

I. HE WROTE THE BOOKS! Joshua Harris “I Kissed Dating Goodbye” has “Kissed Marriage and God Goodbye”, Ravi Zacharias wrote “Has Christianity Failed You?” and 25 other books but he failed Christianity, George MacDonald “Ordering Your Private World” had a private world of adultery, (*My book*) I Kings 4:32, Ecclesiastes 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. **Books** Read all the books on marriage and listen to all the messages and lessons you can, but reading doesn’t make you a better husband or wife like reading exercise and diet books doesn’t make you skinny!

A. Proverbs Proverbs 1:1-7

1. **Pyramid** of learning

a) **Knowledge** Facts, information learned by teaching or experience. Know all of the diets and latest exercise craze Proverbs 1:4,5,7 **Repetition** Isaiah 28:9-10 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.

b) **Wisdom** Proverbs 1:2-7, 8:12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. Skill to use knowledge - practice Knowing how to make the meal or do the exercise ~~I Kings 7:14 He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work.~~

c) **Instruction** Proverbs 1:3,7, Proverbs 24:30-34 Discipline to do eat right foods and actually exercise and to don't

d) **Understanding** Proverbs 1:2, 5-6, 4:4-7 Experience to apply what you have learned in new situations Applying the same discipline to other areas of your life

- What Solomon lacked was discipline.
I Kings 3:12-14

2. Wise-Foolish person Proverbs 1:20-25 Scale
Wisest people can still make foolish decisions
Ecclesiastes 2:15-16 Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity. For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the

fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool., 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour. Simple -

Door #1 or door #2 ~~Proverbs 9:1-4, 13-16~~

B. Song of Solomon Song of Solomon 1:1 The song of songs, which is Solomon's. One of the greatest love stories ever written.

1. Found his one true love! Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. How many of you have found your “one true love?” How many of you settled for 2nd best?
2. “Expert on marriage” I Kings 11:3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. I knew a guy who was single was going to write a book on marriage. I have been married 48 years & teach a class on marriage and I don't know what I am doing!
3. Learned it too late Ecclesiastes 9:9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that

is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

4. Solomon's best marriage advice!

a) Compliment each other ~~Song of Solomon~~

~~2:1-5~~ Her - Rose & Lily. Him - Tree & fruit

(1) Self-confident ~~Song of Solomon 2:1~~

Called herself a Rose & Lilly.

(2) Don't forget him Not just women!

~~Song of Solomon 5:10-16~~

b) Honor and respect I Peter 3:6-7 Even as

Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord:

whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do

well, and are not afraid with any

amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell

with them according to knowledge, giving

honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker

vessel, and as being heirs together of the

grace of life; that your prayers be not

hindered.

c) Don't lose that first love and wonder

Proverbs 5:18-20 Let thy fountain be

blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy

youth. Let her be as the loving hind and

pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all

times; and be thou ravished always with her

love. And why wilt thou, my son, be

ravished with a strange woman, and

embrace the bosom of a stranger? Enjoy the physical - She was actually the more “risque”

d) Let your marriage be a picture of God’s love
Ephesians 5:32-33 This is a great mystery:
but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

C. Ecclesiastes Ecclesiastes 12:1,13

1. Not as smart as I thought I was Ecclesiastes 1:16-18

a) Cannot go back and change it! Ecclesiastes 1:15

b) Youth is wasted on the young! Ecclesiastes 11:9-10

c) Sins of my youth Psalm 25:7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

2. Calls himself “preacher” Ecclesiastes 1:1, 12:9-12 Can I be honest with you? It is easier to preach it than to live it! vs. 12 Some of the people with the most books are doing the worst!

D. Psalms Solomon wrote 2 of the Psalms

1. Psalm 72 - Basically a prayer that he would be a good king & do right. Did great as a king - not so much in his personal life. Lot of guys do better at work than they do at home I Kings 2:12 Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly. In your final years not going to care about awards or success if lost family.
2. Psalm 127:1-5 His heritage? II Chronicles 12:1 And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him.

II. HE HAD IT ALL! Ecclesiastes 2:8-11

- A. Money does not buy happiness Ecclesiastes 5:10-11
Weight of gold in 1 year? I Kings 10:14 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold.

800,000 oz. = \$1,488,800,000 at today's prices!!!

(About equal to our national debt for one year)

How much more do you think would have made him happy?

1. Lack of contentment I Timothy 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

2. I don't want to be rich or poor Proverbs 30:7-9
"I've been rich and I've been poor, and rich is better."

B. Fame & Power ~~I Kings 4:29-31,34~~

1. Began to believe his own publicity I Kings 8:61
Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day. 11:4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.

a) Not good enough ~~Matthew 19:16-21~~ **"Good master"**

b) Not what he did **Ephesians 2:8-9** He didn't just go to church - He built it!

c) Can't buy salvation I Peter 1:18-19

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

d) Receive it **Romans 10:9-10,13**, while you can. Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and

longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

2. Pride was his downfall Proverbs 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. I Kings 11:9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.

III. HAD IT HIS WAY Deuteronomy 17:16-17 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

A. Did everything God said not to do! I Kings 9:4-7

“I’m different.” “It won’t happen to me!” I can handle it!” “I know what I am doing!” “I don’t need anyone to tell me what to do.”

1. Not a sin to be rich ~~1 Timothy 6:6-11~~ “**Love of money is the root of all evil**” (~~Ecclesiastes 2:1-11~~)
2. Women I Kings 11:1-4 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the

children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

- a) Warned us Proverbs 31:3 Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. 9x in Proverbs he warns about the strange woman. Should have listened to his own advice!
- b) Learned it from his father Exodus 34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.
- c) Change it Leviticus 26:40 If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they

trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me.

B. Would not listen to counsel ~~1 Kings 12:6-8~~ **17x he advises counsel in Proverbs** Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established. **Should have listened to his own advice!**

1. Pride was his downfall Proverbs 16:18 **Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**

2. He knew better Ecclesiastes 1:16 **I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.**

C. It was more about his kingdom than God's Matthew 6:33 **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** ~~Deuteronomy 17:18-20~~ - **Stay humble**

1. Neglect the Word Joshua 1:7-9 **Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth;**

but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

2. Humble yourself Deuteronomy 17:20 “**That his heart be not lifted up**” Matthew 18:4

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Cp. I Kings 3:3 to 8:60-61 to 11:4 **What is the one thing you are holding onto that is keeping you from giving your whole heart to God?**