you as His child? Ephesians 1:3 says, “All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.” Take a sheet of paper and write, “Blessed... live like it,” and post it somewhere where you will see it regularly throughout the week. 2. QUOTE to consider: “While Solomon possessed this ability [wisdom], he did not always apply it to his own life. Thus, the wisest man who ever live did not live as wisely as many others who preceded him or followed him. Having insight into life does not guarantee that one will chose to do what is right.” (Thomas Constable) 3. Read and meditate on this passage this week: Matthew 7: 24-27. Ask yourself best describes you – the wise man or the foolish man? How could you live more wisely this week? 4. Related blog may be of interest “Wisdom Infused with Integrity” http://reidsreflection.blogspot.com/ 	
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