



God Punishes Solomon

1 Kings 11



LESSON GOAL

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

BIBLE TRUTHS

- God blessed Solomon's reign because of his faithfulness.
- God punished Solomon when he stopped following the Lord alone.
- God punished Solomon for worshiping other gods.

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

- Love the Lord with all your heart.
- Obey God in all things.
- Look for idols in your heart.

NEXT WEEK

God Punishes Jeroboam

Read 1 Kings 12:1–33; 14:1–18.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

4

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.

Who built the temple?

When Solomon, David's son, became king, God allowed him to build the temple.

What did Solomon have brought to the temple?

Solomon had the ark of the covenant brought to the temple.

What were the people doing when this was happening?

Many sacrifices were being offered to cleanse the people's sinfulness and demonstrate their devotion to God.

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

When the priests returned, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, and the priests could not continue to minister because of the cloud.

What did Solomon do before the people?

Solomon dedicated the temple, blessed the people, and thanked God for His faithfulness.

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. If Solomon or any future king disobeyed the Lord's commands and worshiped idols, Israel would be torn from the Promised Land, and God would abandon the temple.



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.



Solomon's Blessings

To teach the students how much God blessed Solomon, discuss with them some of the things that God gave to Solomon. Have the students use clay to create some of

the things that God allowed Solomon to enjoy. These may include gold and silver coins, horses, houses, gardens, etc. Ask the students how these things can distract someone from serving God with his entire heart.



Obey

As students arrive, ask them to draw pictures of children being obedient. Explain to them that in today's lesson, they will be learning about a king whom God punished because of his disobedience.



What Do You See?

On a tray, place several items (stuffed animals, jewelry, gold objects, a toy boat, flowers, etc.). Let the students look at these objects for a few minutes, and then cover the tray. Let the students try to recall what is on the tray. These represent things that King Solomon owned. Today in our lesson we will learn more about what happened to Solomon's things.



Collect the Wealth

Bring to class a large bag full of stuffed animals, dolls, and army men. Divide the class into three teams, and have the teams line up on one side of the room. Scatter the toys on the other end. Give each team a collection bag or box. When you say "go," the first student from each team should run to the toys and grab as many as he can hold, then run back and put the items in his team's bag/box. Then the next student in line has a turn, and so on. The team with the fullest bag wins and is crowned King Solomon. End the game by telling the students, "Today we will learn how King Solomon disobeyed God and collected wealth, horses, and wives who worshiped idols. He did not obey God's commands."



Sorting Solomon's Sin

On a table, place a pile items mixed together. These could be actual objects or paper cutouts. To represent wealth, you could use coins, bills, jewels, houses, clothes, and gold objects. For horses, you could use horse toys, pictures, or other items that symbolize horses. You could illustrate wives with paper or plastic dolls. Instruct the students to try to sort these items into three piles (wealth, horses, and wives) when you say "go." Later in the lesson, these visuals can be used to illustrate Solomon's sin.

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

Solomon had been a good king. He honored and obeyed God. God visited Solomon in two different dreams, once when he first became king and again later in his life. Both times God gave Solomon what he asked for. Both times God also gave a strong warning to Solomon to be careful to obey.

Solomon had finished building the temple. He wanted God to be glorified. He was faithful to offer sacrifices to God at the temple. He loved the Lord and followed his father David’s instructions on how to live. Because Solomon was honoring the Lord, he was blessed in all areas of his kingdom. He was famous all over the world for his wisdom. Many famous and powerful people, such as the queen of Sheba, came to see him and to hear his wisdom. Israel was at peace because all the other nations respected Solomon. The Lord also blessed Solomon with riches. He had many horses, horsemen, and chariots. He built many great buildings. Every year, Solomon got 25 tons of gold. He had so much gold that he made shields that were just for show from gold, and the cups that he drank from were made of gold. In the rest of the world, silver was very valuable, but Solomon had so much silver that it was said it was as easy to get silver as it was to go get a rock. The Israelites were happy with Solomon. As God had promised, Solomon was the greatest ruler of his day.

There was one way, though, that Solomon was especially disobedient to God. God had said in his law that the king was not to marry more than one woman, and that he could not marry anyone who was not an Israelite. God had said that if a king married a woman from a foreign land, it would turn the king’s heart away from God. God warned the Israelites that if their king were to marry many women, his heart would follow the gods of his wives. And that is exactly what happened to Solomon. He married many, many women. Some were from the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Edomites, the Sidonians, and the Hittites. These women did not love the one true God, but worshiped idols. And, just as God had warned, Solomon allowed his heart to be turned from God. First Kings says that when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart after other gods and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God. Sadly, Solomon even built places to worship these false gods, as he had built the temple for the one true God. He allowed all his wives to worship their idols however they wanted to. He loved his wives and wanted to please them more than he loved and wanted to please God.

The Lord was angry with Solomon and promised that He would take away the kingdom from Solomon’s family and give it to one of Solomon’s servants. The Lord had blessed Solomon very much, yet Solomon was not obedient. Even though God had chosen him from all of David’s sons to give the kingdom to, even though He had given him a godly father who raised him to be obedient and devoted to

the Lord, even though God had come to Solomon in two dreams and granted his two requests, and even though Solomon had everything a king could ask for, he did not obey. Instead of pleasing God with obedience, he tried to please his wives.

Because of his disobedience, God punished Solomon. Up to this point, Solomon and Israel had enjoyed peace with other nations. Now God raised up enemies against Solomon. Jeroboam was an Israelite, one of Solomon's officers. He became an enemy of Solomon. Jeroboam had been visited by one of God's prophets named Ahijah. Ahijah took his robe, tore it into 12 pieces, and gave 10 of the pieces to Jeroboam. He explained that the 10 pieces represented the 10 tribes of Israel that God was giving to Jeroboam to rule over. As part of God's punishment on Solomon, God gave most of the kingdom to someone else. Although God would not give Jeroboam all 12 tribes of Israel, He did promise him that if he did all that God commanded, his family would be blessed. In the end, God still kept His promise to David to give Israel a king from David's family that would sit on the throne forever.

After reigning over Israel for 40 years, Solomon died. Although he had been a good king early on, his turning to worshipping idols overshadowed it all. The Lord had been faithful to do all that He had promised Solomon, but Solomon had been unfaithful to the Lord.



Lesson Questions

How did Solomon disobey God's instructions?

God told Solomon to follow Him and obey His commands. Instead of being faithful to worship God alone, Solomon worshiped the gods of his wives.

What would happen if Solomon or future kings didn't obey God?

God told Solomon that if he obeyed, he would remain on the throne as king, and so would his children. If Solomon did not obey, Israel would be punished and another person would be made king.

Why did Solomon start to worship other gods?

Solomon loved his many wives and wanted to please them. They were from many countries and had many gods.

What was Solomon's punishment for following other gods?

God said to Solomon that He would take the kingdom away from him and give it to Solomon's servant.

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

Create in Me a Clean Heart

God Is So Good

Oh, Be Careful

Trust and Obey



God Punishes Solomon

The Lord had given to the king,
(Holds hands out, palms up, as if handing something over.)

Great wisdom, wealth, and might.
(Point to temple; cup hands in front of you and open eyes wide; flex biceps)

And said, "You must not turn from Me;
(Shake head no; point to yourself.)

From doing what is right."
(Place hand over heart; nod head.)

But Solomon his heart did turn
(Place hands over heart, then move them away from you as though giving your heart away to someone on your left.)

To foreign wives and treasure;
(Point to ring finger of left hand; cup hands in front of you as if holding a treasure.)

He thought that he could have his way,
(Stand tall; and cross arms.)

He lived for every pleasure.
(Pretend to grab many objects from in front you and clutch them tightly.)

But he forgot what God had said—
(Point to temple and shake head; point up.)

Such pleasure is in vain;
(Pretend to grab objects; close both hands and open them suddenly as though objects have disappeared.)

All it brought was lots of trouble,
(Pretend to bring something large toward yourself; make a sad face.)

Loss of kingdom and great pain.
(Pretend to let go of something; clutch at your chest and hold your hand to your forehead.)

But God remembered David
(Point up; make glad face and point to temple.)

And said that mercy would be shown.
(Place hands over heart; move hands outward)

He spared the tribe of Judah
(Hold up one finger)

For His promise of a throne.
(Place hand over heart; hold hands up at sides of head to indicate a crown.)

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.



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.



Ahijah's Robe

Materials: copies of the "Ahijah's Robe" craft pages, glue

Procedure: Give each student copies of the craft pages. Precut the smaller robe for younger students. Explain to them that just as Ahijah tore his robe into 12 pieces, they are to tear their paper robe into 12 pieces. Have them glue their 12 pieces onto the larger robe.



The Turning Heart

Materials: heart printed on cardstock, scissors, hole puncher, yarn, markers

Directions: Give each student a cardstock heart, and instruct them to cut it out and then punch a hole in the center top of the heart. Yarn can be tied through the hole. The hearts can be preprinted with the words "Disobey God" on one side and "Obey God" on the other, or the students can use markers to write these words. Spin the heart around by the string, and explain to the students that Solomon's heart changed from worshiping God to worshiping idols. Explain how important it is to worship God alone and how it is only through Christ that we can be saved and truly worship God. If we are not worshiping God, we are worshiping something or someone else. That is called idolatry, and idolatry is how the wisest man on earth was led away from God.



Story Review Book

Materials: copies of "The Life of Solomon" covers printed on cardstock, copies of "The Life of Solomon" quarter-size picture sheets, hole puncher, yarn, crayons

Directions: Give each student a cardstock cover and a copy of the quarter-sheet coloring pages to cut out. They should place the coloring sheets in the correct order in between the covers. A teacher can then punch two holes through the covers and coloring pages along the binding edge. The students can lace yarn through the holes to create the binding. (They may need help tying the knot.)

Coloring Pages

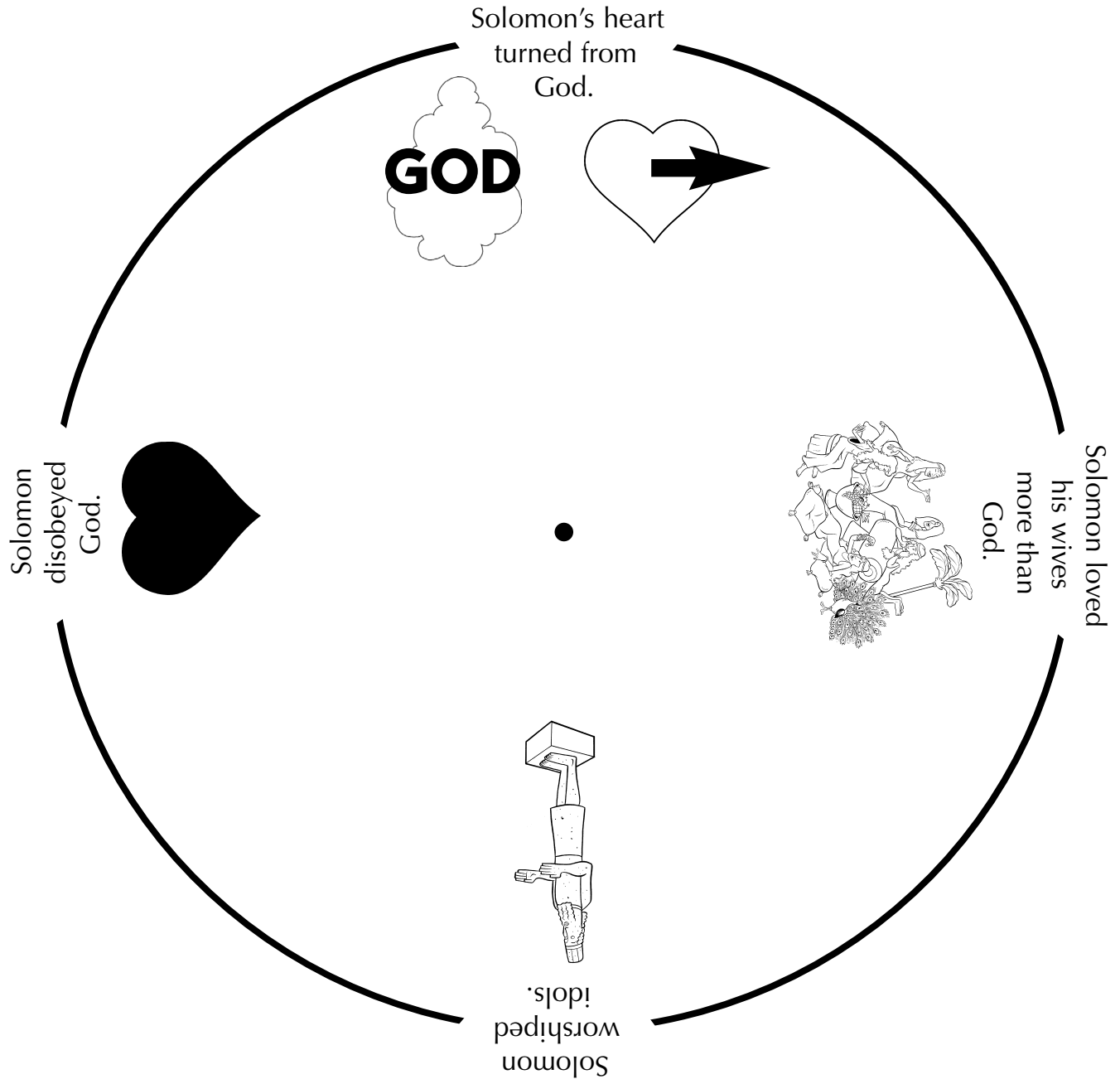
Give each student copies of the coloring pages at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



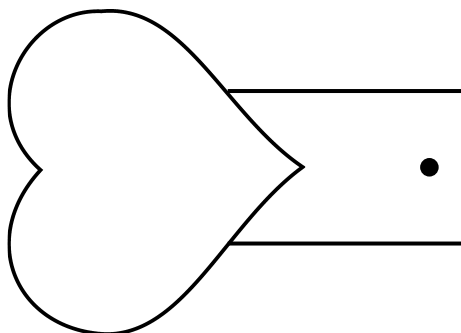
MEMORY VERSE

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

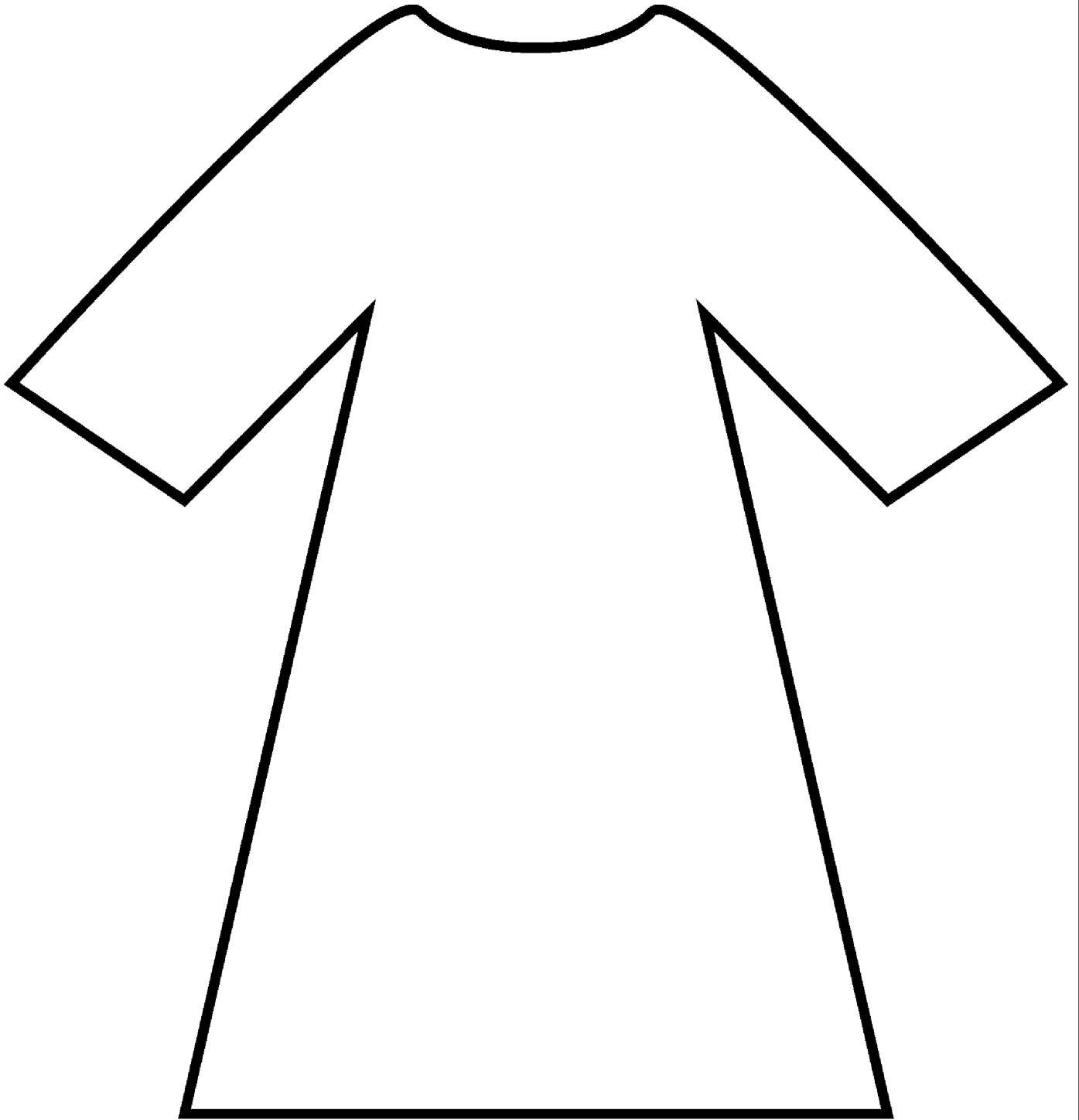
Solomon's Heart Turned



“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).

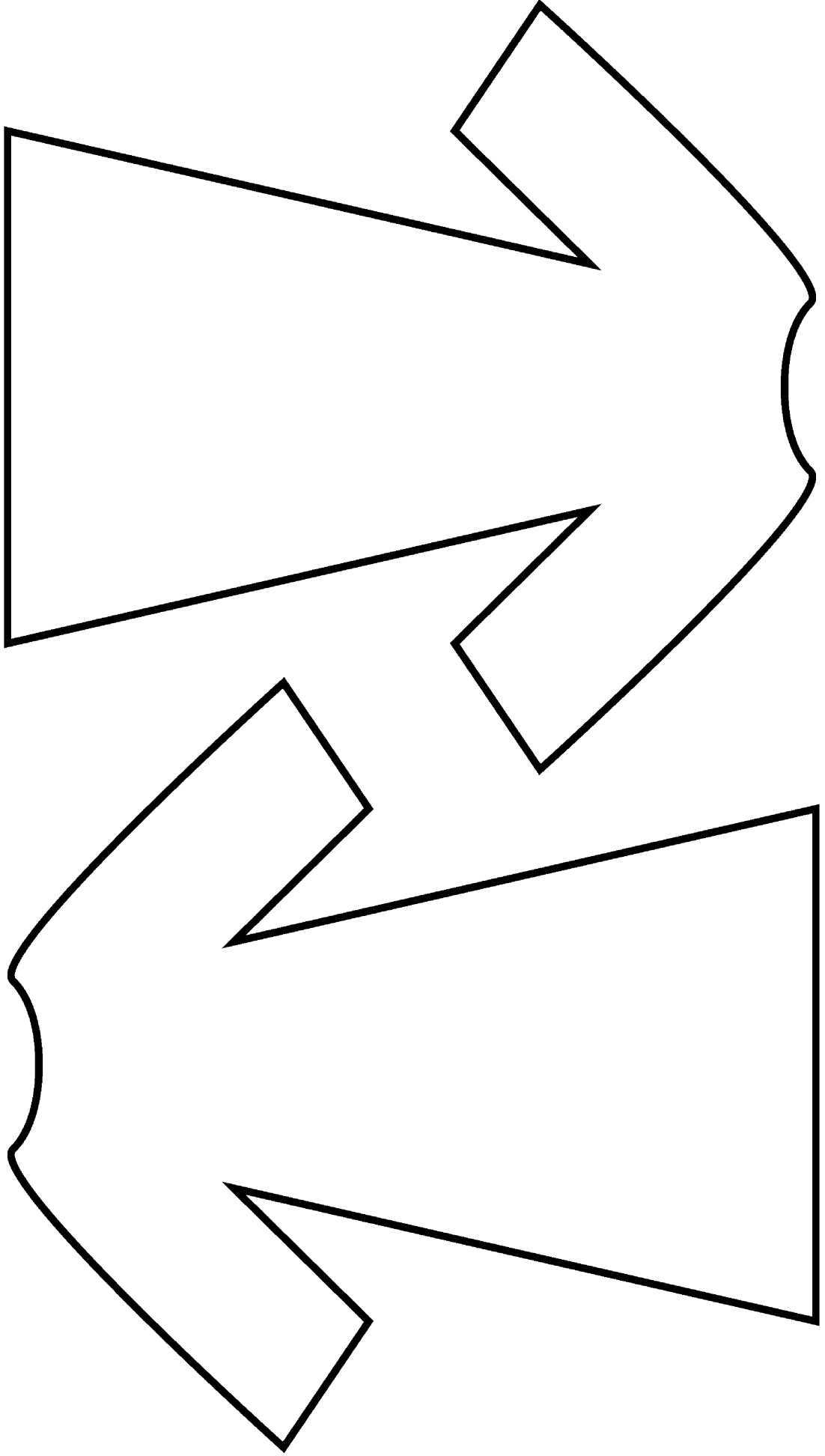


Ahijah's Robe



Ahijah the prophet tore his robe into 12 pieces to illustrate that God was going to divide the kingdom of Israel. God was going to take away 10 tribes from Solomon and give them to Jeroboam because Israel had disobeyed His commands and worshiped other gods (1 Kings 11:30–33).

Ahijah's Robe



**The Life
of Solomon**

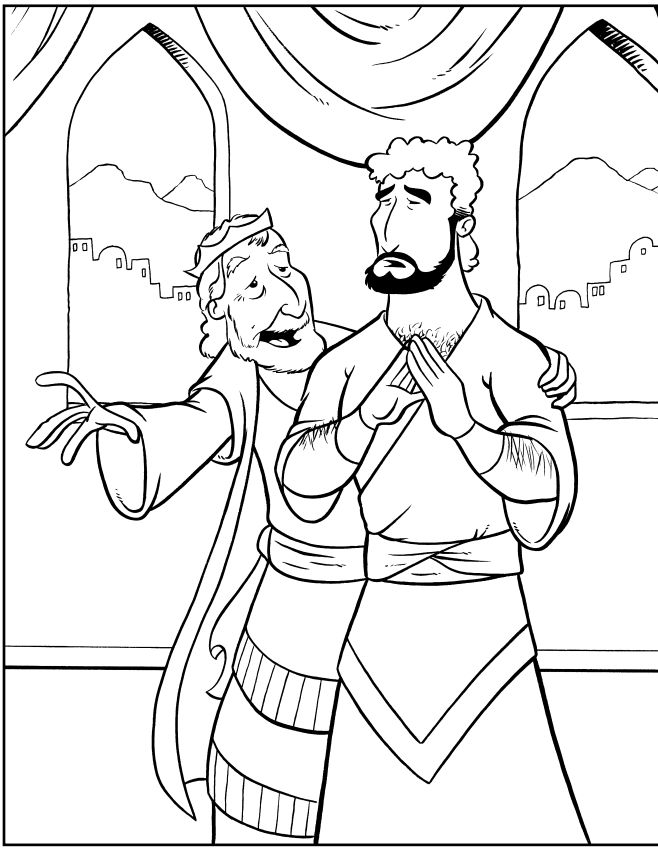
Review Book



**The Life
of Solomon**

Review Book





Solomon's Warning
(1 Kings 2:1-4)



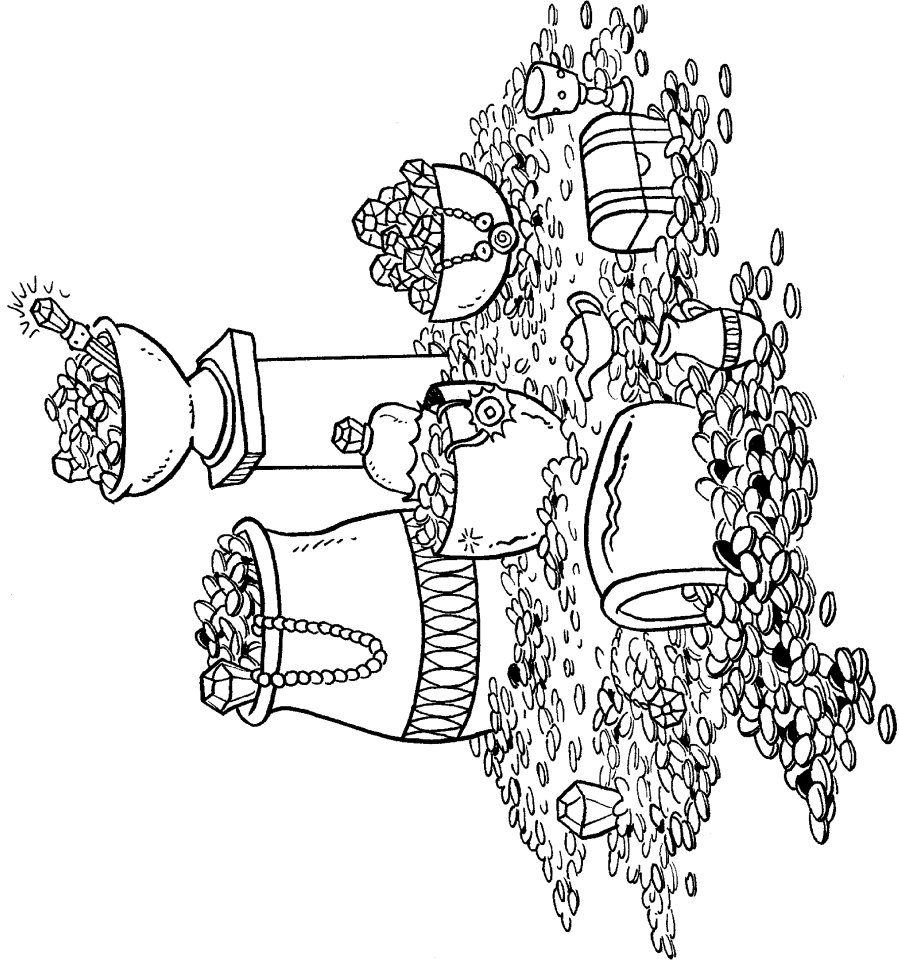
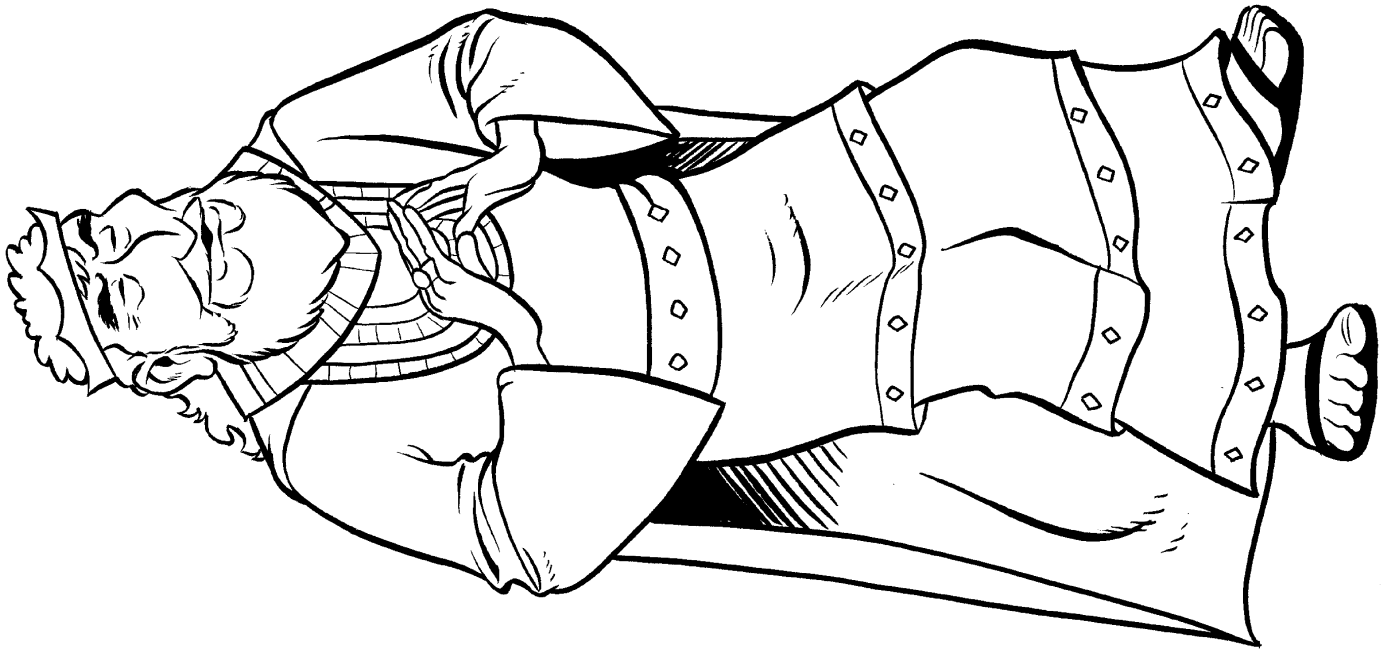
Solomon's Request
(1 Kings 3:9)

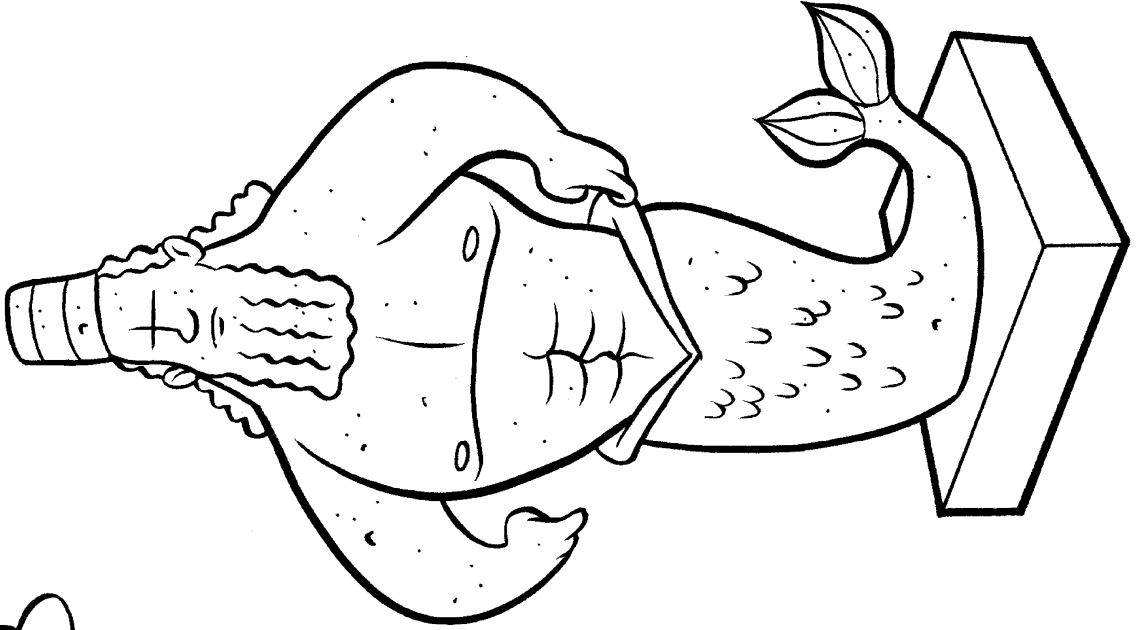
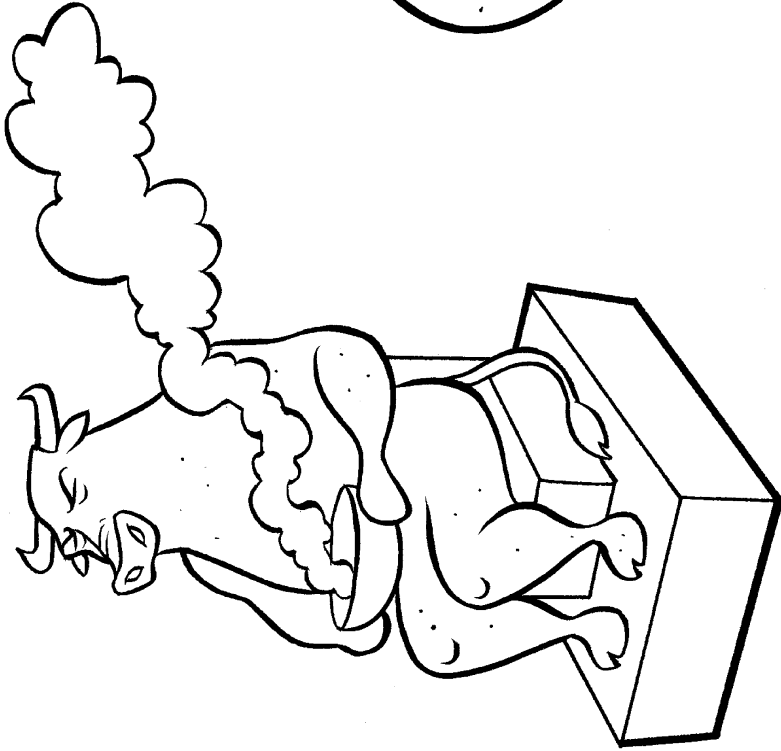
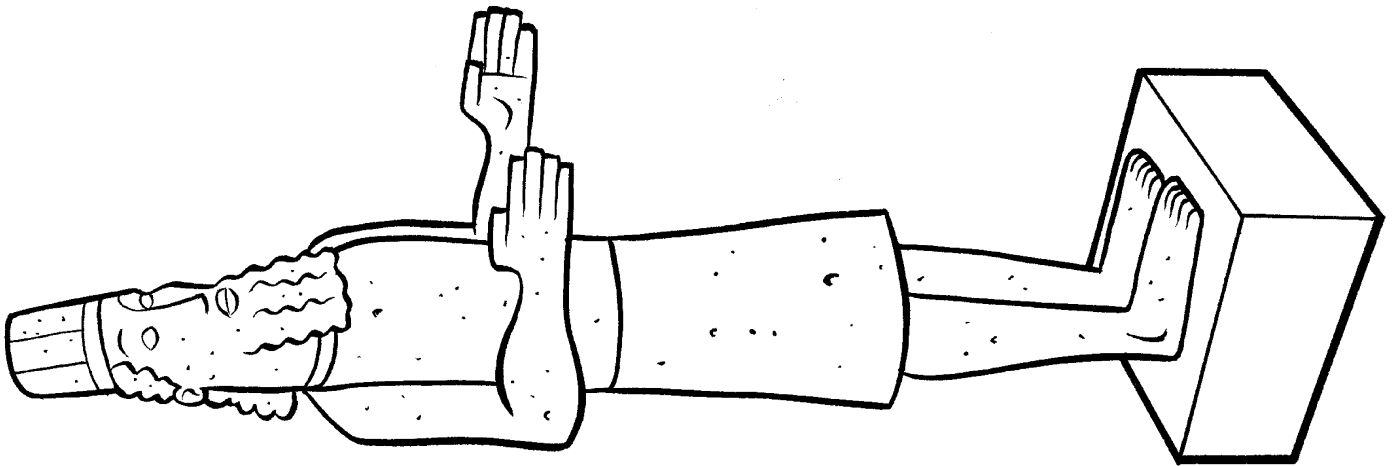


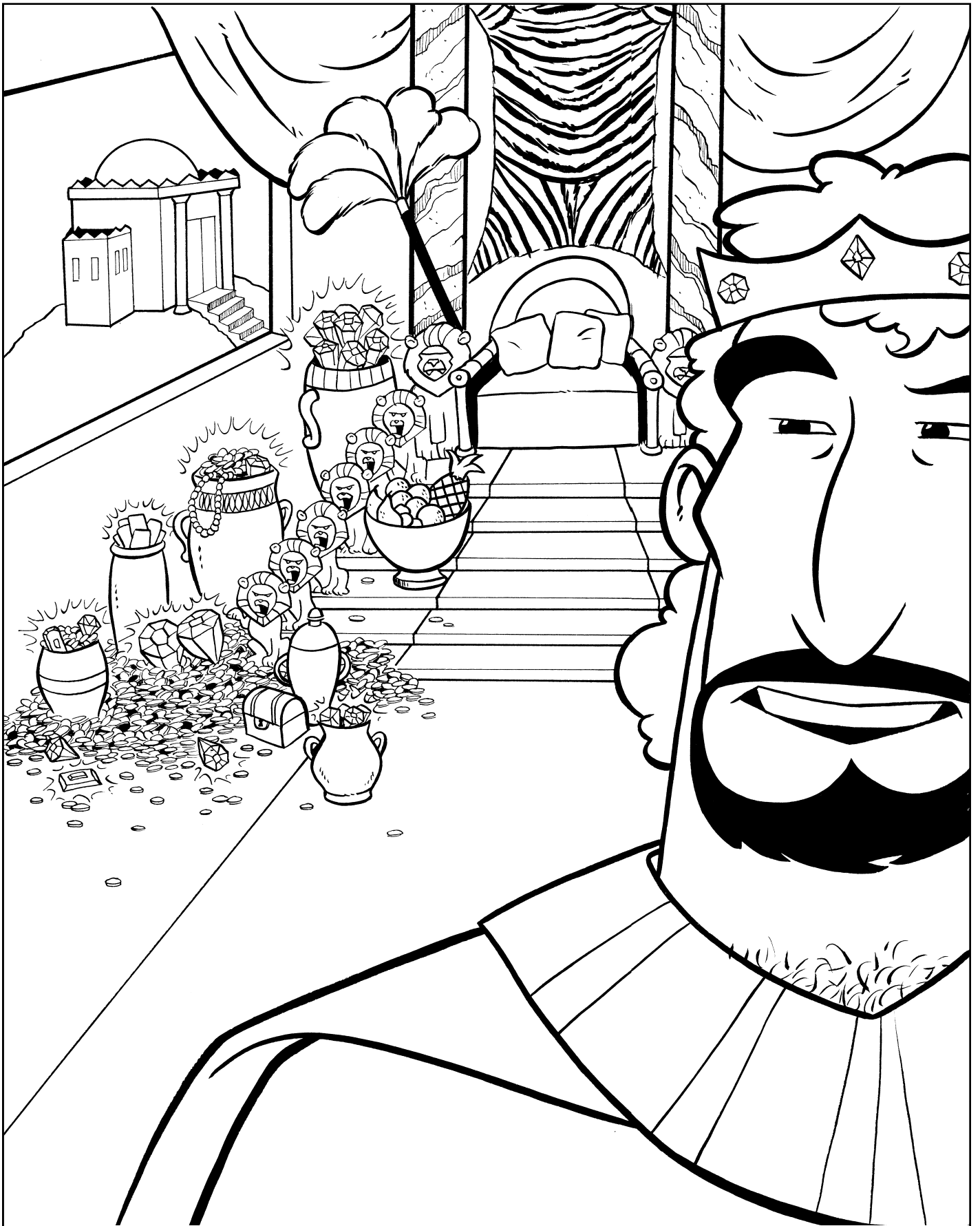
Solomon's Success
(1 Kings 3:1-10:29)



Solomon's Failure
(1 Kings 11:1-8)







**“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).

