

# Apply The Word

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## KINGS & KINGDOMS

### Message Info

**Title:**

From Splendor to Sorrow

**Speaker:**

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**Scriptures:**

1 Kings 10-11

**Theme:** Love the Lord from your heart or you will face the ruin of his anger.

**Introduction:** First Kings 1-11 details the rise—and the fall—of the nation of Israel under the reign of King Solomon. History is filled with kings and kingdoms that come and go, and though we may marvel at their accomplishments, we should also be humbled by their eventual and inevitable failures. So also with Solomon—he achieved unbelievable heights during his 40 years of rule; but his end was as tragic as it was discouraging.

These chapters unfold 2 stages of the Lord’s dealings with Israel during Solomon’s reign:

**1. The wonders of his love (10)**

*Breathless worship (1-10)*—the Queen of Sheba hears of Solomon and makes the 1,000 mile journey across the desert to visit him. She finds that he is even more impressive than she had heard, taking away her breath.

She also responds humbly to what she witnesses. She rightly discerns the hand of the Lord behind Solomon’s success, and she gives praise to the Lord.

*Astonishing blessing (11-29)*—we are given an account of the amazing amount of wealth Solomon gained. He excelled all the kings of the earth in wealth and wisdom. His blessing was a gift of God; but it also covered over some concerning signs. He was violating Deut 17:14-20, accumulating wealth and military might. There were signs that he was not whole-heartedly devoted to the Lord.

**2. The woes of his anger (11)**

*A wayward heart (1-8)*—11:1 is one of the most tragic verses in Scripture, as Solomon loved many foreign women. Tragically, by the time he was old, these women had taken his heart away from the Lord.

Not only did he have too many wives; he also introduced idols into the life of Israel. He brought in competitors to the Lord instead of protecting the nation.

*Angry enemies (9-40)*—The Lord is angry with Solomon for his idolatry. So, he raises up 3 adversaries, including Jeroboam, who will be given the 10 tribes of Israel. The prophet Ahijah also announces the end of Israel when Solomon dies, and the rupture to come. Solomon’s wealth and success could not protect him from the Lord’s judgment for his idolatry.

*A whimpering end (41-43)*—Ch 11 ends with a very brief and modest epitaph for Solomon. No mention is made of his wealth or majesty. He is dead, and Rehoboam his soon is reigning in his place.

**Questions:**

1. What impresses you? What grabs your attention and commands your respect? Does your regard for the Lord equal what he is due?
2. How has the Lord been merciful toward you?
3. What “accumulated compromises” are present in your life?