



January 21, 2018

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A Mixed Legacy Review

How do we handle broken heroes? We're left with the question of which side of them do we choose? Do we remember them for their victories or for their failures? Do we celebrate them or shake our heads at their failures? And the answer is yes. With Solomon, David, Moses, Peter, Abraham, and Noah. We should note what is commendable and seek to imitate that, and we should observe what is negative, be honest and objective about it, and seek to avoid it. As we come to the end of Solomon's life, we find that, like many characters in the Bible, that there are things to be emulated and things to be avoided. Sadly, we find a mixed legacy.

I. The Good

A. Solomon humbled himself before God (1 Kings 3).

B. Solomon understood the bigness of his God.

1. He built the temple (1 Kings 5-7).
2. He sacrificed lavishly (1 Kings 3:4; 8:5, 62-63).
3. He prayed fervently (1 Kings 8:22-53).

II. The Bad

- A. Solomon worshipped in high places (1 Kings 3:3; Deuteronomy 12:5-8, 13-14).
- B. Solomon married foreign wives (1 Kings 11:1-2).
- C. Solomon violated every command God gave kings (Deuteronomy 17:14-17).
 1. Solomon multiplied wealth.
 2. Solomon bought horses from Egypt.
 3. Solomon multiplied wives.

III. The Ugly

A. Solomon began idol worship in Israel (1 Kings 11:5-8).

1. The idols of his worship

Ashtoreth (Athtarat, Astarte, Venus): one of three major Canaanite goddesses of love and war

Chemosh: chief Moabite god, worshipped by child sacrifice

Molech: chief Ammonite god, worshipped by child sacrifice

Other gods: Solomon worshipped all types of gods

2. The influence of his worship

- The location – a mountain east of Jerusalem, probably the mount of Olives (2.5 miles away)
- The longevity – 300 years later, during the reign of Josiah, Solomon's idols still stood (2 Kings 23:13)

B. Solomon resisted God's chastening in his life (11:9-40).

1. God raised adversaries against Solomon (vv 9-39)
2. Solomon sought to resist God's plan (v 40).