

LESSON 6I

Egermeier's Story:

Page 241 – The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon

Page 242 – Solomon's Last Days

Memory Verse: Ephesians 5:17 “So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” NASB

Scripture: I Kings 10-11

Teaching Resource:

Old Testament Overview Section 6 King Solomon

Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lessons 171-173

Object Lesson:

Bring a statue to class. Point out to the students that this is not what God is like. We cannot hold God in our hands or touch Him. God is not like this statue in any way. But point out that some people who lived near Israel worshipped idols very much like this statue. They thought that the idols they worshipped were their gods. Point out how silly it is to pray to a statue that can't do anything but sit on a shelf. Maybe knock it over then ask it to get up. The prophet Isaiah makes fun of idols that have to be held up by a nail so they won't fall over (Isaiah 41:7).

Doctrinal Emphasis: Putting God First

Key Theme: *Christians must put God first in our lives. Only God is worthy of our worship.*

As we have seen in the story about the Queen of Sheba, the Lord had given Solomon great wisdom and wealth, but Solomon failed to put God first in his old age. Solomon began to worship idols.

Look at Exodus 23:31-33, 34:12-16, and Deuteronomy 7:3. God makes it very clear that marriage to idol worshippers is wrong. But Solomon did not obey these commands and warnings. He ended up worshipping idols just like God had warned would happen. Solomon was failing to put God first in his life. He was giving worship and attention to idols instead of God. As we look at this story of Solomon in I Kings 10-11, we see in 11:9 that the Lord was angry with

Solomon for turning away from the Lord and worshipping idols. We see in the following verses that there are consequences resulting from Solomon's actions.

Let's talk with the students about the things that can take the place of God in our lives. It is important to understand the concept of balance. We live in the physical world, and there is nothing wrong with being part of this physical world as long as we keep the balance of never letting the physical world completely crowd out our need to develop our relationship with Jesus Christ. In order to develop as Christians, we need to learn God's Word by studying the Bible and going to a church where we are taught the Bible.

What if all we did was go to sports activities and never went to church? Or maybe we worked on our car every day instead of studying the Bible or going to church?

There are a myriad of things that can take the place of our development as Christians. We simply need to guard against letting anything else crowd it out.