

# COMPROMISED

## 1 KINGS 11:1-13

(Prepared by Gene Thompson)

1. When you think of the word “compromise” what is the first thing that comes to your mind?

We have to make compromises all the time. Maybe your wife wants to take a trip to the beach but you want to go to the mountains. Some compromise must be made, so you either take two short trips to each place or put one off to next year.

2. When is compromise good? (When a decision is made that meets everyone’s desire to some degree; and it doesn’t involve going against God’s Word. Give and take!)

3. When is compromise bad? (It can mean we want to please a person so we stop obeying God.)

When we form partnerships we must be careful that both partners have the same spiritual values or there will be problems. Ungodly partnerships have a great potential to lead to spiritual compromise because the partners hold different standards.

4. When have you had an ungodly partnership?

Ignoring God’s command, Solomon formed deep attachments to pagan women and headed down the path to spiritual compromise.

Solomon started well but he was a good man who did not finish well.

Chapters 9-11 of 1 Kings highlight Solomon’s important achievements in building Israel to be a nation of great wealth and power. He amassed large numbers of horses, chariots, silver, gold and a fleet of ships—all contrary to God’s commands in Deut.17:16-17.

Let’s see how he fell away from God.

### **WARNING IGNORED! Read 1 Kings 11:1-3**

The nations these women came from surrounded Israel.

1. Why might it have seemed smart from a political standpoint for Solomon to take wives from these nations? (In effect, Israel had a “buffer zone” around them to protect them from invaders.)

While Solomon’s marriages to these women might have been useful from a political or business viewpoint, they represented rebellion against God’s instruction not to intermarry with the people of these pagan nations.

2. Why did God give them these instructions? (It had nothing to do with race and everything to do with false gods and pagan worship.)

3. Why was it okay for Boaz to marry Ruth, a Moabite? (She worshiped the LORD before they were married. She had converted to Judaism.)

4. How do those who do not have a relationship with God often view His rules and prohibitions? (God is trying to keep something from me. It isn’t fair, why can’t I have a little fun.)

5. How do God’s boundaries actually protect His people? (When we stay within God’s boundaries we live life the way He designed it to be. We influence one another whether we intend to or not. See Prov. 13:20.)

Jim Rohn asserted that we become the combined average of the five people we hang around the most.

Charles Jones said, “You are the same person today that you are going to be in five years from now except for two things: the people with whom you associate and the books you read.” Do you believe that is true?

Having this many wives emphasized to outsiders both Solomon’s wealth and his virility. Rather than indicate strength, though, these women represented an internal weakness; Solomon had a divided heart. Solomon’s deep attachment to the pagan wives turned his heart away from God.

### **A DIVIDED HEART! Read 1 Kings 11:4-8**

1. How did these pagan wives influence Solomon's relationship with God? (They "seduced" him into accepting their false gods.)
2. What is significant about the false gods Ashtoreth and Milcom? (All false gods are bad but these were particularly abhorrent. **Ashtoreth** was the goddess of the Sidonians and was associated with Baal and worship usually involved perverse sexual expression. **Milcom** was another name for **Molech**, a god of the Ammonites and worship sometimes involved child sacrifice.)

Isn't abortion child sacrifice on the altar of convenience!

3. What is significant about the "high place" to worship these false gods being built on the hill across from Jerusalem? (It is almost as if Solomon is saying these idols are equal to Yahweh.)
4. What attitudes, actions, and choices start to slip in when our hearts become divided? (This is just a small thing, it really doesn't matter. Everyone else is doing it and it's not hurting them.)

Notice verse 6: "Solomon did evil in the LORD's sight." While he likely continued to offer sacrifices to God in the temple, he also compromised by sacrificing to other gods at the same time.

5. What are the dangers of spiritual compromise and how can we identify them? (Solomon built shrines so his wives could offer sacrifices to their gods. His perceived thoughtfulness for his wives actually resulted in his divided heart.)
6. How does the enemy lure us slowly toward compromise? (If he came right out and said commit this horrible sin we would recognize it immediately but when exposed little by little over time we yield to the evil bit by bit.)

Alexander Pope:

**"Vice (sin) is a monster of so frightful mien  
As to be hated needs but to be seen.  
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,  
We first endure then pity then embrace!"**

God is not looking for our half-hearted obedience or divided attention. He expects us to worship Him alone!

### **DISCIPLINE PROMISED! Read 1 Kings 11:9-13**

1. What were the far-reaching consequences of Solomon's disobedience? (His kingdom would be torn apart and his son would have only one of Israel's twelve tribes to rule over. It isn't stated here but we know from history, ten tribes were scattered and never returned to their homeland.)
2. How do we see God's mercy along with his discipline here? (It would not happen in Solomon's lifetime because of the promise God made to David.)
3. What does this passage teach us about God and His character? (He will keep His promises even when we are unfaithful.)
4. How can we recognize when a relationship has ungodly tendencies? (God will begin to convict us and our joy and peace will suffer. We should pray for the courage to evaluate our relationships, and allow God to lead us to make needed changes.)

Ungodly partnerships lead to spiritual compromise. An ungodly partnership can be a friendship, a marriage, a business, or even a set of our own actions.

5. How do we tell the difference between God's discipline and the natural outcome of sin itself? (Sometimes there is no difference God just allows nature to take its course. But sometimes, like with Solomon, God will let us know we are being disciplined.)
6. Would you rather suffer the consequences for your sin or have your children suffer for your sin?

**Spiritual compromise will lead to ruin because our allegiance to God and God alone is non-negotiable!**

God showed grace and mercy toward Solomon, but He held Solomon accountable for his disobedience.

## SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE!

Listen to Solomon's downward spiral from this passage:

- He loved many foreign women
- He was deeply attached in love
- He had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines
- His wives turned his heart away to follow other gods
- He was not wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD
- Solomon followed Ashtoreth and Milcom
- Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight
- He did not remain loyal to the LORD
- He built high places for Chemosh and Milcom on the hill across from Jerusalem
- He allowed his household to burn incense and offer sacrifices to their gods
- Although not explicitly stated there is strong indication that Solomon participated in the worship of these idols

The nation of Israel suffered greatly because of Solomon's disobedience to God, Who had appeared to him twice! Even with the Word directly from God, this "wise" man faltered greatly. He started off with great promise but he did not finish well.

Here is a lesson we all need to learn from Dr. Ravi Zacharias:

**"Sin will take you farther than you want to go,  
Keep you longer than you wanted to stay,  
And cost you more than you want to pay."**

Pray.