

A Common Problem

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

Samson, Solomon, and David had something in common, beside being men who were Hebrews and knowing God. Solomon and David were both kings of Israel, while Samson was a judge, but they all had a weakness for women. Being strong, wise, and having power over men, yet, these had a common weakness that is shared by most men - women. Samson was strong and was victorious in battle, killing a thousand men with the jawbone of an ass. (Judges 15:15). Yet, he met defeat at the hands of a woman. This cost him his freedom, his eyes, and his strength that God had given him. At the end it cost him his life. Men throughout history have likewise fallen under the spell of lust for some woman. The result is often the breaking up of home, marriage, and the harm done to the children. It has even happened to folks who go to church and are believers in Christ. Samson was a believer in God, but disobeyed his commands to follow his passions. Look at this man who let his desires rule him, and consider the result.

King David was a man blessed by God and had great promises made to him. Given victory in battle, power, riches, and brought from the sheepfold to the throne of Israel. David had several wives, yet in a moment of lust, committed adultery, then murder when he saw another man's wife and gave in to his lust for her.

If someone had told king David that he would lie, cheat, dishonor God, and even commit murder; he would have angrily denied such a thing. When he started down the path that led to his evil deeds he couldn't see where it was taking him. His sin not only hurt him, but his family, and the lives of many other people. That is what sin does, it is deceptive, and brings about death and destruction. No matter how many examples that a person knows of, he will usually think that it can't happen to him. It not only can, it will, if he listens to the evil one and his lies.

Solomon didn't learn from David's example in regard to having multiple wives. Not having a stable relationship with one wife as God intended, there were problems among the children of the different wives. Solomon had more wives than any other man in the bible. Not only did he have seven hundred wives, but he also had three hundred concubines. This was in viola-

tion of God's commands (**Deuteronomy 17:17**)

Once again the scriptures show the confusion and troubles that arose because of such an arrangement. There was jealousy and envy between the children and no real harmony in the home life. These women from different nations brought their gods and beliefs with them and caused Solomon to lose his walk with God.

None of the three men, Samson, David, and Solomon, had any thought that allowing their desire to lead them would result in the sins that they committed. There was a song some years ago that said that sin would cost you more than you wanted to pay and would take you farther than you wanted to go. It is true, for no one can control sin, although many people think that they can. History has shown many sad folks who regretted their actions when time brought about the fruits of their sins.

Men and women today still haven't learned from the examples of the past. There are so many broken homes and relationships because people still follow their lusts. Adultery comes about when someone, man or woman, sees someone else and allows their desires to rule them. Sin is the result, along with divorce and the hurt and anger that goes along with it. God made

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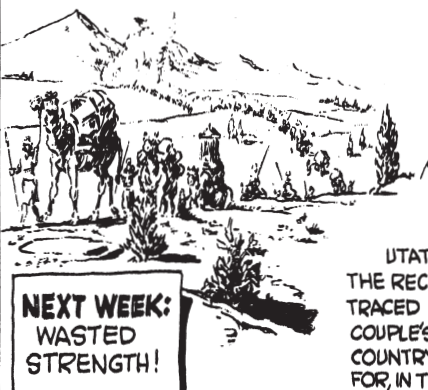
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ALTHOUGH SOLOMON'S FAME AS A WISE KING IS NOTED IN THE BIBLE, LITTLE HAS BEEN SAID OF HIS NEIGHBOR TO THE SOUTH—THE QUEEN OF SHEBA. THIS YOUNG WOMAN, RULER OF WHAT TODAY IS THE MOST SOUTHERN POINT OF SAUDI ARABIA, HAD TO BE AS EQUALLY SMART AS HER MORE FAMOUS NORTHERN COUNTERPART. THOUGH MISTRESS OF A RICH COUNTRY HERSELF (CALLED YEMEN TODAY, THE LAND WAS A CROSSROADS OF MANY IMPORTANT TRADE ROUTES TO THE EAST, THIS SHEBA DID PROFIT IMMENSELY) SHE COULDN'T HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED BY THE TALES OF SOLOMON'S TREMENDOUS WEALTH AND THE ABSOLUTE LUXURY OF HIS PALACE... SO SHE ADORNED HER STRANGE DARK BEAUTY WITH HER FINEST GARMENTS AND SET OFF TO VISIT SOLOMON IN THE NORTH.

NOW, IT SHOULD BE QUITE OBVIOUS THAT SHEBA'S VISIT WASN'T JUST TO VIEW SOLOMON'S MAGNIFICENCE—FOR THE TRIP ITSELF HAD TO TAKE THE BETTER PART OF THREE YEARS—AND SHE WENT WITH A GREAT TRAIN OF CAMELS LOADED WITH GIFTS, SPICES, PRECIOUS STONES, PEARLS, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY TALENTS OF GOLD (ABOUT \$185,000). THIS YOUNG QUEEN WAS "LOADED FOR BEAR" AS THE SAYING GOES—AND SHE GOT IT!



NEXT WEEK: WASTED STRENGTH!

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ONCE AT SOLOMON'S COURT, THE QUEEN OF SHEBA "OOHED AND AHHEH" AT EVERYTHING SHE SAW AND HEARD! SOLOMON'S HEAD HAD TO BE SWIMMING FROM ALL THE VERBOSE FLATTERY WITH WHICH SHE DELUGED HIM. AND SOLOMON, CERTAINLY A LADIES MAN BY REPUTATION, SEEMS TO HAVE SUCCEumbed TO HER SUBTLE CAMPAIGN—AT LEAST THE RECENT LATE EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA, HAILE SELASSIE, THOUGHT SO—FOR HE TRACED HIS OWN LINEAGE BACK TO MENELIK, SUPPOSED OFFSPRING OF THE ROYAL COUPLE'S "CONFERENCE". HOWBEIT, WHEN SHEBA LEFT, SHE TOOK BACK TO HER OWN COUNTRY IMPORTANT TRADE AGREEMENTS, PROFITABLE TO HER FOR YEARS TO COME, FOR, IN THE WORDS OF THE BIBLE... "AND KING SOLOMON GAVE UNTO THE QUEEN OF SHEBA ALL HER DESIRE, WHATSOEVER SHE ASKED...". SMART LITTLE LADY!

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