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# Solomon’s Decline
# First Kings 11: 1-42



As Paul House relates in his commentary on **First** and **Second Kings**, one final assessment of **Solomon** now appears. Unlike the earlier ones, this account lays bare the faults and frailties of this brilliant man. Those failings affected **the king himself**, of course, but they affected **the nation** even more. So far, the people had certainly worked hard and had enjoyed material success that their **leader’s wisdom** had brought them. They seemed to have remained faithful to **ADONAI**, at least in part because of the presence of the Temple. Like their **king**, **Isra’el** was riding the crest of power and influence previously unknown. To be sure, hints of problems appear in the text, yet such potential difficulties appear to be annoyances, not threats.

Unfortunately, the plot takes a tragic turn. **Solomon** and **Isra’el** had risen to great heights only to fall into idolatry, division, decay, and ultimately, exile. So begins the story of decline. Each stage of deterioration is made all the more regrettable because it could have been avoided. Covenant faithfulness would have allowed the covenant people blessing and safety, but their disobedience left **Ha’Shem** no alternative except to discipline. **Solomon’s** sin may have begun small. It may have developed gradually over time. But however it started, it began a national disintegration that was at times slowed, but never completely halted.[214]

It is important to note that **the Chronicler** omitted a large part of **First Kings 11:1-42**. This portion of **Kings** reports **Solomon’s** failures and the resulting

division of **his kingdom**. **The Chronicler's** purpose in omitting these materials was not to deny **Solomon's** failures, but to create an ideal model for **his** post-exilic readers. For this reason, **Chronicles** moves directly from **Solomon's** worldwide fame to the notice of **his death** (**to see link click Ca – Solomon's Death**).

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for **Your** great love that rescues those who love **You** from sin's grip when they turn to you confessing* You *as their **Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9-10).** Praise **You** for **Your** love that goes beyond initial salvation, to a love that desires to bless me by both living within me **(John 14:23)** and by rewarding me for making right choices with a godly heart attitude **(First Corinthians 3:12-13)**.*

*May you give me the spiritual clarity to see that dabbling in a small sin is a step closer to falling into deeper, more serious, sin. May I meditate on **Your** holiness so often that I don't want to disappoint **You**. May I recognize that the future in heaven is for eternity. Problems will soon be no more. **For I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).** All of life's issues – the hard times and the good times will be no more. The most important thing that will last thru eternity will be my relationship with **You**! I love **You** so much! May my thoughts and actions bring **You** joy. In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*