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## **Autopsy of a Spiritual Failure** **1 Kings 9-11**

For Christmas I received an interesting book entitled, “Autopsy of a Dead Church.” The author went to 14 churches that had closed and asked former members the uncomfortable question, “What happened?” As depressing an endeavor as that was, the author firmly believed, and rightly so, that by studying why churches died we can help prevent other churches from facing the same fate. Today, we are going to look at the autopsy of a spiritual failure and ask, “How did HE get THERE?” And more importantly, how can we make sure in our own lives that we don’t fall into the same trap that Solomon did?

### **I. Solomon was at an all-time high.**

When believers do well in life, especially spiritually, they often think this means that they don’t need to keep as careful a watch on their lives. Solomon found out the hard way that the opposite is true.

**A. Solomon was incredibly powerful (1 Kings 9:15-23).**

**B. Solomon was incredibly wealthy (1 Kings 9:26-28; 10:14-27).**

**C. Solomon was living on a spiritual high.**

1. He built the temple (1 Kings 6-8).
2. He worshipped regularly (1 Kings 9:25).
3. He pointed the nations to God (1 Kings 10:1-13).

The more successful a person, the easier it becomes for them to forget they need God and to stop relying on him. Once this happens, spiritual disaster is just around the corner.

**II. Solomon tolerated small compromises.**

**A. Solomon worshipped in high places (1 Kings 3:3; cf Deuteronomy 12:1-14).**

- Do you make compromises because you think you know better than God?

**B. Solomon multiplied wealth (Deuteronomy 17:14-17).**

- Do you make compromises because you fail to examine yourself carefully?

**C. Solomon multiplied horses from Egypt (1 Kings 10:26-29; cf Deuteronomy 17:16).**

- Do you make compromises because God's demands seem unreasonable?

**D. Solomon married sinfully.**

1. Solomon married foreign wives (1 Kings 11:1-2).
  2. Solomon married many wives (1 Kings 11:3; Deuteronomy 17:17).
- Do you make compromises because you want your sin?