

**I Need a Hero - Old Testament Characters  
That Teach Us New Testament Truths (Part 10)  
Solomon, a man who stood up with God's favor  
(1 kings 3:5)**

**Introduction:** Solomon is a man whose fame spread well beyond his area of rule, and he remained famous down through the ages. His name is mentioned 300 times in the Old Testament and 12 more times in the New. This hero and Old Testament character teaches us the New Testament truth *that when one stands with God they enjoy His favor, and when they don't it means utter failure.* We learn this lesson as we examine the five stages of Solomon's fame.

**I. Solomon was famous for his wisdom: (1 kings 3:5-15; 4:34)**

Solomon's attitude toward his God and his office can be seen in the account of his blessing.

**A. Solomon loved the Lord (v.3)** Therefore He wanted to put Him first. (Duet. 6:5; Mt. 22:37; Jn. 14:15,21; 15:10-14; 1 Jn. 5:2-3)

**B. Solomon looked to the Lord (v.6-9)** to supply him with what he needed to serve the Lord and the people. (v. 7)

1. Solomon asked God for wisdom (wisdom that could only come from God.) What an illustration of Solomon's character at this time and (Mt.6:33)
2. God gave Solomon far more than what he asked for (Ps.37:4; Eph.3:20)

Perhaps you're thinking; "I wish God would offer to give me what ever I want. But He has done better than that: Today God offers to everyone the greatest gift one could ever ask for – *the Lord Jesus Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.* (Col.2:3)

**II. Solomon was famous for his works:**

Solomon's temple was the most famous of his building projects, it was by no means the only one.

1. He built the temple that David desired to build – (1 kg.5:1ff.)
2. He also built many other things. 20 of his 40-year reign were spent building. (1 kg.7, 9)

We must be careful to make sure that how we live and carry ourselves directs people to see Jesus in us and not us. (*Jesus said, the lilies of the field had greater glory than Solomon in all his glory.*)

**III. Solomon was famous for his wealth: (2 Chor. 9:22)** Solomon was a shrewd diplomat. During his 40 yr. reign Israel seldom had to fight a battle. (1 Kg.11:42) He not only experienced peace, but great prosperity. (1 kg.5:10, 11; 1 Kg. 10:28; 1 Kg. 9:26-28; 10:22; 1 Kg. 10:14-15)

When we walk with God in obedience, we enjoy His favor and more importantly, we point people to the Father who is the source of all our blessings!

**IV. Solomon was famous for his women: (1 kg. 11:1,3)** Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines and these women all came from many of the kingdoms with which Solomon had treaties. But these women were the beginning of the end for Solomon.

- A.** Solomon's many wives show Solomon's defiance of God's word: (11:2) a defiance to God's warning: (11:9-13) and a defiance to God's ways (v.4)
- B.** Solomon's many wives showed a determination to go away from God: (v.5) (1 Cor. 10:11-12)

**V. Solomon was famous for his weakness: (Eccl.)** Solomon is considered old at about 60, and by that time life had lost its luster. Notice the change in,

**A. Solomon's condition** – Ecclesiastes, which is a testimony; he states 39 times in 12 chapters, "*all is vanity and vexation under the sun.*" (i.e.) life under the sun, apart from God, is empty and unsatisfying!

**B. Solomon's course** – (1 tim.6:9; Gal. 5:16; Prov. 5:21)

**C. Solomon's conclusion** – Solomon tried everything to find meaning in life apart from God and found it meaningless: (Eccl. 12:8, until – 12:13, 14)

**Conclusion:** Solomon died a broken man and if he teaches us anything it's this – The time to walk with God is now...not later! What's keeping you from standing up with God's favor today?