

## Bible Class Notes – Great Differences – Lesson 112

### Great Differences: Lessons from David & Solomon

**This week** – Solomon falls to temptation. The Lord graciously rescues him, and restores him.

**Solomon kept not that which  
the LORD commanded. 1 Kings 11v10**

#### Bible Readings for this week:

*(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)*

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	1 Kings 9v1-9 (The Lord warns Solomon)	
Monday	1 Kings 11v1-13 (Solomon sins against God)	
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 1 (Wise words of advice from Solomon)	
Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 2v1-11 (Solomon's vain way of life)	
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 2v12-26 (Solomon admits he was foolish)	
Friday	Ecclesiastes 11 (Solomon's wise words of advice)	
Saturday	Ecclesiastes 12 (More wise words of advice)	

**Important Thought for us Today:** What is Vanity? Solomon wrote, *“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.” Ecclesiastes 1v2.* Solomon, despite all his wisdom, tried every experience under the sun (*Ecclesiastes 1v14*), good, bad, and even downright evil and he found all to be vanity (empty and worthless). **His conclusion?** All experiences that are not God centred bring no lasting satisfaction to the soul. **The consequence?** Loss of peace with his God and turmoil in his soul. It took him years to realise that true peace of the soul only comes with true repentance followed by total dependence on God's help to turn away from sin and this world's outlook, and to worship God alone. He had to learn the hard way, that, *‘you cannot serve God and mammon’* (the world). **Matthew 6v24.** What about us? Will we hear Solomon's plea to learn this from his experience of life while we are young and not waste years like he did? *Ecclesiastes 12v1.*

**Heed his advice today - Replace this world's empty pleasures with the fulfilling joy of God.**

Hymn 460 Expressing the believer's dedication to resist temptation, and zeal in serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

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| 1. O Jesus I have promised,<br>To serve Thee to the end;<br>Be Thou for ever near me,<br>My Master and my Friend;<br>I shall not fear the battle<br>If Thou art by my side,<br>Nor wander from Thy pathway<br>If Thou wilt be my Guide. | 2. O, let me feel Thee near me:<br>The world is ever near;<br>I see the sights that dazzle,<br>The tempting sounds I hear;<br>My foes are ever near me,<br>Around me and within;<br>But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,<br>And shield my soul from sin. | 5. O, let me see Thy footmarks,<br>And in them plant mine own;<br>My hope to follow duly<br>Is in Thy strength alone;<br>O, guide me, call me, draw me,<br>Uphold me to the end;<br>And then in Heaven receive me,<br>My Saviour and my Friend. |
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## Solomon's Downfall and Rescue

- Solomon in His Youth.**
  - **Sincerely trusted God**, Who blessed him with wisdom, knowledge, honour, vast riches, and the honour of building the Temple (based on the Tabernacle).
- Solomon as He Matured.**
  - **Mixed godly living with worldly living.**
    - His vast riches and many foreign wives turned his heart from the worship of the one true God to the worship of manmade idols.

*If we enjoy the sin of this world then we cannot have peace and fellowship with God.*

- Solomon's Spiritual Downfall.**
  - **He Turned From Wisdom To The Folly Of Compromise.**
    - He forgot that his wisdom, and wealth were a gift from the Lord.
    - He disobeyed his own wise Proverbs, seeking his own ends of sinful pleasure.
  - **His Compromise Led To Hardness.**
    - He became a heartless and selfish tyrant and lost the loyalty of the people.
  - **His Hardness Led To Destruction.**
    - The Lord decreed that Solomon's kingdom would be divided into two parts. When Solomon died, only a small part (Judah) would remain for his descendants to rule. *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.” 1 Kings 11v11*

- Solomon's Salvation and Rescue.**
  - **This Destruction Led To Remorse (Sincere Sorrow for Sin).**
    - Solomon at last realised that, due to his sin, he had lost out, *‘Vanity, all is Vanity’*.
    - In sincere repentance and faith, he turned back to the Lord and prayed: *‘I have sinned, I have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly.’ 2 Chronicles 6v37*
  - The Lord forgave him and inspired him to write Ecclesiastes – a book of encouragement and warning to all ages, including us!

- What did Solomon Learn? Will we learn it too?**
  - **He saw vanity, (emptiness), without God and urges us to turn back to Him.**
    - *“I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.” Ecclesiastes 1v14,15*
    - *“Remember, now thy Creator, in the days of thy youth.” Ecclesiastes 12v1*
    - *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12v13*
  - **He points us to a Greater One than he, The Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 11v31, Matt 12v42)**
    - Jesus Christ is the only one who can present us righteous and acceptable to God.

***“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55v7***