

¹King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter— Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. ²They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, “You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.”

Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. ³He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. ⁴As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

⁵He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁶So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done.

⁷On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁸He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

⁹The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. ¹⁰Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command.

¹¹So the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.

¹²Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

¹³Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.”

What went wrong?



What went wrong?

The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.

Severe consequences



Living amongst non-believers

- Old ways need updating?
- Best to fit in...
- Learn from other belief systems?
- God's not inflexible and awkward...
- Isn't [insert here] just a fun hobby?

The dangers of “Jesus and...”

Dilution

Divergence

Division

Solomon: Dilution

Solomon, however, **loved many foreign women** besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites



Solomon: Divergence

His heart was **not fully devoted** to the Lord...

He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites



Solomon: Divergence

Ahijah ... said to Jeroboam ... 'See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand and give you ten tribes.



Us: Dilution



57%



37.5%

Us: Divergence

Are we **shaping** or **being shaped**?

What is our **motivation**:

- God-centred?
- Man-centred?

Is the **main thing** still the main thing?

Us: Division



To do list:

- Look inward and **reflect**
- Fellowship and **accountability**
- **Love** one another

Ray of hope...

