

1 Kings 11

Chapter 11 of 22 · 43 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Solomon's Wives Turn His Heart

¹ But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

² Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

³ And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

⁴ For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

⁶ And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

⁷ Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

⁸ And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

⁹ And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,

10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

11 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.

12 Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.

13 Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

Solomon's Adversaries

14 And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom.

15 For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom;

16 (For six months did Joab remain there with all Israel, until he had cut off every male in Edom:)

17 That Hadad fled, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him, to go into Egypt; Hadad being yet a little child.

18 And they arose out of Midian, and came to Paran: and they took men with them out of Paran, and they came to Egypt, unto Pharaoh king of Egypt; which gave him an house, and appointed him victuals, and gave him land.

19 And Hadad found great favour in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him to wife the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen.

20 And the sister of Tahpenes bare him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house: and Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh.

21 And when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept with his fathers, and that Joab the captain of the host was dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, Let me depart, that I may go to mine own country.

22 Then Pharaoh said unto him, But what hast thou lacked with me, that, behold, thou seekest to go to thine own country? And he answered, Nothing: howbeit let me go in any wise.

23 And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:

24 And he gathered men unto him, and became captain over a band, when David slew them of Zobah: and they went to Damascus, and dwelt therein, and reigned in Damascus.

25 And he was an adversary to Israel all the days of Solomon, beside the mischief that Hadad did: and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

Jeroboam Rebels

26 And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, even he lifted up his hand against the king.

27 And this was the cause that he lifted up his hand against the king: Solomon built Millo, and repaired the breaches of the city of David his father.

28 And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

29 And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field:

30 And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:

31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

32 (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel:)

33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.

34 Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes:

35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes.

36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

37 And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel.

38 And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee.

39 And I will for this afflict the seed of David, but not for ever.

40 Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

Solomon's Death

41 And the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?

42 And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

43 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Covenant — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Judgment — מִשְׁפָּט (Mishpat)

Judgment, justice

The Hebrew **mishpat** (מִשְׁפָּט) means judgment or justice—God's righteous decisions and ordinances. God is the Judge of all the earth who 'shall do right' (Genesis 18:25), executing perfect justice.

Kingdom — מַלְכוּת (Malkhut)

Kingdom, reign, royal power

The Hebrew **malkhut** (מַלְכוּת) denotes kingdom or royal rule—the realm and reign of a king. God's kingdom represents His sovereign rule over all creation.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Love — אַהֲבָה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אַהֲבָה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Prophet — נָבִיא (Navi)

Prophet, spokesman

The Hebrew **navi** (נָבִיא) means prophet—one who speaks God's word to the people. Prophets received divine revelation and declared God's message, often calling Israel to repentance and foretelling future events.

Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Kings 11:1 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 11:8; Deuteronomy 17:17; Proverbs 2:16; 6:24; 7:5; 22:14. **Kingdom:** 1 Kings 3:1

1 Kings 11:2 **References God:** Exodus 34:16; Romans 1:32. **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 15:33. **Love:** Malachi 2:11; Romans 12:9; Revelation 2:4

1 Kings 11:3 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 7:28

1 Kings 11:4 **References David:** 1 Kings 9:4. **References God:** 1 Kings 8:61; 11:2; 1 Chronicles 28:9. **References Lord:** 1 Kings 11:6; 2 Chronicles 17:3; 34:2. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 17:17

1 Kings 11:5 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 11:7; Judges 2:13; 2 Kings 23:13. **References God:** 1 Kings 11:33; Judges 10:6

1 Kings 11:6 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:24

1 Kings 11:7 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 21:29; Judges 11:24; Acts 7:43

1 Kings 11:9 **References God:** 1 Kings 3:5; Deuteronomy 7:4; 2 Samuel 6:7. **References Lord:** 1 Kings 9:2; Exodus 4:14; Numbers 12:9; Deuteronomy 3:26; 9:8; 9:20

1 Kings 11:11 **Kingdom:** 1 Kings 11:31; 12:20

1 Kings 11:13 **Kingdom:** 1 Kings 12:20. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 12:5; 12:11. **References David:** 1 Kings 11:32. **References Jerusalem:** Isaiah 62:7

1 Kings 11:15 **References David:** 2 Samuel 8:14. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 20:13

- 1 Kings 11:18** **Parallel theme:** Numbers 10:12; Deuteronomy 1:1; 33:2
- 1 Kings 11:19** **Parallel theme:** Genesis 39:4; 39:21; 41:45; Acts 7:10
- 1 Kings 11:21** **References David:** 1 Kings 2:10
- 1 Kings 11:23** **Kingdom:** 1 Kings 11:14; 2 Samuel 8:3
- 1 Kings 11:24** **References David:** 2 Samuel 10:18. **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 10:8
- 1 Kings 11:26** **Kingdom:** 1 Kings 11:11; 12:2; 2 Samuel 20:21. **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 11:28; 1 Samuel 1:1; 2 Chronicles 13:6
- 1 Kings 11:27** **References David:** 1 Kings 9:24. **Kingdom:** 1 Kings 9:15
- 1 Kings 11:28** **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 22:29
- 1 Kings 11:29** **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 12:15. **Prophecy:** 1 Kings 14:2; 2 Chronicles 9:29
- 1 Kings 11:32** **References David:** 1 Kings 11:13
- 1 Kings 11:36** **References David:** 1 Kings 11:13; 15:4; Psalms 132:17. **Light:** 2 Samuel 21:17; 2 Kings 8:19; 2 Chronicles 21:7
- 1 Kings 11:37** **Kingdom:** 2 Samuel 3:21
- 1 Kings 11:38**
 References Israel: 2 Samuel 7:11. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 31:8; Joshua 1:5
- 1 Kings 11:39** **References David:** Isaiah 9:7; Luke 2:11
- 1 Kings 11:43** **References David:** 1 Kings 2:10. **Kingdom:** 2 Kings 21:18. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 1:7