

# Character Sketch

SOLOMON

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Solomon

*The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:1-3)*

This is Solomon's life experience summed up in just three simple verses. Unfortunately, many Christians look back on what activities their time, energy and money were spent, asking this same question. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

Solomon's life was filled with nobility, humility, honor, integrity, wisdom and yet his desires and foolish pride led to probably one of the greatest tragedies. Why are we so surprised, that just as every other, this tragedy begins with compromise? (1 Kings 3:1)

Some commentators have stated that "the wisdom for which Solomon is so celebrated was not of a very high order; it was nothing more than practical shrewdness..." With this I must disagree. I believe that Solomon was sincere, and that God, recognizing this sincerity gave him "a wise and an understanding heart"(1 Kings 3:12). But just like so many others, the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16) influenced his thought process. This inevitably influenced his decisions and actions.

He begins in the right direction, desiring the sincere milk and seeking the things that were pleasing unto the Lord (1 Kings 3:9-10). However, just as Solomon stated himself, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof" (Ecclesiastes 7:8)

As I read Psalms 127, I realized even more so that Solomon knew the value and the responsibility we have to our children. And nevertheless, we see the results of his actions, his legacy revealed, in Rehoboam. Josephus has stated that Rehoboam was a proud and foolish man, and that he "despised the worship of God, till the people themselves imitated his wicked actions" This was the end of the matter! Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. (Ecclesiastes 12:8)

*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24*

# Bibliography

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