

# FAMOUS Chapter 9

## 2 Chronicles 9: The death of a nation

Why is this chapter famous? I keep saying that, yet this chapter marks the beginning of the end of Israel in the Old Testament history. To this point, Solomon had it all. He owned much of the promised land. He had wealth, women, and prestige. In this chapter, he put his mighty kingdom on display, yet he forgot God's warning.

Deuteronomy 17:16-17 **“The king, moreover, 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.” 17 He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.”**

Solomon broke all the rules. God gave him wisdom because that is what he asked for. Actually, God then was so impressed with Solomon that he blessed him with a healthy kingdom. Yet, Solomon went too far. He gathered up too much. But, God blessed him? Yes, but God expected Solomon to use his wisdom wisely. Parading all his wealth was not wise. Gathering more than was needed was not wise.

It's interesting that right after Solomon died, the remaining kings fell into idolatry, war, kingdom split, and more. It became a mess. Further to that, I feel that other kingdoms desired all the riches of Israel. Boasting was not a good idea. Eventually both Judah and Israel were plundered and taken into captivity. It all began in 2 Chronicles 9.

Further to this is war. I know war is not really part of Solomon's reign, yet what does riches and horses mean? I feel he was massing an army. He wanted more. I know that is not part of the Bible, yet I

feel it looks that way. Trust in the Lord began to falter from Solomon on. Right after Solomon's death, we see his son Rehoboam in a revolt. Why? Because Solomon was not really blessed by God directly. Solomon had taxed the people harshly to gain much of his wealth. He had asked tribute from other nations. Hence, I feel he looked like a menacing army.

I fear it's where America is today. So much money, wealth, and power. Is America known for glamour or compassion? Years ago, in Alberta Canada, the Premier of the Province had so much money coming in that he paid off all the provinces debt. Smart move. Yet, he also gave cheques to everyone in the province to share the wealth. Good move? The rest of the country was not so lucky. In the last few years, the other provinces have ganged up on Alberta. Why? Maybe it's jealousy, boasting, or pride. Alberta is now back in debt and out of work. Sounds like Solomon's kingdom being played out. Be mindful of the things you receive from God.