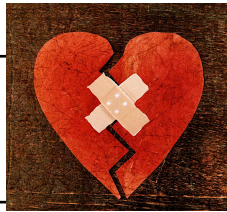


# A Divided HEART

*“9 The Lord was very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. 10 He had warned Solomon specifically about worshiping other gods, but Solomon did not listen to the Lord’s command.” 1 Kings 11:9-10 NLT*



- How is your heart spiritually? Is it divided in loyalty, or is it fully devoted to God?

The Book of 1 Kings is a story about the consequences of a divided heart. It teaches us the vital life lesson that our hearts must be fully devoted to God because a divided heart leads to problems, pain, and possible ruin.

When King Solomon was fully devoted to God, he and Israel prospered with God’s blessing. Later, his heart and loyalty were divided between God and self-indulging pleasure, and life fell apart. The Bible says, *“1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh’s daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites.” 3 He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines...4 In Solomon’s old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God, as his father, David, had been.”* (1 Kings 11:1, 3-4 NLT).

Solomon’s divided heart between God and the pleasures of the world led to a split in his kingdom. Ultimately, it resulted in Israel’s downfall and captivity to pagan world nations. In the New Testament, Jesus gives a warning concerning divided loyalties and a divided heart: *“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”* (Matthew 6:24 NLT). We must be fully devoted to God. *Is your heart divided or fully devoted to God?*

## Key Word: “HEART”

1. The book gives examples of those whose hearts turned away from following the Lord fully (11:2-4, 9; 15:3).
2. The book indicates the importance of a heart fully devoted to the Lord (2:4; 8:61; 9:3-5; 18:37).
3. The book gives examples of God blessing those whose heart was fully devoted to the Lord (3:6; 8:23, 48; 12:26-27; 15:14).
4. Solomon requested for his heart to have God’s understanding so he could properly follow the Lord and rule over Israel (3:9, 12; 10:24).
5. The book indicates that God knows the spiritual condition of everyone’s heart (8:38-39).

## Central Lesson

God Blesses A Heart Fully DEVOTED to Him.

**Title:** 1 and 2 Kings originally were one book called “Kings.” The Septuagint divided the book into two books because the Greek language took more space on a scroll than required for Hebrew. The Book of Kings gets its

name from its primary subject—the kings of Israel and Judah from Solomon’s time to the Babylonian exile.

**Author:** The author of 1 Kings is uncertain, but it is believed to be the prophet **Jeremiah**. Jewish tradition recorded in the Talmud indicated Jeremiah as the author. The style of the book is that of a prophet. It stressed the idolatry and immorality of Israel and the subsequent judgment of God. Also, it is similar in style to the book of Jeremiah (2 Kings 24:18-25:30 is similar to Jeremiah 52).

**Date:** Approximately 550 B.C.

**Outline** of 1 Kings:

- I. **The United Kingdom (Chapters 1-11)**
  - A. Solomon’s Rise & Wisdom (Chapters 1-3)
  - B. Solomon’s Reign & Wealth (Chapters 4-10)
  - C. Solomon’s Ruin & Wickedness (Chapter 11)
- II. **The Divided Kingdom (Chapters 12-22)**
  - A. The Rupture of the Kingdom (12)
  - B. The Reign of the Kings (13-22)

**Key Verses:** 1 Kings 11:9-13

God foretells of Israel’s 12 tribes splitting into the Northern and Southern Kingdoms because Solomon’s heart is divided in his loyalty to God.

**Question:** *Did Solomon turn back to God?* Since Solomon is believed to be the author of the book of Ecclesiastes, we read of his search for meaning in life. Eventually, he concluded that life has no meaning apart from a personal relationship with God. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 indicates that he turned back to God sometime before his death.

**Key Chapters:** 1 Kings 11 and 12.

**Chapter 11** records Solomon taking foreign wives, and *“they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God, as his father, David, had been.”* (1 Kings 11:4). His downfall resulted from his divided heart.

**Chapter 12** records Rehoboam (re-ho-bo-am), Solomon’s son, causing a split between the 12 tribes of Israel. Ten tribes formed the **Northern Kingdom**, with its capital in **Samaria**. Judah and Benjamin formed the **Southern kingdom**, keeping **Jerusalem** as their capital. *How is your heart spiritually? Is it divided in loyalty, or is it fully devoted to God? Will you give God all of your heart?*

**Scope:** 1 Kings covers the 120-year history of Israel from Solomon’s reign in 971 B.C. through the reign of Ahaziah’s (a-ha-za-ah) in 851 B.C. Three critical dates in Israel’s history are:

1. **931 B.C.**, the year **the 12 Tribes of Israel split** into the Northern and Southern kingdoms.
2. **722 B.C.**, the year Israel (Northern kingdom) was defeated and taken into **captivity by the Assyrians**.
3. **586 B.C.**, the year Judah (the Southern kingdom) was defeated and taken into **captivity by Babylon**.

## Central Lesson

God Blesses A Heart Fully Devoted to Him.

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.