

# Did God Micromanage Solomon?

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Bible students like to discuss God's involvement in the selection and behavior of civil leaders. In three separate articles (the previous two weeks and this week), we are discussing three Old Testament leaders who were chosen by God.

The three examples demonstrate that, even when God does choose a person to lead nations, He generally does not micromanage the actions of that leader.

## **God chose Solomon**

Bible students remember how David wanted to build a house for God (2 Samuel 7:2), but God decided to allow the next king to fulfill that glorious plan.

*2 Samuel 7:12-13*—"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

## **Did not force obedience**

When Bible students look at the behavior of Solomon, they can recognize that God did not micromanage Solomon's behavior to be obedient.

The biblical record shows examples of God being displeased with some of Solomon's choices.

## **Many mistakes**

During Solomon's reign as king, he made many mistakes. Notice how the Bible described his behavior.

*1 Kings 11:1-5*—"But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: 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.' Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. 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. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites."

*1 Kings 11:6*—"Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David."

*1 Kings 11:7-8*—"Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods."

*1 Kings 11:9-10*—"So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded."

### **National consequences**

It is interesting to note that Solomon's sinful behavior did lead to the dividing of the tribes of Israel.

*1 Kings 11:11-13*—"Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, 'Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.' "