

UNDIVIDED

Part 2 of The Savior King. 1 Kings 11:1-13.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. September 20, 2026.

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KING SOLOMON BEGAN SO WELL

Today, as we work through the Old Testament highlights, we focus on King Solomon of Israel.

- He was King David's son.
- The Bible says the Lord loved Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24), and he loved God (1 Kings 3:3).
- The Lord gave him "... a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like (him) before and never will be again" (1 Kings 3:12, CSB)
- Solomon established a strong and secure kingdom that enjoyed God's covenant blessings (1 Kings 4).
- Solomon was extremely wealthy and famous worldwide.
- God commissioned Solomon to build him the temple (1 Kings 5).

Solomon was the right man to inherit the promised blessings of the Davidic Covenant (See last Sunday's sermon, Dynasty, on 2 Samuel 7).

- Solomon began so well.
- But then Solomon's heart grew divided.

THE BENEFITS OF AN UNDIVIDED HEART

There are many reasons to seek an undivided heart:

- It is God's will for his people (Deuteronomy 10:12).
- It is essential for doing God's work (1 Chronicles 28:9).

- Jesus warned against a divided heart (Matthew 15:7-8).
- God protects wholehearted followers (2 Chronicles 16:9)

There are many days when we feel tempted to do our own thing.

- But we don't have to spiral down like Solomon. Instead, we can take three steps to build an undivided heart.

STEP ONE: GIVE YOUR WHOLE HEART TO GOD - verses 1-3

Solomon probably married all these women for diplomatic reasons.

- But the Bible also says he loved them, and that proved to be his downfall.
- They evangelized the king until he started to worship their gods.
- Love is good until it isn't. Until it turns our hearts away from the Lord.

The remedy: Give our whole heart to the true God:

- Every thought, belief, attitude, decision, word, and action (Romans 12:1).
- When we love God completely (Deut. 6:4-5), all other loves take their proper place as good gifts from God to enjoy, but not to worship.
- A good daily prayer would be: "Lord, I give you my whole heart today. Help me to love, worship, and follow you above all."

STEP TWO: GIVE UP YOUR FALSE GODS - verses 4-8

Misguided tolerance and disordered love led Solomon into idolatry.

- He "followed" (verse 5) the "abhorrent" gods and goddesses. He ignored:

Exodus 20:3-5 (CSB) Do not have other gods besides me. 4 Do not make an idol for yourself... 5 Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them...

Why did the wisest man in the world cave in to such obvious sin?

- Their gods promised so much that could help Solomon lead the nation: rain, crops, protection, and power.
- Solomon added the false gods for insurance.

The only way to be loyal to the one true God is to:

- Be diligent and discerning to identify the idols in our lives. Then, be disciplined and dedicated to reject them.
- “If there is anything you would not give up for God, it is your idol.” — Charles H. Spurgeon.
- We must be ruthless. Declare: “I am new in Christ. I’m not going back to my old life. I reject every idol. I give myself fully to the Lord.”
- Stoke your heart with love for Jesus until every idol feels worthless.

STEP THREE: GIVE THOUGHT TO CONSEQUENCES - verses 9-13

One commentary on this passage explains God’s response:

- Of all the sins recorded in Scripture, God takes idolatry the most seriously, for no other sin has the capability of wrecking the entire covenant by itself. When this sin is committed, God acts swiftly, justly, and redemptively... (New American Commentary on 1 Kings 11:9-13).

God still disciplines his children (Hebrews 12).

- He does what it takes to get our attention and get us back on track.
- He’ll let hard times, sickness, and loss shake us free from sin.
- Give thought to the consequences of turning to false gods.

GOOD NEWS IN 1 KINGS 11

God promised to preserve David's line until Jesus Christ.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Use any or all of the following questions to guide your group's conversation about Sunday's sermon.

Observation

In 1 Kings 11:1–3, what reasons does the passage give for Solomon's heart being turned away from the Lord? What details stand out to you?

Read 1 Kings 11:4–8. What actions show that Solomon's problem had moved beyond private compromise into public leadership and influence?

In 1 Kings 11:9, God reminds Solomon that he appeared to him twice. What does that tell us about the seriousness of Solomon's choices?

Interpretation

Solomon was exceptionally wise, blessed, successful, and spiritually privileged—yet his heart became divided. What does his story suggest about why these are not enough to keep a person faithful over a lifetime?

The sermon says Solomon did not abandon God; he “added” other gods as insurance. What are some ways we may try to trust God while also looking somewhere else for ultimate security, control, approval, or comfort?

Application

What are some concrete practices that could help someone notice when a habit, relationship, or desire is beginning to become a controlling idol?

Solomon's choices affected more than Solomon; they shaped the nation he led. In what ways do our repeated choices influence the people who watch us most closely—children, spouses, friends, coworkers, or fellow believers?

Personal Reflection

Peter's suggested prayer was, “Lord, I give you my whole heart today.” What part of your daily routine—morning, workday, evening, spending, phone use, or relationships—would most change if you prayed and acted on that prayer consistently?