

Chapter 60: Solomon's Magnificence—His Sad End

Commentary for Chapter 60

The First Commandment: Sins against faith. It causes real pain to read that a man so gifted with grace as Solomon could have fallen so low. Look back and think what he was at the dedication of the Temple, and how he cast himself on his knees and prayed so beautifully to the ever present God; and then think of his becoming indifferent about the worship of the true God, of his building temples to the false gods of his wives, and of his tolerating idolatry! It is impossible for us to conceive that Solomon ever believed in and worshipped idols himself; but it is certain that, for the sake of his heathen wives and against his own convictions, he sanctioned idolatry and even enforced it! By so doing he denied his faith and offended his people. Thus he sinned both by being indifferent about the true faith and by denying it.

Happiness and riches are dangerous. Trials are wholesome. Solomon's sad fall shows us how difficult it is to fear God and persevere in good in the midst of happiness, riches, honors and pleasures. Those with whom everything goes well love the world and earthly possessions, forget the end for which they were made, cease to love God and often lose belief in Him and His revelation. This is why God, in His merciful wisdom, sends us sufferings, so as to prevent our being arrogant and forgetful of God and His holy Commandments. These sufferings sent are real benefits to us and are a proof of the love which God has for our immortal souls, and of the desire He has to draw us to heaven "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth" (Hebr. 12, 6).

Solomon, the thirteenth figure of Jesus Christ. Solomon was also a figure of Jesus Christ, but in a different way from the preceding ones. While for instance Abel, Noe, Isaac, Joseph, Job, Moses and David were figures of the suffering Redeemer, in Solomon we find a figure of the glorified Redeemer. His very name, signifying peace, presents him to us as a figure of Him who is the true Prince of Peace. By his wonderful wisdom Solomon was a faint figure of Him "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2, 3). Likewise the riches of Solomon point to the immeasurable riches of grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Solomon built the Temple of strong and well-hewn stones: Jesus Christ founded the spiritual temple, the Church, on the rock of Peter and on the Apostles, making it one united whole. The queen of Saba came to Solomon, to testify her reverence for him, and load him with presents : to our Lord came the three Magi from the East to adore Him and offer Him costly gifts. Solomon, seated in majesty on his lofty and magnificent throne, ruled over many nations. Jesus Christ, raised on the throne of heaven and sitting at the right hand of God the Father, rules with divine majesty over all the nations of the earth and over the whole host of heaven.

Questions to be Answered Using the Bible History Book:

1. Describe Solomon's throne.

2. Of what were the vessels out of which the king drank and the king's furniture made?

3. Why wasn't any account made of silver in the days of Solomon?

4. Who came to see Solomon's magnificence and to hear his wisdom?

5. What sinful things did Solomon do to please the foreign women he married?

6. What did God promise would happen to Solomon's kingdom in punishment for his sins?

7. What does the sad end of Solomon teach us?

Questions to be Answered Using the Commentary:

8. In what two ways did Solomon sin against faith?

(1) _____

(2) _____

9. Why does God, in His merciful wisdom, send us sufferings sometimes?

10. Name three ways in which Solomon is a figure of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____