

SOLOMON LESSONS FROM A FALLEN KING

STUDY FIVE

How God Deals with Defiance

1 Kings 11:9–28, 40

God's attitude toward insolence, defiance, and rebellion is severe. He does not wink at defiance. He deals with it.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

IF you've ever dealt with defiant people, then you know how they tend to respond when confronted. First comes the *selfish* tirade: "I want my own way!" Selfishness hardens into *stubbornness*: "I won't quit until I get what I want!" Then comes chilling *indifference*: "I don't care who gets hurt." Followed by determined *resistance*: "I refuse to listen to counsel." And, with a final slam of the door, flagrant *contempt*: "I don't care about the consequences!"

But consequences always come—when the defiant one's flight into rebellion inevitably crashes to earth. The consequences may include disease, pain, ruined relationships, wrecked future, and even jail.

Solomon warned those who defy God: "a treacherous person is headed for destruction" (Proverbs 13:15). Solomon would know. He was at the peak of his potential, an admired and respected king in his forties or fifties. But he defied God by marrying foreign women and worshiping their idols. He was behaving like an unsupervised, reckless teenager with a no-limit credit card. Eventually, however, his account came due.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

Perhaps you've suffered consequences for sin. Or you know someone who is headed for trouble. Solomon's downfall is a grave warning and can be difficult to read. Share with the Lord your fears, heartache, or concern for others or yourself as you step into these biblical scenes.



How God Deals with Defiance

1 Kings 11:9–28, 40



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Solomon wrote from his own experience that the defiant will “eat the bitter fruit of living their own way” (Proverbs 1:31). Solomon’s bitter harvest grew from a lifetime of sowing seeds of sin. He sowed the seed of *compromise* when he married Pharaoh’s daughter (*1 Kings 3:1*). He scattered more seeds through his unrestrained, unaccountable *extravagance* (*Ecclesiastes 2:1–11*). In his latter years, he sowed his most noxious seeds when he turned from worshiping God to *idolatry* (*1 Kings 11:1–8*).

These seeds sprouted and grew into thorny vines that strangled any good fruit Solomon’s life may have produced. He lost his distinctiveness as God’s royal representative. His lush lifestyle spiraled into cynicism, boredom, and disillusionment. His unchecked independence enslaved him to his own lusts, and his heart hardened in defiance toward God—who had no choice but to swing a sickle of judgment through Solomon’s sin-infested life.



Observation: A Cascade of Consequences

The Lord is slow to anger, but He is not soft on sin. He is supremely compassionate, but He will not tolerate defiance. Let’s take a sobering look at how God dealt with Solomon and the consequences that rained down on him, his family, and his kingdom.

Divine Anger—1 Kings 11:9–13

Read *1 Kings 11:9–13* using your skills of observation. Record the charges against Solomon, the cause-and-effect sequence, and the words or concepts that repeat for emphasis. Don’t overlook the Lord’s mercy in His judgment.

When the Lord deals with our defiance, it’s a “tearing” experience. He rips away the things that were important to us. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

How God Deals with Defiance

1 Kings 11:9–28, 40

Human Adversaries—1 Kings 11:14–25

Not all of Solomon's judgments came after his death, however. What trouble did the Lord stir up to disrupt Solomon's kingdom of peace, according to *1 Kings 11:14–25*? Locate the regions of Edom and Aram on your *Bible map* to see how they surrounded Israel.

Defiance stirs up God's anger. He has a right to be angry. We've broken His holy plan. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Internal Rebellion—1 Kings 11:26–28

The threats from these vengeful kings were mere annoyances compared to the agony of rebellion from within Solomon's circle of friends. Who rebelled against Solomon in *1 Kings 11:26–28*? What message did the Lord give through the prophet Ahijah, according to *11:34–37*?

Defiant people need to hear strong words. They're not listening to the quiet movements of God. Often, He must be very firm. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Personal Frustration—1 Kings 11:40

Rich and powerful Solomon was used to getting his way. What was he prevented from doing in *1 Kings 11:40*? What frustration must he have felt?

How God Deals with Defiance

1 Kings 11:9–28, 40

Carnal attitudes lead to defiance, which results in personal misery. Defiant people want freedom, but they find themselves in bondage.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: God's Anger in Perspective

Interpretation examines key biblical concepts to discover their meaning. The author of 1 Kings stated plainly, “The LORD was very angry with Solomon” (1 Kings 11:9). What is the nature of God’s anger? Let’s find out.

Humans erupt in anger when they don’t get their way. God’s anger or wrath is different. His anger is rooted in His holiness, and it is His just response to sin. It has a relational component as well, because it is often associated with His divine jealousy (*Psalm 79:5*).

When His people turn away from Him, they are like unfaithful spouses seduced by false love. As a jealous husband, God goes after His wayward loved ones to bring them back to Himself, their true love. His discipline toward Christians is always restorative.

Consult your resources or the online article, “*Does God Get Angry?*” at gotquestions.org to discover more about divine anger. How is God’s response to sin an essential component of His love and justice?

God is jealous for our hearts. When we walk against His way, He deals with us. He is patient, loving, merciful—but He is also jealous.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Divine Anger Averted through Christ

Defiance and rebellion run through the fiber of the human soul. What dark threads do you see in Paul’s description of humankind’s sinful nature in *Romans 1:28–32*?

How God Deals with Defiance

1 Kings 11:9–28, 40

To satisfy the demands of His justice and holiness, God must deal with defiance. What did God do to save humanity from certain judgment for sin, according to [Romans 3:23–25](#)?

What is God's remedy for sin, according to [1 John 4:9–10](#)?

Find hope in the forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Turn over to Him the defiant spirit that is like acid eating away at you. He will release you from your bondage to sin.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Reversing the Spiral of Defiance

Take a moment to review your recent thoughts, feelings, and actions. Do you see in yourself any signs of defiance lurking in the shadows? Have you been waving any rebel flags in your heart?

- “I want my way.”
- “I won’t quit until I get it.”
- “I don’t care who gets hurt.”
- “I refuse to listen to counsel.”
- “I don’t care about the consequences.”

If so, you’re on track with Solomon, but your path doesn’t have to end as his did. You can reroute to the cross with an honest prayer of confession and a desire to follow Christ’s way.

How God Deals with Defiance

1 Kings 11:9–28, 40

Use this space for reflection and confession if needed.

Another application of this study might be extended and focused prayer for a loved one who is spiraling downward. Selfish, stubborn, indifferent, resistant, and full of contempt, he or she is headed for disaster.

Having seen how God deals with defiance, perhaps now you're better equipped for a heart-to-heart conversation with this person. What might you say?

Now, close your study in prayer, asking the Lord for an open door with this person and releasing him or her into God's hands.

God must deal with defiance firmly to break the bondage of sin, but His goal is to restore people to a thriving relationship with Him and set them once again on His way of peace. God showers our lives with forgiveness and hope when we return to Him.

How God Deals with Defiance

1 Kings 11:9–28, 40



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, work in my life. Replace my defiant spirit with a heart for Christ in submissive obedience and trust. Do the same in the lives of those I love, so that we may walk together, spiritually arm-in-arm, seeking Your face and following Your way. In Christ's name, amen.

For the 2024 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Bryce Klabunde, vice president, *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 1978, 2024 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

insight.org

Insight for Living Ministries

Study 5 • Page 7

