

# Dr. Robert Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 7, Solomon – Back to Egypt, Heart Turns to Idolatry Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

## 1. Abstract of Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 7, Solomon – Back to Egypt, Heart Turns to Idolatry, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

**This lecture analyzes King Solomon's reign, focusing on his deviation from God's commands.** It highlights Solomon's accumulation of horses and chariots from Egypt in violation of Deuteronomic law, suggesting a misplaced trust in military might rather than divine power. **The lecture further explores Solomon's marriage to foreign women, which led him to worship their gods, ultimately turning his heart away from God.** Consequently, the Lord raised adversaries against Solomon as a sign of displeasure. These transgressions set a pattern for future kings and foreshadow the division of the kingdom and the need for a messianic king.

**2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 7 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Exodus to Exile).**



**Vannoy\_ExtoExileK\_  
Session07.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 7, Solomon – Back to Egypt, Heart Turns to Idolatry

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. Vannoy's lecture on Solomon, focusing on his turn away from God:

#### Briefing Document: Dr. Vannoy on Solomon's Defection

##### Main Themes:

- **Solomon's Disobedience to Deuteronomic Law:** The lecture highlights Solomon's blatant disregard for the specific instructions given in Deuteronomy 17 regarding kings, specifically the prohibitions against accumulating horses (for military might), excessive wealth, and foreign wives.
- **Trusting in Military Strength vs. Trusting in God:** A central argument is that Solomon's amassing of chariots and horses (military armament) signified a shift in trust from God to military power for security. Dr. Vannoy states that the Lord did not want the Israelites to integrate chariots and horses into their own military force, "Trusting the Lord is the Real Issue: Strength in Weakness."
- **The Importance of the Heart:** The lecture emphasizes the importance of a "fully devoted" heart to God. Solomon's foreign wives led him astray, turning his heart to other gods, which ultimately led to his defection and God's displeasure. "As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God as the heart of David his father had been."
- **Consequences of Disobedience:** Solomon's actions led to adversaries being raised against him and the threat of the kingdom being torn away from his lineage. This foreshadows the fulfillment of the covenant judgments outlined in Deuteronomy.
- **Rise of the Messianic Ideal:** Because Solomon was unable to live up to the ideal of that covenantal king "it's in that context that the Messianic ideal of the true covenantal king rises, particularly among the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, and others of the prophets."

### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Military Buildup:** Solomon acquired 1400 chariots and 12,000 horses, importing them from Egypt and Kue, and acting as a middleman for trade to other nations. This is interpreted as Solomon profiting from the sale of weapons, a stark contrast to his role as a "king of peace." "Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had 1400 chariots, 12,000 horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem."
- **Deuteronomy 17 Violation:** Solomon violated the direct command in Deuteronomy 17:16, which prohibits the king from acquiring many horses or causing the people to return to Egypt for them. This is framed as a matter of trust: relying on God versus relying on military might.
- **Biblical Precedent:** The lecture references Joshua 11 and Judges 4 to illustrate instances where God commanded the Israelites to destroy enemy chariots and horses, emphasizing trust in God's power over military strength. Psalm 20:7 is also cited: "Some trust in chariots, some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."
- **Foreign Wives and Idolatry:** Solomon married many foreign women, leading to the introduction of foreign gods and the construction of altars for them near the Temple in Jerusalem. "Solomon loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter: Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites...his wives led him astray."
- **Heart's Condition:** The lecture stresses that the heart is the core of being and failure began with the heart. Solomon's heart was turned away from God by his wives, leading to his actions of building heathen altars and turning away from the covenant.
- **God's Warning and Judgment:** God warned Solomon in 1 Kings 9:4 about the consequences of disobedience, but Solomon ignored the warning. As a result, God raised up adversaries against him: Hadad the Edomite and Rezon son of Eliada (who controlled Damascus). "Then the LORD raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom."

**Quotes:**

- "A king must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the Lord has told you, 'You are not to go back that way again.'"
- "When I am weak, then I am strong." (referencing 2 Corinthians 12:10)
- "Some trust in chariots, some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." (Psalm 20:7)
- "His wives led him astray...his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God as the heart of David his father had been." (1 Kings 11:3-4)
- "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates." (1 Kings 11:11)

**Implications:**

- Solomon's story serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of disobedience, misplaced trust, and the importance of maintaining a heart fully devoted to God.
- His failure sets the stage for the subsequent decline of the kingdom of Israel, leading to covenant judgments.
- The lecture points to the emergence of the Messianic ideal, emphasizing the need for a true covenantal king who will fulfill God's promises.

## 4. Study Guide: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 7, Solomon – Back to Egypt, Heart Turns to Idolatry

### Solomon's Rise and Fall: A Study Guide

#### Quiz

1. What specific command in Deuteronomy 17 did Solomon violate regarding horses, and how did he violate it?
2. Explain the significance of Israel being "weak" in comparison to surrounding nations, and how this related to their trust in God.
3. How did David's actions concerning captured chariots and horses differ from Solomon's, and what does this difference suggest about their trust in God?
4. What three things did Isaiah mention that reflected the law of the king in Deuteronomy 17 that Israel should turn away from?
5. Name the three prohibitions for the king given in Deuteronomy 17.
6. Describe Solomon's violation of the prohibition regarding foreign wives, and explain how this impacted his "heart."
7. Explain the significance of the Hebrew word "shalem" in relation to Solomon's name and his kingdom.
8. What warning did God give Solomon in 1 Kings 9:4, and what were the consequences of disobedience?
9. Name the two adversaries God raised up against Solomon and where they were located in relation to Israel.
10. How does Solomon's story set the stage for the rest of the book of Kings, and what "ideal" begins to rise in response to the failings of Israel's kings?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. Deuteronomy 17:16 commanded the king not to acquire great numbers of horses or make the people return to Egypt to get them. Solomon violated this by accumulating 1400 chariots and 12,000 horses, and by importing horses from Egypt.

2. Israel was meant to remain weak to force them to rely on God for their security rather than on their own military strength. This weakness was intended to foster complete trust in the Lord.
3. David destroyed most captured chariots and horses, keeping only a few. Solomon, however, amassed a large number of chariots and horses, comparable to surrounding nations, suggesting he placed his trust in military might rather than divine protection.
4. Isaiah mentioned silver and gold, horses and chariots, and idols.
5. The three prohibitions are: 1) not to acquire great numbers of horses; 2) not to multiply wives; 3) not to accumulate excessive wealth.
6. Solomon married many foreign women, including those from nations the Israelites were forbidden to intermarry with, these women led him astray by turning his heart after other gods. This act led him away from complete devotion to the Lord.
7. "Shalem" means complete, sound, wholesome, or harmonious, and Solomon's name is related to that root. Early in his reign, Solomon's kingdom reflected peace and wholeness; however, as his heart turned away from God, his kingdom experienced division and discord.
8. God warned Solomon that if he walked faithfully with integrity of heart, his throne would be established forever; but if he turned astray, Israel would be cut off from the land. Solomon's disobedience led to God declaring he would tear the kingdom away from him.
9. God raised up Hadad the Edomite (from the south-east) and Rezon son of Eliada (from Damascus, to the north) as adversaries against Solomon.
10. Solomon's story demonstrates the flaws in human leadership and the inability of earthly kings to fulfill the ideal of a covenantal king. This sets the stage for the rise of the Messianic ideal of a true king who will come and establish God's kingdom.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the Deuteronomic law concerning the king in relation to Solomon's actions, and explain how Solomon's choices ultimately undermined his kingdom.
2. Analyze the concept of "strength in weakness" as it relates to Israel's relationship with God, and explain how Solomon's pursuit of military power contradicted this principle.
3. Trace the progression of Solomon's "defection from God," highlighting the key events and decisions that led to his downfall, and discuss the role of his "heart" in this process.
4. Examine the parallels between Solomon's kingdom and the kingdoms of other Ancient Near Eastern rulers, and discuss how Solomon's choices reflected a departure from his calling as a true "covenantal king."
5. Explore the theme of divine judgment in the context of Solomon's reign, discussing the significance of the adversaries God raised up against him and how this foreshadowed the future of the kingdom of Israel.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chariots:** Military implements, tanks of the time.
- **Covenantal King:** A king who adheres to the laws and principles of the covenant between God and Israel, prioritizing obedience and faithfulness.
- **Deuteronomy 17:** A key chapter in the book of Deuteronomy that outlines the laws and restrictions for the king of Israel, including limitations on acquiring horses, wives, and wealth.
- **Egypt:** In this context, represents reliance on worldly power and resources rather than on God.
- **Hamstring:** To disable a horse by cutting its hamstring tendons, rendering it unusable for war.
- **Heart:** The core of one's being, the center of thought, emotion, and will.
- **Idolatry:** The worship of false gods or idols, a violation of the covenant between God and Israel.
- **Kue:** A region from which Solomon imported horses.
- **Messianic Ideal:** The hope for a future king who will be a righteous and just ruler, fulfilling God's promises to David and establishing an everlasting kingdom.
- **Shalem:** A Hebrew word meaning complete, sound, wholesome, or harmonious, related to Solomon's name and representing his mission to bring peace and wholeness to his kingdom.



## **5. FAQs on Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 7, Solomon – Back to Egypt, Heart Turns to Idolatry, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions about Solomon's Reign**

#### **1. Why was Solomon's accumulation of chariots and horses considered problematic?**

Deuteronomy 17:16 instructed the king not to acquire many horses or lead the people back to Egypt to obtain them. Solomon's massive accumulation of 1400 chariots and 12,000 horses sourced from Egypt contradicted this command. This acquisition symbolized a reliance on military might rather than trusting in God for protection. It also suggests Solomon was profiting from the arms trade, an inappropriate activity for a king of peace.

#### **2. How did the command to avoid horses and chariots relate to Israel's history and relationship with God?**

Historically, Israel's victories were often achieved without comparable military strength, demonstrating God's intervention (e.g., the Exodus and battles under Joshua and David). God commanded the destruction of captured chariots and the hamstringing of horses to discourage reliance on military strength and foster complete trust in Him. He wanted Israel to remain distinct from other nations, trusting Him for their security.

#### **3. How did Solomon's actions contrast with the behavior of earlier Israelite leaders like Joshua and David?**

Joshua, under God's command, destroyed captured chariots and hamstrung the horses of his enemies. David similarly destroyed most of the chariots and horses he captured, keeping only a small number. Both demonstrated a reliance on God rather than military power. Solomon, in contrast, amassed a significant military force comparable to surrounding nations, signaling a shift in his trust from God to his own strength.

#### **4. What was the significance of Solomon's wealth accumulation, and how did it relate to Deuteronomy 17?**

Deuteronomy 17 cautioned the king against accumulating excessive wealth. Isaiah later criticizes the people for filling their land with silver, gold, horses, chariots, and idols. This parallels Solomon's trajectory: increasing wealth and establishing a strong military force eventually led him to idolatry, which is a theme running throughout the book of Kings. These were the very things the king in Deuteronomy 17 was to turn away from.

### **5. What was the problem with Solomon marrying foreign women?**

God had specifically commanded the Israelites not to intermarry with certain nations because they would lead their hearts astray to worship their gods. Solomon's marriage to many foreign women (700 wives and 300 concubines) violated this command and ultimately caused him to turn his heart away from the Lord.

### **6. How did Solomon's heart play a central role in his downfall?**

The lecture emphasizes the importance of the heart as the core of one's being. Solomon's wives turned his heart after other gods, leading him to build altars for them and legitimize heathen worship near the temple. This defection of the heart led to a deviation from God's commands and, ultimately, to the division of the kingdom.

### **7. How did God respond to Solomon's disobedience, and what were the consequences?**

God became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from Him, despite having appeared to Solomon twice and warning him. As a result, God declared that He would tear the kingdom away from Solomon and give it to one of his subordinates. He also raised up adversaries against Solomon, including Hadad the Edomite and Rezon son of Eliada, who troubled Israel throughout Solomon's reign.

### **8. What is the lasting significance of Solomon's story in the context of the books of Kings and the Messianic ideal?**

Solomon's reign, despite its initial promise, set a pattern of flawed leadership that would continue with subsequent kings. His inability to live up to the ideal of a covenantal king led to covenant judgments and increased the expectation for a true Messianic king—a descendant of David who would establish an everlasting kingdom of peace and righteousness. The prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah highlight this hope for a future king who will be truly faithful to God.