



# God Punishes Solomon

1 Kings 11



## LESSON GOAL

Students will love God with all their hearts throughout their lives.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- List ways in which God had blessed Solomon's reign.
- Explain why God punished Solomon.
- Describe God's punishment for Solomon's sin.

## KEY VERSE

"For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David" (1 Kings 11:4).

## APPLICATION

- Repent of not loving the Lord with all your heart.
- Examine your life for areas where you are being disobedient.
- Pray that the Lord will deliver you from temptation.
- Admit your inability to love the Lord without His help.
- Watch for idols in your heart.

## NEXT WEEK

God Punishes Jeroboam  
Read 1 Kings 12:1–33; 14:1–18.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

#### Solomon’s Success (1 Kings 3:1–10:29)

Before his tragic fall into idolatry, Solomon had a reign marked by success. For the majority of his reign, Solomon had been a spiritual success. Both times he was visited by the Lord in a dream (once at the beginning of his reign and again after reigning 20 years), the Lord was pleased to grant Solomon’s request. The first time the Lord granted his request for wisdom (1 Kings 3:10–14), and the second time He answered Solomon’s prayer for Him to consecrate the temple (9:3). Both times the Lord had strong warnings for Solomon (3:14; 9:6–9), but neither time did He rebuke him for any sin. Solomon faithfully built the temple just as his father David had instructed him (1 Kings 5–7). His prayer offered at the dedication of the temple exhibited righteous humility and passion for God’s glory (1 Kings 8). When the temple was finished, Solomon continued to faithfully offer sacrifices there (9:25). The evaluation of Solomon in 1 Kings 3:3 could apply to much of his reign: “Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David.”

Solomon’s spiritual success led to success in every area of his reign. He was famed for the wisdom that God had given to him (1 Kings 3:16–28; 4:29–34). The queen of Sheba was only one of the many dignitaries who came to hear Solomon’s wisdom (4:34; 10:1–13). Solomon’s reign was distinguished by unprecedented peace as foreign nations paid him tribute (4:21, 24–25). The Lord had given Solomon not only honor, but also riches (3:13). Solomon was distinguished by the number of horses, horsemen, and chariots he owned (4:26; 10:26, 28–29), the building projects he undertook (7:1–12; 9:15–19), and the gold he had acquired (9:28; 10:14–15). Each year Solomon received 25 tons of gold (10:14)! Solomon had so much gold that he made 500 ceremonial gold shields (10:16–17) and drank from gold cups (10:21). As for silver, 1 Kings 10:27 says that Solomon “made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones.” Solomon’s subjects, the people of Israel, were pleased with his rule, despite the tribute and forced labor. First Kings 4:20 says that the people “were as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing.” As God had promised, Solomon was the greatest ruler of his day (3:13).

#### Solomon’s Failure (1 Kings 11:1–8)

In Deuteronomy 17:16–17, the Lord decreed that Israel’s king should neither “multiply horses for himself,” nor “multiply wives for himself,” nor “greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.” While 1 Kings 4:26–27 and 10:14–29 list Solomon’s horses and riches as proof of his success, 1 Kings 11:1–8 reveals that Solomon’s downfall was because he loved his many wives. Solomon’s having 700 wives and 300 concubines was a blatant rejection of the Lord’s command not to multiply wives (Deut. 17:17). Solomon also disobeyed the Lord in that the wives

were “women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites—from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods’” (1 Kings 11:1–2; Deut 7:3–4). Solomon had disobeyed God by marrying many foreign, pagan women.

Just as the Lord had warned Israel (Deut 7:3–4), Solomon was led into idolatry by his foreign wives. Whereas the beginning of his reign was marked by a love for the Lord, in the end Solomon was known for his love of foreign women (1 Kings 11:1), women to whom he clung instead of God (11:2). Because his wives’ approval meant more than the Lord’s, Solomon allowed his heart to be turned from God (11:3). First Kings 11:4 testifies, “When Solomon was old...his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.” Solomon actually worshiped Ashtoreth, the Sidonian goddess of love and fertility; Milcom (Molech), an Ammonite god often associated with child sacrifice; and Chemosh, a Moabite deity who was similarly associated with child sacrifice. Solomon, who had once built a temple for the Lord, actually built places of worship for Chemosh and Molech (11:7). He similarly accommodated the worship of all his foreign wives (11:8). His devotion to his wives led him to sacrifice his devotion to the Lord on altars he had built to idols.

### **Solomon’s Punishment (1 Kings 11:9–40)**

The Lord had withheld no blessing from Solomon. From his childhood, Solomon had been beloved by the Lord (2 Sam. 12:24–25). The Lord had chosen him from all of David’s sons to rule on the throne of his father. Solomon was blessed by having a godly father who had repeatedly instructed, admonished, and warned him to be devoted and obedient to the Lord. The Lord had especially blessed Solomon by appearing to him twice, one of those times asking Solomon to make a request (1 Kings 11:9). Even though God had given Solomon everything a king could ask for, his heart did not remain content. Instead, Solomon wanted the approval of a multitude of women and was led by his insatiable heart into spiritual idolatry.

The Lord was angry with Solomon (1 Kings 11:9), who had rejected His warning against idolatry (1 Kings 9:6–7). Because Solomon had turned his heart from the Lord to other gods (1 Kings 11:9–10), the Lord promised that He would “tear the kingdom away” and give it to one of Solomon’s servants (11:11). But even in the midst of terrible judgment, the Lord still had mercy on Solomon. The Lord would take the kingdom from Solomon’s son Rehoboam instead of from Solomon. Even then, the Lord still promised to leave Rehoboam with one tribe, “for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen” (11:12–13). The dissolution of the kingdom of Israel would not happen during Solomon’s life because of the Lord’s love for David. In faithfulness to His covenant with David, the Lord would still allow a son of David to rule and would allow His name to remain at the temple of Jerusalem.

Although the majority of his punishment would fall upon his son Rehoboam, Solomon suffered some punishment during his lifetime. Solomon’s reign had been peaceful, but now the Lord raised up adversaries against him (1 Kings 11:14–40). The first was Hadad the Edomite. Hadad had grown up in Egypt but returned to Edom to gain revenge for the slaughter of the Edomites by David’s army (11:14–22). The second was Rezon, who reigned over Syria and hated Israel (11:23–25). The last was Jeroboam (11:26–40).

Before his rebellion, Jeroboam, who had been promoted by Solomon to being in charge of the labor force of the tribe of Joseph (1 Kings 11:28), was visited by Ahijah, a prophet of the Lord. Ahijah took the new robe he was wearing, tore the garment into 12 pieces, and gave 10 pieces to Jeroboam (11:29–31). Ahijah explained that

the 10 pieces represented the 10 tribes of Israel that God was giving to Jeroboam. Because Solomon and Israel had forsaken the Lord, worshiped idols, and not walked in God's ways as David had, the Davidic dynasty was going to suffer a terrible defeat (11:32–33). Although Jeroboam would not receive all 12 tribes because of God's love for David, the Lord promised that Jeroboam would be granted an enduring house like David's if he did all God commanded (11:34–38). The Davidic dynasty was about to be afflicted by the Lord, though not forever (11:39). As the Lord had promised, He would eventually set on the Davidic throne a king who would reign forever. Having been promised the reign of Israel, Jeroboam was emboldened to rebel against Solomon. Not surprisingly, Solomon sought his life, and Jeroboam fled to Egypt until God would give him the tribes of Israel (11:40).

### Solomon's Death (1 Kings 11:41–43)

After reigning over Israel for 40 years, Solomon died. From the perspective of 1 and 2 Kings, Solomon's life was a disaster. His grand accomplishments and early devotion to the Lord were obscured by his turning to idolatry. The Lord had been faithful to do all that He had promised Solomon, but Solomon had been unfaithful to the Lord. The rest of 1 and 2 Kings traces the terrible effects of the kingdom of Israel being torn from the descendants of David (except for the one tribe God allowed the Davidic dynasty to keep for the sake of David). Solomon had begun his life loving the Lord, but then he forsook the Lord and turned to idolatry. Although Ecclesiastes shows how Solomon returned to the Lord before his death, 1 and 2 Kings leave the focus on the devastating effect of spiritual adultery. Solomon's life is a strong warning to all who love the Lord.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

What did David want to do for God?

*David wanted to build a very special house, called the temple, for God.*

Was David able to build the temple?

*No; God did not allow David to build it, but David did gather many of the materials that would be needed to build the temple. When Solomon, David's son, became king, God allowed him to build the temple.*

What was the temple like?

*The temple was very beautiful. It was about 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It was made out of cut stone, and the inside was covered with cedar wood that was carved with angels, palm trees, and open flowers. There were also two cherubim made of wood and overlaid with gold.*

Once the priests returned from placing the ark of the covenant in the Most Holy Place, what happened?

*A cloud filled the house of the Lord, and the priests could not continue to minister because of the cloud.*

What filled the temple?

*The glory of the Lord filled the temple. Because no one can see God, His glory covers Him. God's glory was a visible sign of His presence and blessing.*

What promise came with God's presence?

*If Israel obeyed God's Law, the Lord said, "I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel" (1 Kings 6:13).*

Why was it important to Solomon that God keep His promises to Israel?

*Solomon's blessing was centered on God's glory. He prayed, "That all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other" (8:60).*

What warning did God give Solomon?

*The Lord would keep a man from David's family on the throne as long as the descendants of David were obedient.*



### **Growing Louder and Louder**

Solomon's life is a tragic example of the results of unrepentant sin. As his life progressed, Solomon developed an increasing tolerance for sin, which brought God's severe chastisement upon him. Sin has a cumulative effect when we tolerate it. This can be demonstrated to the students by selecting a few of them to make a soft humming sound while the rest remain quiet. Slowly select more and more students to join the humming until the whole class is filled with the noise. Try to speak softly above the noise. Get everyone to be quiet again, and explain that the more sin we tolerate in our lives, the less we can listen to God's Word. In today's lesson we are going to learn about Solomon's toleration of sin.



### **Idols of the Heart**

Show the students a variety of pictures, and ask if they can guess what the pictures all have in common. They are all things that people make into idols. An idol is anything that is worshiped in the place of God. Some of the nations surrounding Israel would literally carve a piece of wood into some image. They would then bow down to this idol and worship it. This is obviously very foolish, yet our forms of idolatry are equally foolish. We may worship money, toys, having fun, television, another person, ourselves, or other things. (Col. 3:5). We make an idol out of something when we make it more important than God in our attention, desire, devotion, and decisions. All idolatry, therefore, ultimately comes from our sinful hearts, which are always seeking to worship something in place of God. Ask the students what things distract them from serving God.



### **Love**

Biblical love is selfless commitment, an ongoing decision of the will to benefit another person through words, deeds, and prayers. Love considers others as more important than oneself (Phil 2:1–8). Love is not just isolated decisions to benefit somebody else, but is a continual approach to others. One of the chief expressions of love toward God is obedience to His commands (John 14:21). A biblical kind

of love is very far from the hearts of sinful people. Many children have very little understanding of what love really is. We mostly love ourselves, which means we seek to benefit ourselves. Ask the students who deserves a special treat. After all the “me, me, me” has died down, explain that our hearts naturally cry out “me, me, me.” All we care about is ourselves. We may do good things, but we can never stop our hearts from being self-centered. Only Christ can give us a new heart that is able to love others and obey God consistently.

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

#### Reading of the Text

Read portions of 1 Kings 3:1–10:29 and 11:1–43.

#### Introduction

More than anything else, a Christian should be obedient to God. There are many things in life that will tempt us. And if we give in to temptation so that we sin but do not repent and turn to God, we will turn away from God. Little by little, bit by bit, we will turn from Him. This is probably what happened to Solomon. He did not decide one morning that he would turn away from God. It happened slowly. It happened because the people he was close to were sinning and being disobedient to God. Those sinners affected Solomon so that after a while, he was doing something that he probably never thought he would do: worshiping other gods. Let’s see what we can learn from Solomon in today’s lesson.

#### Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** First Kings 11:1 says that Solomon loved many women. Were they from Israel?

**Answer:** No. “Solomon loved many foreign women.”

**LOQ:** Where did these foreign women come from?

**Answer:** Verse 1 tells us that these woman came from Egypt, Moab, Ammon, Edom, and Sidon.

**LOQ:** What did God say would happen if the children of Israel intermarried with people from those other nations?

**Answer:** If the children of Israel intermarried with people from these nations, their hearts would be turned away from God. God knew these other nations served



idols. If Israel associated with them, they would be in great danger of turning away from God to serve idols.

**LOQ:** Why is it important to know how many wives Solomon had?

**Answer:** When Moses gave the Law to the people of Israel, he gave some instructions about what a king of Israel should not do. Deuteronomy 17:17 says, “Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away.” Through Moses, God told the people of Israel and all the future kings of Israel that they were not to have many wives. This means that with 700 wives, Solomon was not being obedient to God.

**LOQ:** Why is it important to know that these women were not from Israel but from foreign nations?

**Answer:** Moses also wrote in the Law about marrying foreign women who were in the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 7:1–5 says, “When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.” By marrying those foreign women, Solomon was being disobedient to the command of God.

**LOQ:** What verses tell us that Solomon loved his wives?

**Answer:** First Kings 11:1 says, “King Solomon loved many foreign women.” First Kings 11:2 says, “Solomon clung to these in love.”

**LOQ:** How do we know that Solomon loved his wives more than he loved God?

**Answer:** When verse 2 says that “Solomon clung to these in love,” it means that he wanted to please them very much. Verses 3 and 4 tell us that because of his wives, Solomon’s heart was turned away. Solomon wanted to please his wives so much that he turned away from God. Instead of serving the true and living God of Israel, his heart was turned away after other gods. Verse 4 says that Solomon’s “wives turned his heart after other gods.”

**LOQ:** Did Solomon turn away from God only because of his wives? Was it their fault?

**Answer:** Solomon’s wives definitely did not love God. They wanted Solomon to serve their gods. But they were not the only reason Solomon turned away from God. Verse 4 says that Solomon’s “heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.” It was really Solomon’s fault that he turned away from God. Solomon’s heart was not right. He was not devoted to God as he should have been.

**LOQ:** What evil things do verses 5 and 7 tell us that Solomon did?

**Answer:** Solomon went after Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom, the detestable idol of the Ammonites (11:5). He built a high place (a place for worship) for Chemosh, the detestable idol of Moab, and for Molech, the detestable

idol of the sons of Ammon (11:7).

**LOQ:** These things that Solomon did were very, very sinful. What was the Lord's response toward Solomon because of what he had done?

**Answer:** First Kings 11:9 says that "the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel." God is never pleased when people sin. Solomon had been blessed very much. God had appeared to him twice (11:9) and warned him not to follow other gods (11:10). But Solomon sinned greatly by disobeying God and worshiping other gods.

**LOQ:** What did the Lord do because of Solomon's terrible disobedience?

**Answer:** First Kings 11:11 says that God said to Solomon, "I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant." The kingdom would be broken into two parts because of Solomon's sin. But because God loved David, who was His servant, the kingdom would be broken up only after Solomon's death.

### Summary

Solomon had many wives, many of whom came from the nations that surrounded Israel. Not only was it a sin to have so many wives, but it also was a sin to marry a non-Israelite. Those foreigners were dangerous because they would tempt the Israelites to turn away from the Lord and serve their gods. This is exactly what happened to Solomon. Solomon left God and worshiped idols because he loved his wives more than God. But his wives were not the only problem. Solomon chose to marry those women and to turn away from God. Solomon did many evil things so that his wives could worship their gods. Because of what Solomon did, God was angry and caused the kingdom of Israel to break into two parts. Solomon had sinned, and God judged him.

### Application

When Solomon married all those women whom he was not allowed to marry, he got himself into a lot of trouble. Instead of serving God, Solomon tried to please his wives by serving their gods. This was disobedient to God and very sinful. Solomon's sin made God angry with him and was the reason that the kingdom broke into two parts. God had to judge the sin, especially because the king of Israel had done it. This lesson can be very helpful for a Christian because it shows us what happens when a person turns away from God. Solomon married many evil women and was turned away from God, and Christians likewise can be tempted to turn away from God. It is important to know that if your friends encourage you to disobey the Bible and to sin, they really are not friends. A friend should help you to obey God and live according to His Word.

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



### Skit: Ripping the Robe

Materials: inexpensive robe made of a material that can be easily ripped

Directions: Ask a volunteer to dress up in the robe and portray the prophet Ahijah. Ask another volunteer to play the role of Jeroboam. Have a third volunteer read the prophecy God spoke to Solomon in 1 Kings 11:9–13. Next, have Ahijah appear to Jeroboam and act out the events of 1 Kings 11:29–39 as he tears his robe into 12 pieces and gives 10 pieces to Jeroboam. Have him explain what will happen to the other two pieces of the kingdom.



### Pile of Solomon's Blessings

As you teach about Solomon's success and describe his blessings, start building a pile of objects that symbolize these blessings.

1. Solomon visited by God in dream two times—two pillows
2. wisdom—Bible, books, graduation cap
3. fame and honor—star
4. riches—bags of money, play money, necklaces, jewels
5. peace with nations—maps, globe
6. horses—plastic horses
7. building projects: God's temple, Solomon's house—doll houses
8. gold shields, gold cups—anything gold
9. silver as common as stones—numerous wads of tin foil
10. Israel pleased with Solomon's rule—smiley faces
11. Israel grows to multitude—lots of people dolls

When the pile is complete, marvel at the quantity and variety. But then remind the students that with all that, Solomon still did not obey God. He was a sinner just like us. And he was punished for his disobedience just as we are.

## Praise and Worship

*Change My Heart, Oh God*

*Cleanse Me*

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*God Is So Good*

*O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E*

*Oh, Be Careful*

*Trust and Obey*

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*“That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### Idols of the Heart, Continued

Materials: copies of the “Idols of the Heart” craft pages on red and white paper, scissors, glue, crayons

Directions: Give each student a red heart and a white heart. Instruct the students to cut out the white heart. In each of the five squares, they can write a word or draw a small picture to symbolize an idol of the heart that they need to guard themselves against. Refer to the list of idols the class came up with during the “Idols of the Heart” activity during Point time. Direct the students to select from the list the idols that they struggle with the most. After they have filled in the boxes, they can cut out the red heart. Show them how to cut the five flaps along the sides and bottom, leaving the top attached so that it can flip up to reveal the hidden idol underneath. Instruct the students to glue the red heart on top of the white heart. Last, they should write 1 Kings 11:4 on the back of the white heart.



### Solomon’s Heart Turned

Materials: copies of “Solomon’s Heart Turned” craft pages, scissors, brads

Directions: Give each a student a copy of the craft sheet, and have him cut out the circle and the heart pointer. Connect the heart pointer to the center of the circle using a brad. Turn the pointer to read how Solomon turned his heart away from God.



### “God Punishes Solomon”

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



### Journal Pages: “Pleasing God”

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

### Coloring Pages

Give each student copies of the coloring pages at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



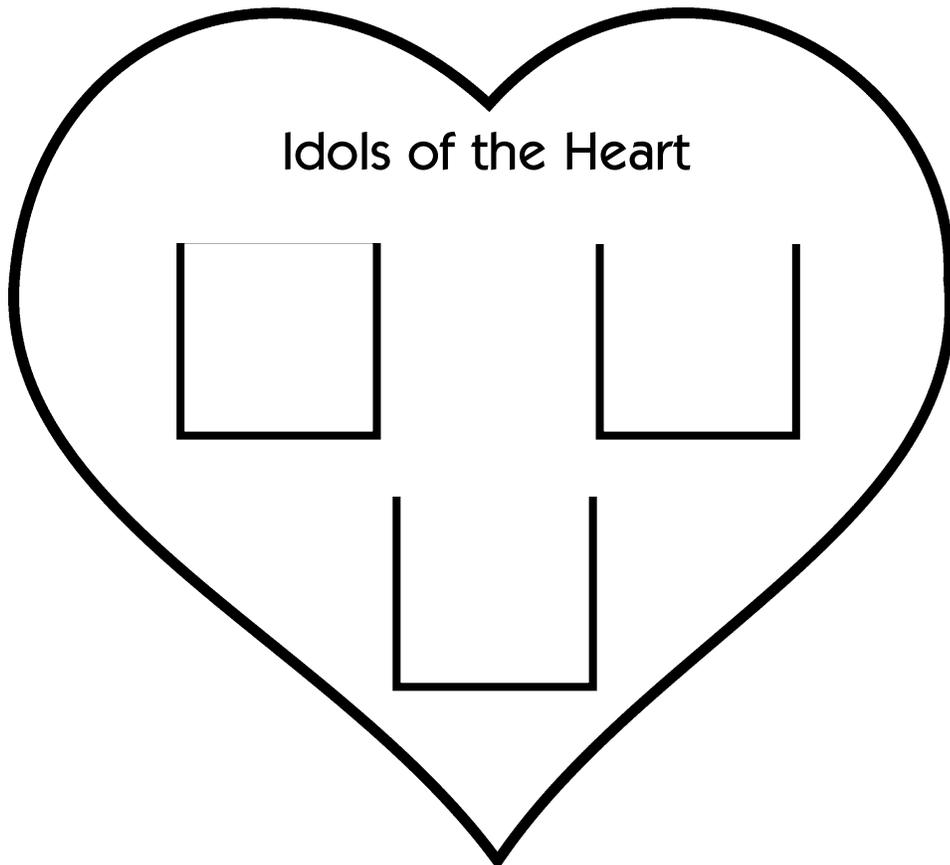
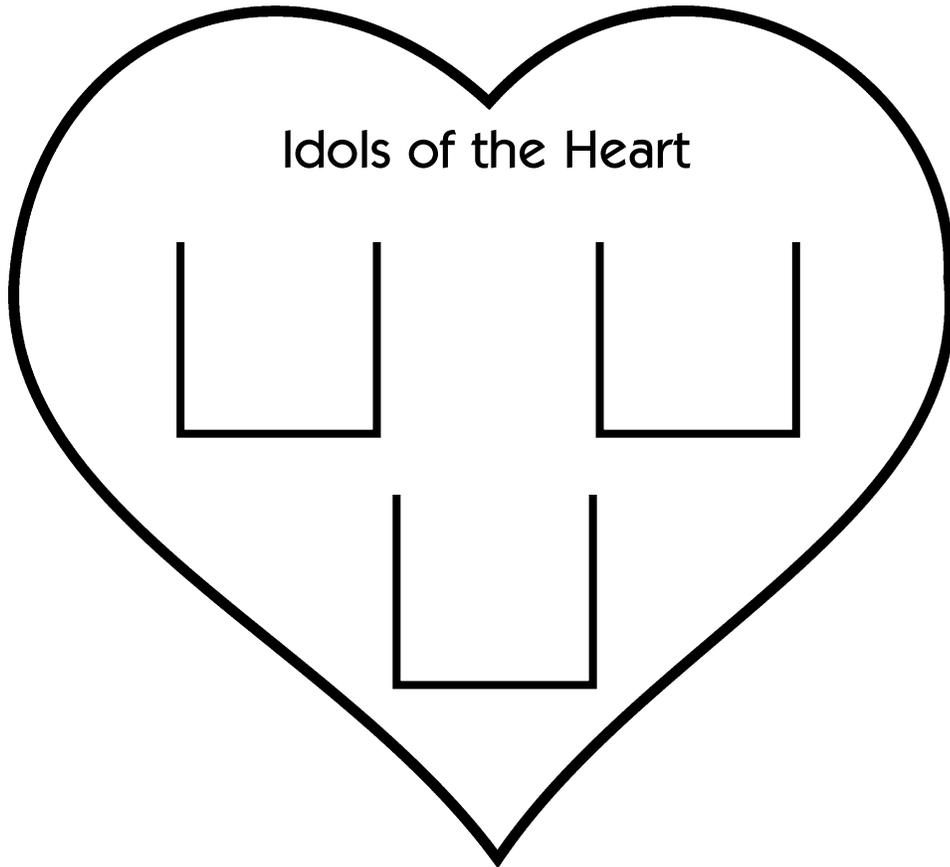
### MEMORY VERSE

*“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).*



# Idols of the Heart

Photocopy on red paper.





# Idols of the Heart

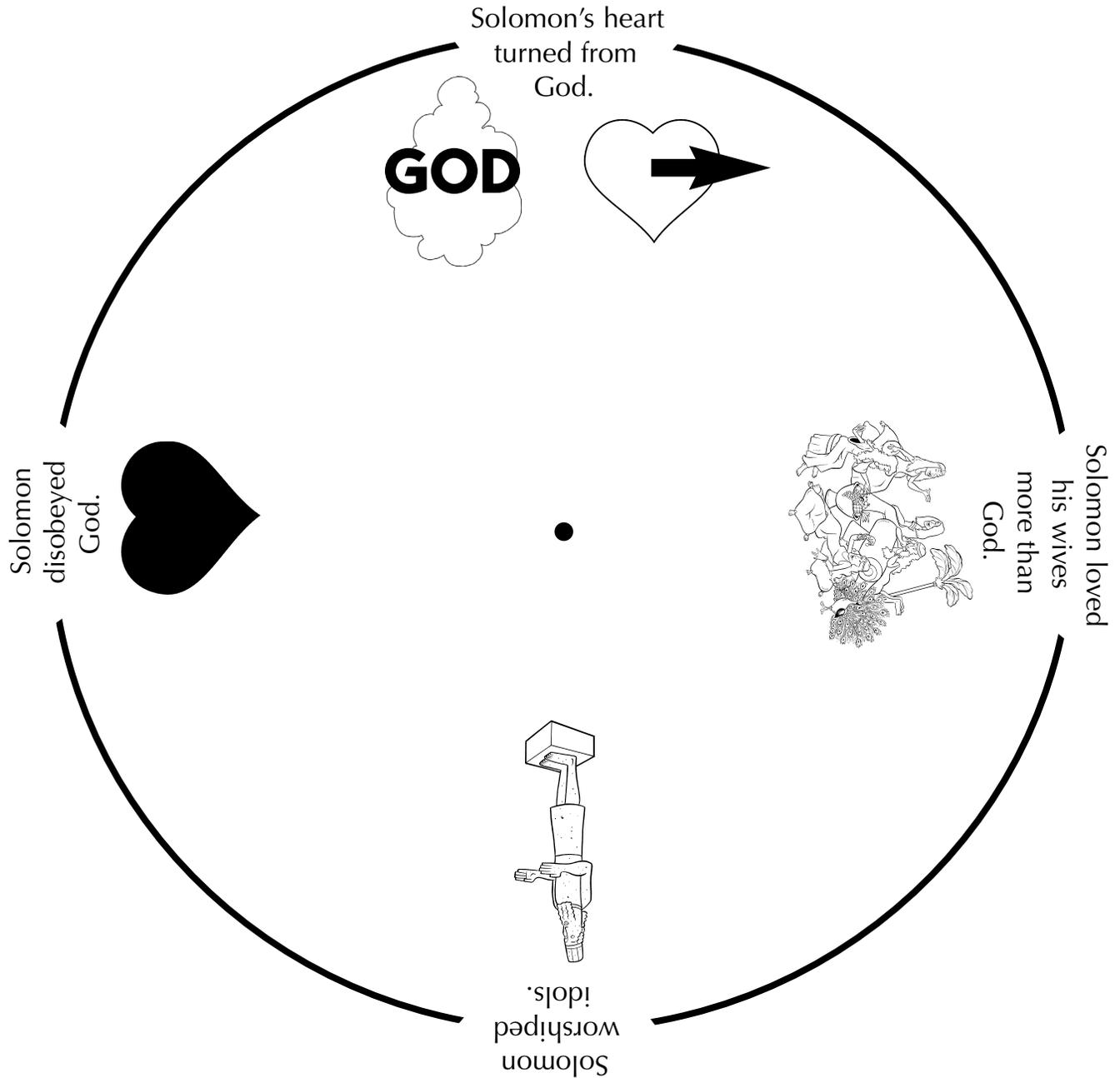
Photocopy on white paper.

Idols of the Heart

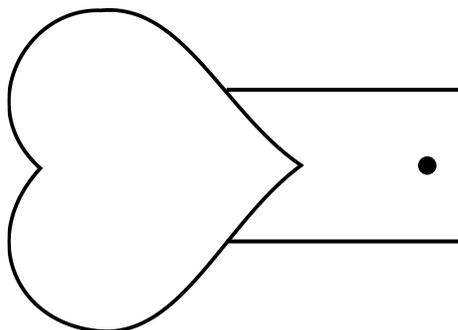

Idols of the Heart




# Solomon's Heart Turned



**“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David” (1 Kings 11:4).**





# God *Punishes* Solomon



1 Kings 11

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name two ways that God blessed Solomon.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. True or False: God told Solomon to marry any woman he wanted. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Was Solomon obedient to God's command? \_\_\_\_\_

4. True or False: God was pleased with Solomon's actions. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Because Solomon did not keep God's commandments, God would "surely \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom away" from Solomon (1 Kings 11:11).

6. True or False: God showed Solomon mercy by not tearing the kingdom away while he was alive. \_\_\_\_\_

7. God also punished Solomon by raising up an \_\_\_\_\_ against him (1 Kings 11:14).



## Pleasing God

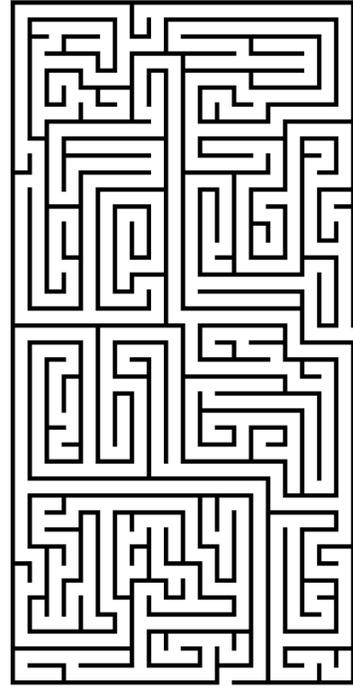
---

“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God as was the heart of his father David” (1 Kings 11:4).

Have you ever been in a long race where you ran out of breath and your side started hurting before you reached the finish line? Did you push on in spite of your obstacles to reach the finish line? If you did, you endured for the long run. Pleasing God for the long run—your whole life—is similar running to a race with obstacles—it requires endurance.

As you learned in your Bible lesson today, Solomon did not endure for the long run. He started out well by asking God for wisdom and bringing God glory, but later in his life, he chose to please others instead of pleasing God. Solomon chose to please his wives and worship false gods in place of pleasing God.

God wants you to press on and run until you are perfected (Phil. 3:12–14). In the maze below, help the runner get to the finish line.



## Pleasing God

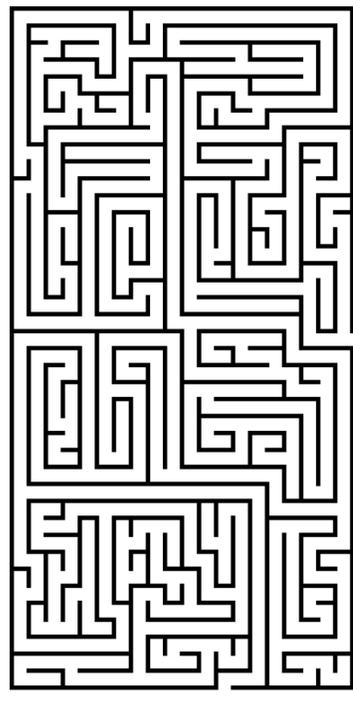
---

“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God as was the heart of his father David” (1 Kings 11:4).

Have you ever been in a long race where you ran out of breath and your side started hurting before you reached the finish line? Did you push on in spite of your obstacles to reach the finish line? If you did, you endured for the long run. Pleasing God for the long run—your whole life—is similar running to a race with obstacles—it requires endurance.

As you learned in your Bible lesson today, Solomon did not endure for the long run. He started out well by asking God for wisdom and bringing God glory, but later in his life, he chose to please others instead of pleasing God. Solomon chose to please his wives and worship false gods in place of pleasing God.

God wants you to press on and run until you are perfected (Phil. 3:12–14). In the maze below, help the runner get to the finish line.



Paul states in Philippians 3:13–14, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Christ wants believers to push forward, to run for the prize, to endure for the long run. Read the following verses. In the blanks, write what you can do to help you run the race.

---

“Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11).

---

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

---

“Casting all your cares on Him for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

If you apply these verses to your life daily, you will be enabled for the long run.

In the space below, write your plan for the long run. State how you will apply these verses in your life and what you will do when you meet obstacles.

---

---

---

---

Paul states in Philippians 3:13–14, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Christ wants believers to push forward, to run for the prize, to endure for the long run. Read the following verses. In the blanks, write what you can do to help you run the race.

---

“Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11).

---

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

---

“Casting all your cares on Him for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

If you apply these verses to your life daily, you will be enabled for the long run.

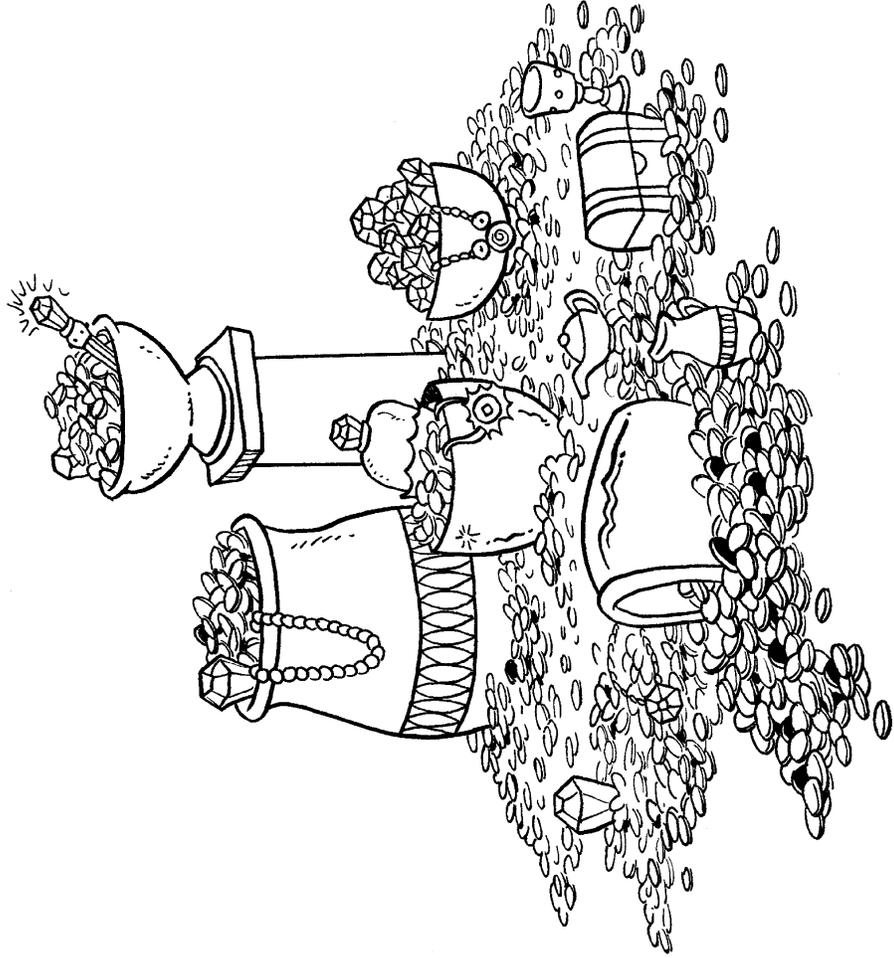
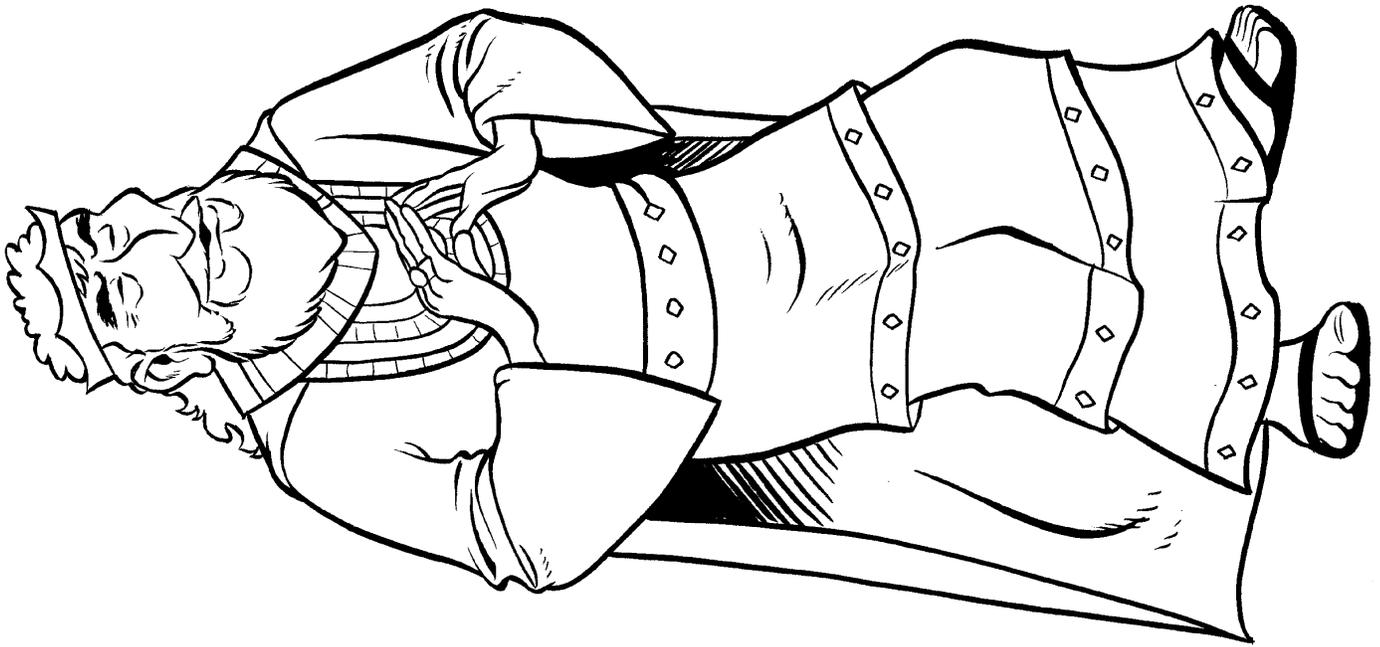
In the space below, write your plan for the long run. State how you will apply these verses in your life and what you will do when you meet obstacles.

---

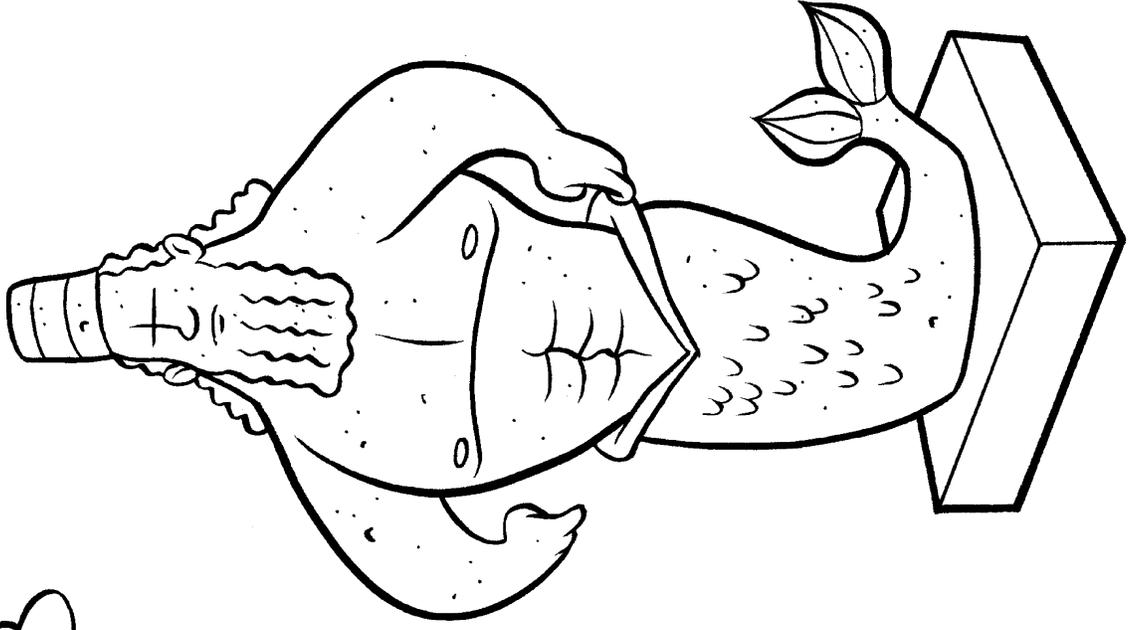
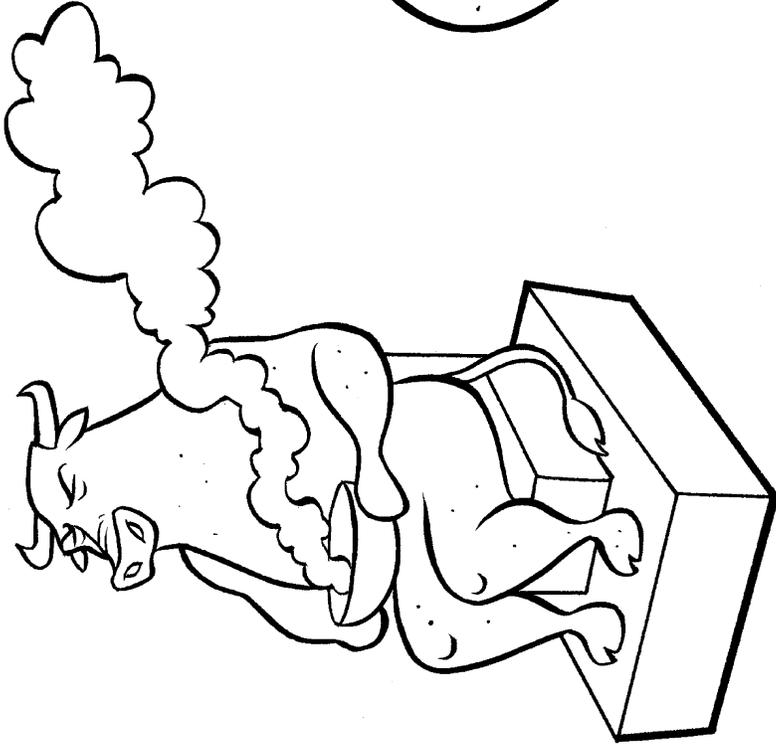
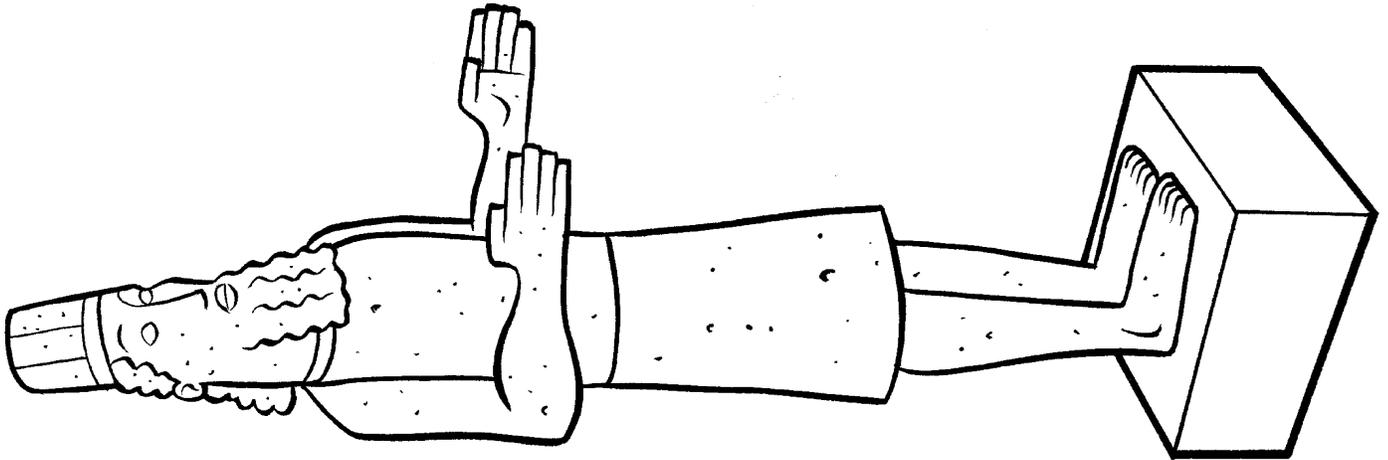
---

---

---











**“King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom”  
(1 Kings 10:23).**





**“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David” (1 Kings 11:4).**

