

Chapter 1

THE POWER WIVES of SOLOMON

Power is defined as “possession of control, authority, or influence over others.” If you’ve seen the movie “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”, you might remember this quote about marriage: “The man is the head, but the woman is the neck. And she can turn the head any way she wants.” We see this wife power in action in marriages all around us today, but as we look at some relationships in the Bible, let’s start with the complicated romantic life of King Solomon.

One of the most powerful, rich, famous, and wise kings of all time was King Solomon, the son of David. He began his reign in humility, and one of the first things he did as king was gather all his leaders, and together they worshipped the Lord (2 Chronicles 1:1-6). Then when God asked Solomon what he wanted now that he was king, Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge to lead God’s people, and he also wrote the book of Proverbs. Solomon was an amazing man of faith and wisdom, but his life did not end as it began, because when it came to women, Solomon didn’t obey the Lord. And his disobedience had devastating consequences in his relationship with God, his kingdom, and all future generations.

“Now King Solomon loved many foreign women...the Lord God had said to the people, ‘You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.’ Solomon clung to these in love. He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. AND HIS WIVES TURNED AWAY HIS HEART. For when

Solomon was old and his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.” 1 Kings 11:1-4

Solomon not only turned AWAY from the Lord, but he actively turned TO idol worship and sacrifices - the things most important to his wives. The same man who built the temple of the Lord God at the beginning of his 40-year reign, was now building altars for other religions “...and so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods” (1 Kings 11:8).

It is easy to think that this happened to Solomon because he was outnumbered 1,000 to 1, but even one wife has great influence over her husband’s heart. And according to this passage, these wives had their own gods - their own idols - and their passion for these things influenced Solomon in a powerfully negative way. While his wives were worshiping these idols, he was worshiping his wives and wanted to make them happy - so he chose his wives over the One True God.

We, as wives today, do have such a special position of influence. God has given us wife-power to be used in building up our husbands, encouraging him in his calling, raising our families in God’s truth - although Solomon’s wives obviously didn’t go the positive route. Of course, Solomon was responsible for his own sin, and though God gave him the opportunity to repent, he refused and God then divided Solomon’s kingdom.

WRAP IT UP:

1 John 5:21 "...keep yourselves from idols."

An idol is "a person or thing that is greatly admired, loved or revered."

1. Do you recognize any idols in your life? Even good things that are taking the place of God in some way? For example, stability isn't a bad thing, but we can desire it more than God's plans for us. If so, what are your idols?
2. Have you ever considered that your words, attitudes and actions have power in your home? Do you have an example of this happening?
3. Are the things in your heart encouraging your husband and children to seek after God more? (Not that we are responsible for the decisions of others, but what we love and how we love impacts those we love.)
4. God's Word convicts us of idols and protects our hearts. Just like exercise strengthens us physically, the first step of being a power wife is knowing the All-powerful One personally and spending time with Him. Is this a habit in your life? How can you grow in this area?

PRAYER:

Lord, help us to love You with undivided, wholly devoted hearts. Please show us our idols and cleanse us. Help us to abide in You and we ask that You use our lives in positive, powerful ways to impact our husbands and those around us for Your glory. Amen!