

Solomon – The Man Who Did It All!

Wealth, power, fame, women – Solomon had it all and tried it all.

What were the results of his experiments?

What can we learn from his life?

The nation Solomon ruled controlled, during his lifetime, the strategic trade routes, [1 Kings 9:26-28] bringing to him gold, silver, precious gems, the finest things available from around the world.

Some of his wealth Solomon used to build incredible buildings which would be worth more than five billion pounds today.

Solomon had maids, servants and his own entertainers, exclusively for his own comfort and enjoyment, [Ecclesiastes 2:4-8].

Solomon had many gorgeous women, [1 Kings 11:1, 3] he married many of the most beautiful women of his time.

Solomon was powerful, successful and he could do, and did, whatever he wished, [Ecclesiastes 2:10].

The record of Solomon's experiences are recorded in God's Word, the Christian Bible, so we can learn how to experience success in our lives by **not** making the mistakes that he did.

What can we glean from Solomon's life story?

Realise that life is not always equal and fair –

Solomon showed how life has its twists and turns. Many times those who deserve to "get ahead" don't always get there.

Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 [New King James] *"I returned and saw under the sun that, the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favour to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all. For man also does not know his time: like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them."*

Too many people waste time wallowing in self-pity. They think it is not fair.

Solomon tells us that sometimes we have to accept life for what it brings to us.

Philippians 4:11-12 [New King James] *"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."*

Paul whose life was very painful at times, because of the message he had been commissioned by Jesus Christ to preach, learnt how to be content, the key was shown us in **verse 13**.

Realise humans are not happy as loners –

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 [New King James] *"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he*

falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Solomon talked over and over again how important it is to have close friendships that promote positive growth.

To just live for yourself and not be able to share with others was a waste of your life, [Ecclesiastes 9:9].

Realise we need to enjoy the work that we do –

Ecclesiastes 2:24 [NIV] *“A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God,”*

Our work should be something we enjoy and find satisfaction in, not a great burden.

Solomon tells us about two extremes that many people unfortunately experience.

One is those who work only for the money they earn, **not** enjoying their work, usually *“square pegs in round holes.”* They live **only** for the weekend, their vacations and even for their retirement. When they stop working and then *“live.”*

The other is the people who are workaholics.

Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 [NIV] *“Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. ‘For whom am I toiling,’ he asked, ‘and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?’ This too is meaningless, a miserable business!”*

Such people have not learnt to relax and enjoy what their labour has earned them.

Realise that our physical life is short –

Ecclesiastes 6:12 [New King James] *“For who knows what is good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow? Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?”*

Life is like a shadow that soon passes, so we are not to waste it.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 [New King James] *“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”*

Be a 100% person.

Ecclesiastes 11:4, 6 [New King James] *“He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.” ... “In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”*

Do **not** be put off by any bad times that you may experience.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 [New King James] *“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.”*

Solomon tells young people to enjoy the days of their youth for they will soon pass.

Realise, above all, that to have a meaningful life, you have to obey your Creator God –

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 [New King James] *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*

Solomon tells us if we want a life that is satisfying and purposeful we have to obey what our Creator God has told us in the Christian Bible.

Even if it is difficult at times, it is still better in the long run to live God’s way of life, [**Ecclesiastes 8:12**].

Only if God is directing our lives will our efforts be worthwhile.

Why not learn from the man who experienced more in His life than anyone else ever could, for this was recorded for us to learn from.