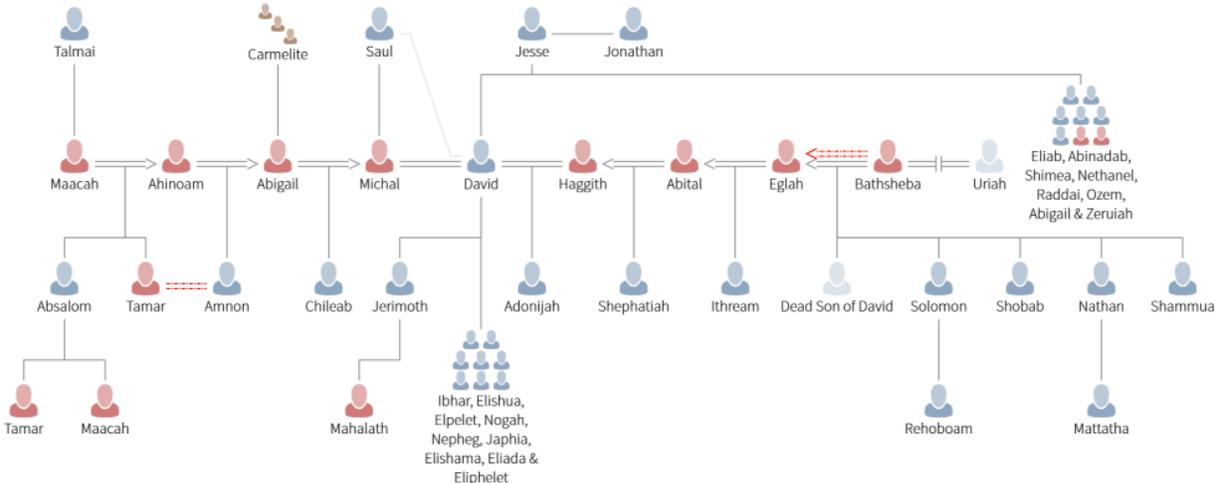


# Discouraged Lesson 5 – Solomon – Nothing Satisfies

**Matthew 22:37-40**

**And [Jesus] said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."**



**1 Kings 3:6-14** Then Solomon said, "You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern

**between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"**

**It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you. I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days. If you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days."**

**Deuteronomy 8:17–18 (AMP)**

**<sup>17</sup> And beware lest you say in your [mind and] heart, My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. <sup>18</sup> But you shall [earnestly] remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.**

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**Ecclesiastes 1:1-11**

**The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."**

**What advantage does man have in all his work which he does under the sun? A generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. Also, the sun rises**

**and the sun sets; and hastening to its place it rises there again. Blowing toward the south, then turning toward the north, the wind continues swirling along; and on its circular courses the wind returns. All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they flow again. All things are wearisome; man is not able to tell it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor is the ear filled with hearing. That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one might say, "See this, it is new"? Already it has existed for ages which were before us. There is no remembrance of earlier things; and also of the later things which will occur, there will be for them no remembrance among those who will come later still.**

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**Thomas Edison said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."**

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### **Ecclesiastes 2:1-11**

**I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself." And behold, it too was futility. I said of laughter, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?" I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives. I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves and I had homeborn slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and**

**the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines. Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.**

### **1 Kings 11 (AMP)**

**<sup>1</sup> BUT KING Solomon [defiantly] loved many foreign women—the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites. <sup>2</sup> They were of the very nations of whom the Lord said to the Israelites, You shall not mingle with them, neither shall they mingle with you, for surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods. Yet Solomon clung to these in love. <sup>3</sup> He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines, and his wives turned away his heart from God.**

**<sup>4</sup> For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not perfect (complete and whole) with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. <sup>5</sup> For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abominable idol of the Ammonites! <sup>6</sup> Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as David his father did. <sup>7</sup> Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abominable idol of Moab, on the hill opposite Jerusalem, and for Molech the abominable idol of the Ammonites. <sup>8</sup> And he did so for all of his foreign wives,**

who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. <sup>9</sup> And the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned from the Lord, the God of Israel, Who had appeared to him twice, <sup>10</sup> And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods, but he did not do what the Lord commanded.

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Hebrews 2:1 (AMP)

<sup>1</sup> **SINCE ALL** this is true, we ought to pay much closer attention than ever to the truths that we have heard, lest in any way we drift past [them] *and* slip away.

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Christian psychologist David G. Meyers came to this conclusion: The things which enable you to be happy are not how much money you make, or how many possessions you own, or whether you are highly educated, or whether you are old or young. Meyers has discovered that while per capita income in America more than doubled in real terms between 1957 and 1990, the number of Americans who reported being “very happy” remained the same – at one third.

The American Dream, defined in terms of material things, has become the American Nightmare, or at least a bad dream. Meyers concludes,

Never have we been so self-reliant, or so lonely.  
Never have we been so free, and our prisons so overstuffed.

Never have we had so much education, or such high rates of teen delinquency, despair and suicide.

Never have we been so sophisticated about pleasure, or so likely to suffer broken or miserable marriages. [p. 178]

**Eccl. 12:13 "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person."**

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**French author, Guy de Maupassant was one of the greatest writers of short stories the world has ever known. Within ten years he rose from relative obscurity to fame. Just what he thought he'd always wanted. His material possessions showed a life of affluence...a yacht in the Mediterranean, a large house on the Norman coast, a luxurious apartment in Paris. It was said of him that "Critics praised him, men admired him and women worshipped him." He had all the trappings of what the world would call the "fulfilled dream life." Yet at the height of his fame he went insane, brought on by what those close to him called a "Promiscuous lifestyle." On New Years Day in 1892, he tried to cut his own throat with a letter-opener, and lived out the last few weeks of his life in a private asylum on the French Riviera. He died at the age of forty-two, but before he went insane he prophetically wrote what was to be his epitaph. Guy de Maupassant wrote, "I have coveted everything and taken pleasure in nothing."**

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**Matthew 22:37-40**

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***The 19th-century Bible scholar G. S. Bowes pointed out the ultimate futility of ambition that isn't accompanied by dedication to God. Citing four powerful world rulers of the past, he wrote: "Alexander the Great was not satisfied, even when he had completely subdued the nations. He wept because there were no more worlds to conquer, and he died at an early age in a state of debauchery. Hannibal, who filled three bushels with the gold rings taken from the knights he had slaughtered, committed suicide by swallowing poison. Few noted his passing, and he left this earth completely unmourned. Julius Caesar, 'staining his garments in the blood of one million of his foes,' conquered 800 cities, only to be stabbed by his best friends at the scene of his greatest triumph. Napoleon, the feared conqueror, after being the scourge of Europe, spent his last years, in banishment." No wonder Solomon warned of the poor prospects for anyone who strives to succeed without relying on God. - H.G.B.***

**-C.S. Lewis: Hope means a continual looking forward to the eternal world. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. AIM AT HEAVEN AND YOU WILL GET EARTH 'THROWN IN.' AIM AT EARTH AND YOU WILL GET NEITHER. (Mere Christianity p. 110**

