

1st Kings

11:4 When Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and he was not wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his God, as his father David had been.



1 Kings 1-11 – Solo Solomon

1 Kings 12-14 – Rebellious Rehoboam

1 Kings 15-17 – Asa's Ascendancy

1 Kings 18 – Elijah's Exhibition

**1 Kings 19 – Elijah's Escape
& Exit**



Solomon Writing Proverbs
by Gustave Doré (1832-83)
in *Bible Illustrations*



Alternate Title

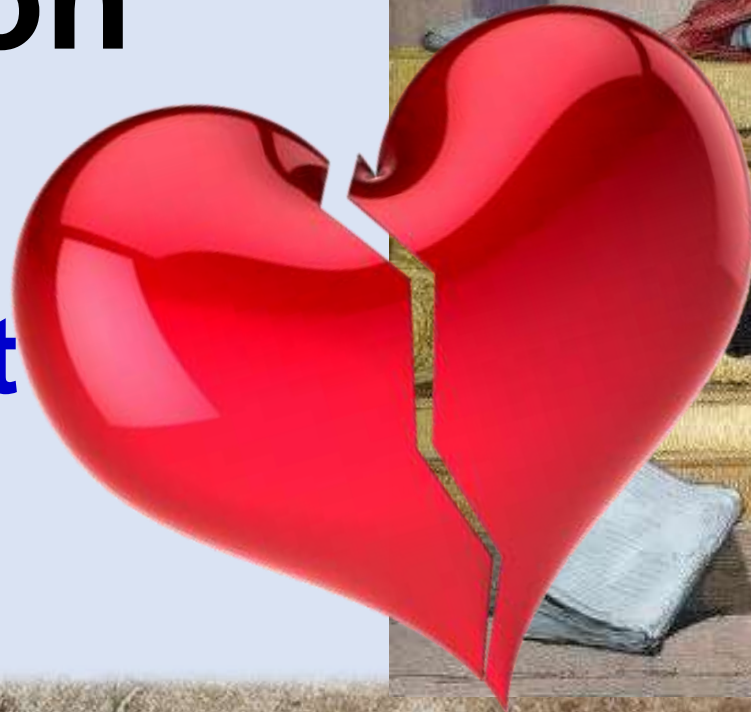
**Having Everything
Yet
Losing the Best**



Alternate Title #2

The Tragedy of Solo Solomon


**Man who Had
EVERYTHING but
True Love**



**Greece
Hellás**

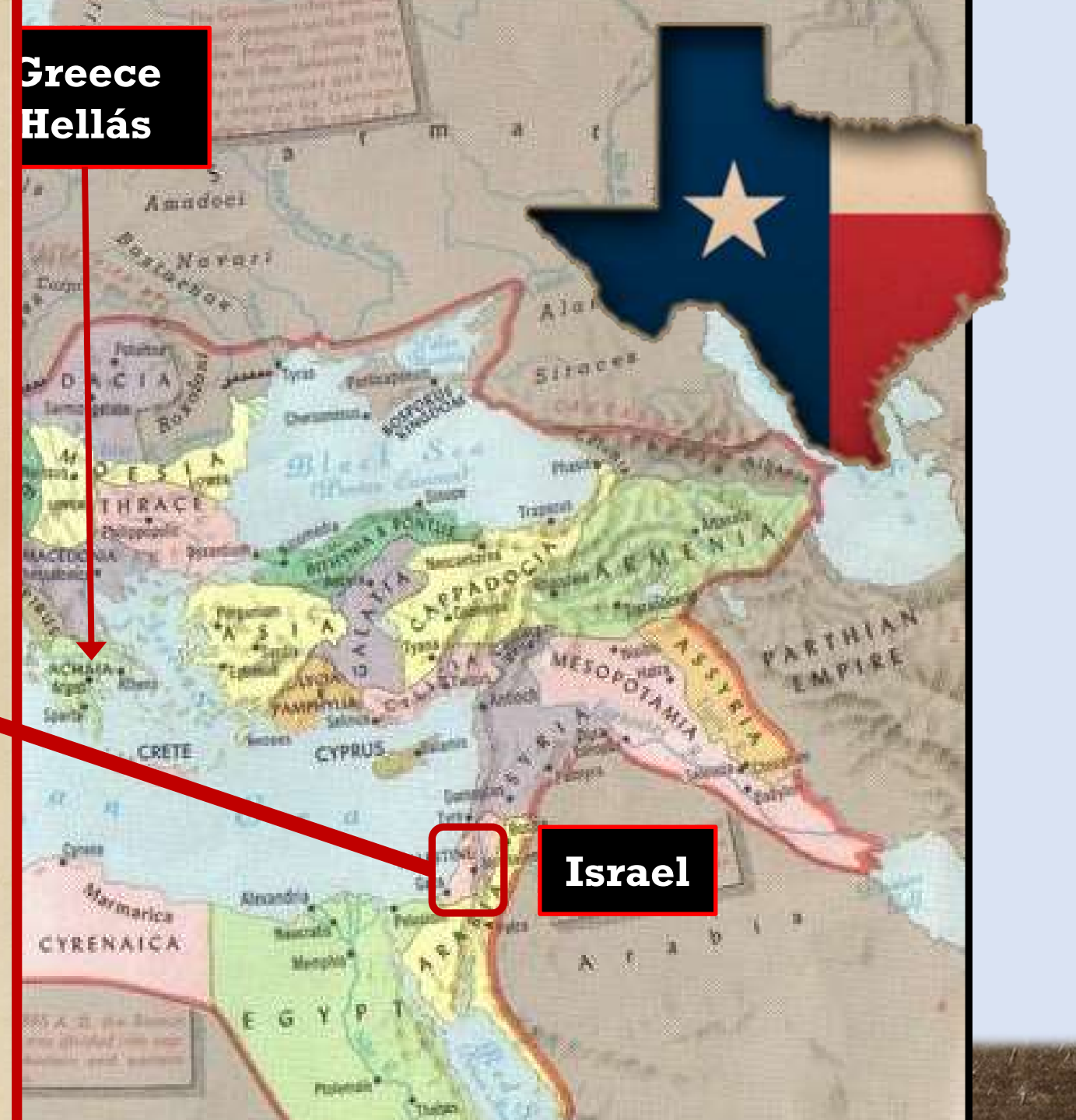
Rome

Israel


**THE ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT
c. 107 A.D.**

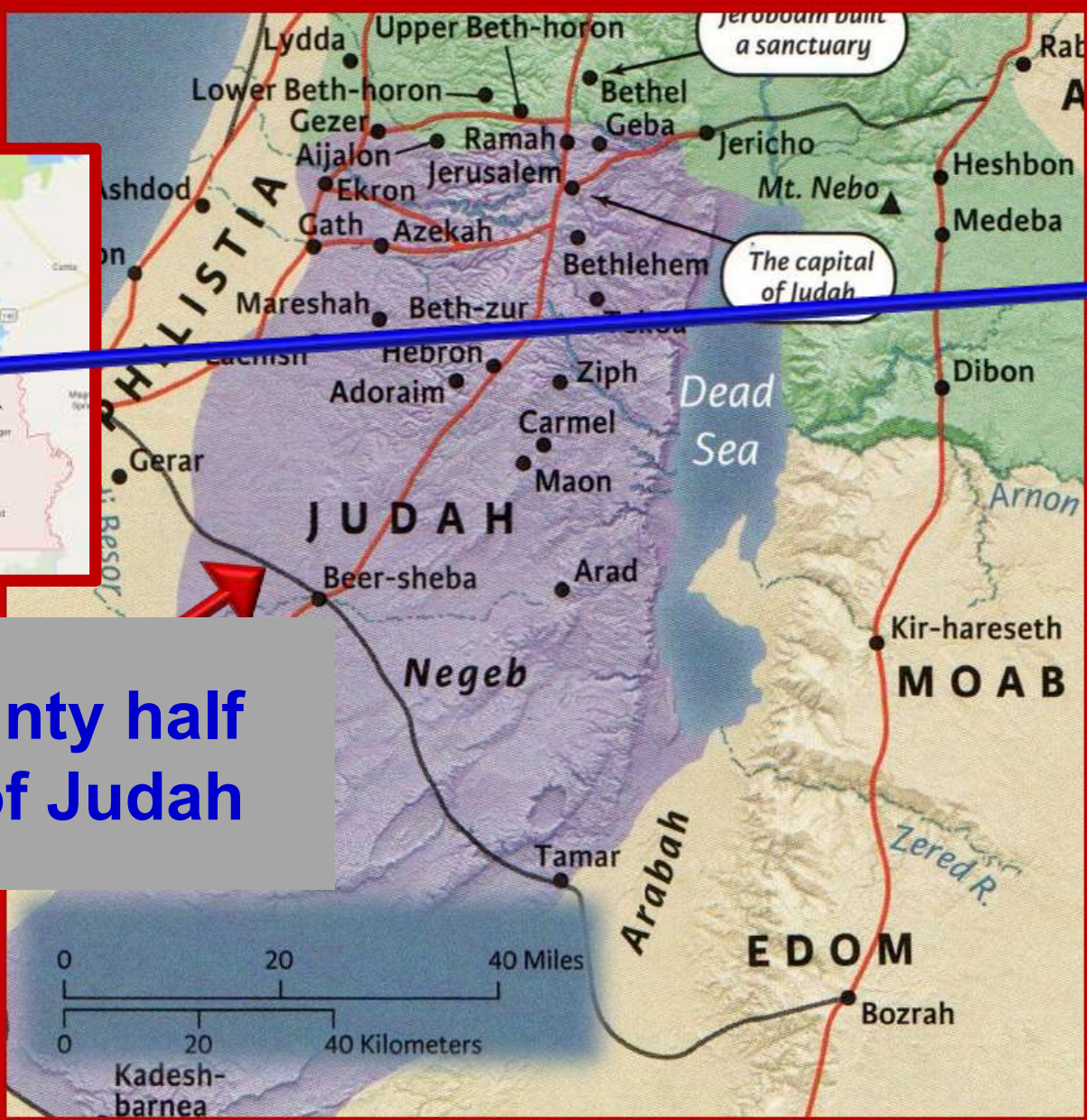
600 Miles







Tyler County half
the size of Judah



Israel

Garrison Keillor

One of the greatest story tellers ...

Letter from Jim ~ 12 mins

World Theater, St. Paul, MN 8-20-83

Keillor gets a LETTER from an old friend
from Lake Wobegon

Dr. Norborg ... Philosophy Professor

Lost job in cut back ... Took Job in Admissions

Contemplates trip with female coworker

One of cleanest stories of *almost* adultery & redemption

Solomon never knew that kind of devotion ... True Love

What Solomon
Never Had



1 Kings 1-11 = History of Solomon

a very brief history of his 40 years ...

Résumé is usually two pages ... very brief summary

Vitae (Latin for “course of life”) Webster defines as:

“a short account of one's career and qualifications prepared typically by an applicant for a position”

If you go to any major university and look up a **Tenured Professor**

His or her Vitae will be 10-30+ pages long ... listing **ALL** the positions held, books written, and the 50-200 papers written

1 Kings 1-11 ... is Solo Solomon's **SHORT Vitae** ...

chapter

1 King David is old, son Adonijah conspires, Bathsheba to King & secures Solomon as King



chapter

2 David charges Solomon, “I am about to go the way of all the earth ... be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: walk in his ways ... KEEP ...

Solomon sends Benaiah,
One of David’s Mighty Men,
to Kill Adonijah ...
few years later Shimei is killed

**Benaiah Killing Man of Moab
1829 by William Etty**



chapter

3 Solomon asks for Wisdom ... God pleased ...

Solomon judges between two mothers ...



**Solomon Judges
Two Mothers by
Gaspar de Crayer, c. 1620**

chapter

3:10

“I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has never been nor will ever be another like you.”



4 Solomon's court detailed, [Mighty Man] Benaiah over army ...

> > > Peace of Solomon from Euphrates to Israel's coast

Solomon's wisdom greater than all in the East & in Egypt

chapter

BEFORE 1 Kings 11 ... Solomon & Wives

4 Solomon's Wisdom ...

**4:32 Solomon composed 3,000 proverbs,
and his songs numbered 1,005.**

**4:33 He spoke of trees ... animals, birds,
reptiles, and fish.**

**4:34 So men of all nations came to listen to
Solomon's wisdom, sent by
all the kings of the earth,
who had heard of his wisdom.**



chapter

BEFORE 1 Kings 11 ... Solomon and Wives

5 & 6 Solomon Builds Great Temple in Jerusalem

**7 Solomon Builds
lavish Palace ...
parts of it like Egypt**

**8 & 9 Ark of Covenant to Temple ...
Blesses All ... 20 years**



chapter

BEFORE 1 Kings 11 ... Solomon and Wives

10 Queen of Sheba visits Solomon ...

10:10 She gave the king 120 talents of gold = 4.5 Tons!

Great quantity of spices, and precious stones.

Never again was such an abundance of spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

666 Talents of Gold came to Solomon EVERY YEAR = 24 Tons!

**NOT including revenue from merchants, traders, governors
gold & silver everywhere ... had 1,400 Chariots & 12,000 Horses**

60 Minas to 1 Talent = Heavy Talent 145.5 lbs, Light Talent 72.5 lbs

666 Talents x 72.5 lbs = 48,285 lbs ~ Gold \$1,824 oz June 2022

Gold \$29,184 per lb ... then 666 Talents = \$1,409,149,440 a YEAR !



BEFORE 1 Kings 11 ... Solomon and Wives

Nothing was out of his reach **NOTHING**

1 Kings lists many items he had made of gold

Doubtlessly ... the Temple was extravagant

**He made Chariot Cities ... and appointed governors
outside of the normal tribal allotments**

1 Kings said he had 1,400 Chariots & 12,000 Horses

**10:24 The whole world sought an audience with Solomon
to hear the wisdom that God had put in his heart.**

10:25 Year after year, each visitor would bring his tribute ...

Nothing was out of his reach ...

Solomon was the Richest Wisest **EVER**



BEFORE 1 Kings 11 ... Solomon and Wives
Nothing was out of his reach ...

AS the richest wisest EVER ... we know a LOT

We do NOT see him going insane ...

We do NOT see him abusing his power ...

Chapter 10 ... see a Splendid Economy ...

Chapter 11 reveals another obsession ...

Wise as he was ... Rich as he was ...

He FORGOT where he came from ... forgot WHO made him wise
and ... he ... became ... infatuated with



1 Kings 11 ... Solomon and his Wives

WOMEN

1 Kings 11: 1-3

King Solomon ... loved MANY Foreign Women from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must NOT intermarry with them..."

Nevertheless, Solomon HELD FAST to them in LOVE

He had 700 Wives of royal birth & 300 Concubines, and

his wives led him astray



MERCY



1 Kings 11

Nothing was out of his reach ...

Foreign Women stole his heart ...

We see him catering to **ALL OF THEM**

So much is missing here ...

**11:5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians,
and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites.**

Then we are told of something unthinkable to an Israelite

**11:7 On 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.**



1 Kings 11

Then ... the coup de grace ...

**11:8 He did the SAME for ALL his foreign wives,
who burned incense and
offered sacrifices to their gods.**



\$Billion a Year ... Could Afford it ... How WISE was Solomon?

Apparently NOT wise enough to see God's Displeasure

11:9-10 ... God gets angry with Solomon ...

**For the New Testament Christian ... impossible to NOT SEE
God is not AS angry at 700 wives AS MUCH AS ... Disloyalty**

God's Singular Heart ~ 1 Kings 11:9-12

God overlooked a LOT with David ...

But David's HEART ... ALWAYS looked to God

11:9 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.

11:11 So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since ... you have not kept
my covenant ... I will ... tear the kingdom away from you ...

11:12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father,
I will not do it during your lifetime.



Solo Solomon's Great **Wisdom**

His wisdom placed him above ALL

His great wisdom made for EASY Solutions

His great wisdom made for easy sleep ... I guess

His great wealth meant the absence of hard computing ...

Absence of Hard Thinking

He never ... ever ... knew **the sleep** after *exhausting* study

He never ... ever ... knew **the sleep** after solving a *great* equation

He never ... ever ... knew **the sleep** after working a *tough* dilemma

Where is his school annual ... Work Mates

He wrote 3,000 proverbs, 1,005 songs ... yet he was alone, **SOLO**



Solo Solomon's Great **Wealth**

His wealth set him apart ... above ... beyond

His great wealth made for soft hands

His great wealth made for easy sleep ... I guess

His great wealth meant the absence of labor ...

Absence of Labor All His Life

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* after a long day of hard work

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* after paying a long debt

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* after the rescue from sacrifice

Where is his peer ... his best friend?

He had more Gold than anyone ... yet he was alone, **SOLO**



Solo Solomon's Many **Wives**

His many wives set him apart ... alone

His many wives made for soft virtue

His many wives kept him from ONE Wife ... I guess

His many wives meant the absence of intimacy with **ONE**



Absence of Singular Devotion

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* of a life-long LOVE

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* of a wholesome confidante

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* of a growing-old togetherness

What was his WIFE's Name?

Knew MANY women ... **never had a WIFE** ... he was alone, **SOLO**

Solo Solomon's Many **Gods**

His many wives led away from HOME

Many Gods he honored pulled from THE God

His many gods kept from ONE GOD ... *no doubt*

His many gods meant an absence of intimacy with the **ONE GOD**



Absence of Singular Devotion

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* of a life-long LOVE of God

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* of a wholesome divine confidante

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* of a growing-old togetherness

He Knew God's Name – Forgot the Person

Knew MANY gods ... *rarely the One GOD* ... he was alone, **SOLO**

Solo Solomon's Great **WEALTH**

Many **WIVES** ... Many **GODS** ...

God's Great Gifts ... became Solomon's Curse

Solomon was Sought by Many

Yet Solomon SOUGHT ... WHAT? ... Accomplished for OTHERS

What He Could Not for Himself

His *never* knew the sleep of a life-long singular LOVE

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* of a wholesome confidante

He never ... ever ... knew *the sleep* of a growing-old togetherness

He Knew God's Name – but he **FORGOT** the Person

Knew MANY gods ... *rarely the One GOD* ... he was alone, **SOLO**



God's Singular Heart ~ 1 Kings 11:9-12

**11:12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father,
I will not do it during your lifetime.**

We are told how it began BEFORE Solomon died.

11:14-25 – Hadad the Edomite and Rezon

**11:26-40 – Jeroboam the Ephraimite whom Solomon
had promoted ... then tried to KILL ... flees to Egypt**

United Kingdom is threatened ... Solomon has enemies

And we wonder about all the intrigue that could fill volumes

So Very Much is Missing



God's Singular Heart ~ 1 Kings 11:9-12

**11:41 As for the other events of Solomon's reign—
all he did and the wisdom he displayed—are they
not written in the book of the annals of Solomon?**

**Not merely Solomon's Vitae ... same phrase appears in
1 Kings 14:29, 15:7, 15:23, 22:46; 2 Kings 8:23 & 12:20**

not written in the book of the annals JUDEA

**1 Kings 14:18 & 15:31 outline Jeroboam & Nadav then refer to the
book of the annals of the kings of ISRAEL**

So Very Much Missing



God's Singular Heart ~ 1 Kings 11:9-12

**42 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over
all Israel 40 years.**

**43 Then he rested with his ancestors and was
buried in the city of David his father.**

And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.

**Solo Solomon ... laid to rest ... and the Kingdom Divides
Of Solomon's 3,000 Proverbs and 1,005 Songs ... goodness**

**We have Psalm 72 ... which is a prayer ... seemingly written while
he was young in life praying the good king will Bless ALL**



God's Singular Heart ~ 1 Kings 11:9-12

We have Song of Solomon on the Glories of Sex
he certainly had plenty of experience ...

We have Ecclesiastes ... written in old age ...

Ecc 1:1 begins with “**Meaningless**” praises **Wisdom**
... then **Pleasures** ... then **Toil** ... **MEANINGLESS**

Ecc 3 – **Time for Everything Under the Sun**

Ecc 4 – **Oppression MEANINGLESS**

**4:9 Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor**



God's Singular Heart ~ 1 Kings 11:9-12

Ecc 5 & 6 – Riches are MEANINGLESS

5:1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God.

Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice

30+ verses of 5 & 6 on the meaninglessness of Riches

Ecc 7 on virtues of wisdom ... closing with this sad note

**7:28-29 “I found one upright man among a thousand,
but not one upright woman among them all.**

**²⁹ This only have I found: God created mankind upright,
but they have gone in search of many schemes**



**700
Wives**

Ecc 8 – Obey the King ... MEANINGLESS Injustice

**8:14 There is something else meaningless ...
the righteous who get what the wicked deserve,
and the wicked who get what the righteous deserve.**

This too, I say, is meaningless.

8:16 When I applied my mind to know wisdom ...

8:17 then I saw all that God has done.

No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun.

**Despite all their efforts to search it out,
no one can discover its meaning.**

**Even if the wise claim they know,
they cannot really comprehend it.**



Solo Solomon

All the **W i s d o m** ... in the *world*

All the **W e a l t h** ... in the *world*

All the **W o m e n** ... in the *world*

Wiseest Man who ever lived ... concluded his life

8:17 No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun.

Rather ... Solo Solomon's **L I F E** given to us in 1 Kings 1-11

tells us ALL – **with a Divided Devotion or Without God**

ALL of Life is Meaningless

