



Research article

THE FOOLISHNESS IN SOLOMON’S WISDOM- A THOUGHT FOR THE WISE

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ABSTRACT

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The study is ‘the Foolishness in Solomon’s Wisdom- A thought for the Wise.’ Apparently, King Solomon of Israel is globally agreed to be the wisest person on the planet of Earth, before and after his reign as King over Israel. God gave Solomon Wisdom as he promised him. Is the Wisdom of Solomon an advantage or disadvantage to the Israelites? How does Solomon’s Wisdom contribute to the economy of Israel? The research work will reveal the perspective of sight of Israelites on the Kingship of Solomon. The Study adopts the historical approach to the study of Religion. The research work critically evaluate the essence of wisdom in the context of God’s gift in governance and the implication of the same to the leadership of Solomon. It was realised that Solomon handled wrongly, the divine gift of Wisdom given to him through wrong applications of the same. The study concludes that, no matter the summit of Man’s wisdom, the most foolish person on earth can rubbish the wise man’s stand. The foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of the wisest man of earth.



Background

The Holy Bible spells out the most comprehensive account for the life of King Solomon. Solomon's life history are in the first eleven Chapters of the first kings and the first nine Chapters of the second Chronicles. Solomon was the youngest among David's Sons and was enthroned King over Israel when his father was still alive. Solomon and his Mother Bathsheba appeared too desperate for the throne and damned the consequence to remind David what Nathan said at the naming ceremony of Solomon.

Religions such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, etc., give salutation to the divinely endowed Wisdom of Solomon. Many Religions hailed from Jewish Religion called Judaism and the stories in these other Religions are reflections from what is originally written down in Judaism. To Gartenhaus, in both Torah and post-biblical Talmudic books which might be taken as creed to the worship of God. The summary of Judaism Worship is that, the Jews were enjoined to obey the Law of God.¹ There-in the Wisdom of Solomon are the spots of Foolishness. It is not that Solomon received foolishness as mixture to Wisdom from God, but the appropriation of his wisdom was well misappropriated. The application of some of his deeds were not well display.

The study adopts historical approach to the study of Religions. Any historian is bound to rely upon his sources and those sources may

well reflect varying theological opinion.² Available books on the history of Solomon and online materials were consulted to drive home the points. This approach quests; ... does the passage contain information that is essential to understand something else that occurs or said later? Is the passage on the start of any new developments? Where does the passage fit in the general scope of OT history?³ Most histories are written to be studied in their entirety rather than consulted here and there for information about specific times or event.⁴ Solomon was realised through the study to have started well with God. The study identified the foolishness in Solomon through the application of the Wisdom. The misappropriation of Wisdom makes Solomon foolish.

The study identifies the willingness in David to surrender the throne to his youngest son when he was still alive. Approval and willingness of David to surrender the throne for his youngest son may not be farfetched from the position of the youngest son of the Family that David too occupied in the household of Jesse.

Biological background of Solomon

Solomon was almost the youngest among David's sons. The name of his Mother was Bathsheba, who was the wife of a Hittite Soldier and one of the thirty seven great generals of David. The pregnancy between

¹ Jacob Gartenhaus, *Winning Jews to Christ*, (Tennessee: Sword of the Lord Publishers, 1976) 51

² Stuart Blanch, Archbishop of York, *It is written, A New Approach to the Old Testament*, (New York, 1976) 27

³ Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis- A Primer for Students and Pastors*, (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1980), 27

⁴ Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis, A Primer for Students and Pastors* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1980) 99



David and Bathsheba as result of the sin committed between them was a boy. God was displeased with the result of the pregnancy and the boy was sick. The sickness led to death of the boy. David fasted and prayed earnestly to God to spare the life of the boy, but to no avail. The death of the boy is as result of the message of Prophet Nathan.

After the death of the boy, David consoled Bathsheba and had intercourse with her. The result of the next meeting gave birth of another son. Bathsheba had four sons to David as 1 Chronicles chapter three records it. The historic record shows that God was highly delighted in the last boy. At the birth of this new boy was a great celebration in the Palace. Prophet Nathan emerged again to give David a consoling message of God's delight in the new boy and named him Solomon, meaning 'Peaceful' and God through Prophet Nathan called the boy Jedidiah meaning 'beloved of Jehovah'.⁵ It therefore means that there are gap of sons between the lost son of Bathsheba and Solomon.

Possibly, Nathan was overwhelm with the situation of the last son of Bathsheba and predicted alongside to David and Bathsheba, that the new child will reign as King after David. David as the last son of Jesse was treated with contempt and was to be in charge of flock of the entire family. This was a different story, as David spoilt Solomon as the last Son of the family. The training of the young boy, Solomon, was with the golden spoon in his mouth in the Palace. The numbers of names mentioned in the Hebrew

Bible is nineteen Sons, but research work proves that the Sons of David were more than nineteen in number. There are some unnamed Children that were born to David, who probably might have died in infancy, Bathsheba's son inclusive.⁶

David must have had more daughters numerically than sons, but the Jewish Tradition does not recognise the counting of the Female gender. Tamar could not have been the only daughter of King David. Tamar is mention in the Biblical account as daughter to David, because of the sexual perversion that involved her. Following the record of 1 Chronicles 3:1-9, Tamar was the only female that was mentioned. David's Sons are: Ammon from first wife Ahinoam from Jezreel, Daniel whose mother was Abigail from Carmel, Absalom, whose mother was Maacah, daughter of King Talmal of Geshur, Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, Shephatiah, whose mother was Abital, Ithream whose mother was Eglah. These six aforementioned sons were born to David when he was ruling from Hebron at the space of seven years.

The thirty- three years of David as King in Jerusalem had the following Sons from Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah, Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon. He also had other sons. They are: Ibhar, Elishua, Elphelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. Verse 9 of the considered passage reveals that David had other Sons from some Concubines. From every indications, these women would have born daughters in larger numbers to the sons mentioned which the Jewish Tradition

⁵ <https://www.ministrysamples.org> retrieved on the 16th April, 2020

⁶ <https://www.biblegateway.com> retrieved on the 16th April 2020



disallowed. Solomon was one of the least among David's sons.

The author of Kings used some sources available in his days for the compilation of the stories of the kings. The events recorded cover a period of four centuries of history. Three documents specifically mentioned as sources of stories of Kings, Solomon inclusive are:

- i. The Book of the Acts of Solomon
- ii. The Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah
- iii. The Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.⁷

Solomon gave birth to four known Children. The pronounced among them in the Bible is Rehoboam, while the other son is Menelik 1 from Queen of Sheba. He also has two daughters Taphath and Basemath (1 Kings 4: 8-15, 43; 11:43). One could compare four children to seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. Solomon would not have had excess children, gender irrespective. Solomon's motif was not on bearing children, but just having women around for fun.

Solomon Quersted for wisdom:

The best-recorded godly request of King Solomon was the request for Wisdom. David Horton comments on the acquisition of Wisdom of Solomon:

Solomon's reign (1 Kings 1-11) begins well enough. He consolidates power and asks God for wisdom to rule well; he becomes famous throughout the region for his wisdom

and wealth. He undertakes the building of a permanent temple in Jerusalem; the resulting architectural wonder, astounding in its display of lavish beauty, becomes a unifying symbol in Israel.⁸

Prior to the permission of God for Solomon free request, King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God (2 Chronicles 7:1ff), which attracted the physical presence of God in the Temple in form of clouds. The cloud was much to the extent that the Priests cannot stand the cloud that represents the presence of God on the Altar as they all ran out of the Temple. Solomon finished the Worship. This prompted God to compensate Solomon with anything he wants. This was an opened cheque for Solomon to fill with a request.

Wisdom is the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgement the quality of being wise. Being wise is based on sensible. Other synonyms for this are sagacity, intelligence, understanding, insight.⁹ Wisdom has to do with unbiased judgement, compassion, experiential self-knowledge, self-transcendence and non-attachment, and virtues such as ethics and benevolence.

Solomon did not quest for lives of his enemies, golds nor wealth but Wisdom. He understood from infancy that Wisdom is the principal thing. *Wisdom is the Principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy*

⁷ Ogba, Okey, *Exploring Old Testament (Volume 2)* (Ibadan: Jilog Nigeria Company, 2001) 230

⁸ David Horton, Ed., *The Portable Seminary, A Master Overview in one Volume*, (Minnesota: Bethany House, 2006) 234

⁹



getting, get understanding (Prov. 4:7). This application is all in Solomon that informs his questing for Wisdom from God.

Solomon's Kingship

Williams present that Solomon became famous as King of Israel, but David his Father, had laid the foundation of his greatness. Solomon inherited from David a large and peaceful Kingdom.¹⁰ This is a backup to the opinion of this study that the Peace enjoyed by Solomon was laid in the days of David. On the other hand, there are things done by David like serious wars that a Palace spoilt baby, Solomon, cannot stand or continue. The choice of Solomon among the elder sons of David is a seed of discord in the Palace that led to murders.

There was contention among Solomon and his brothers for the throne. Absalom who was the eldest son at a moment was not patient enough. He was able to gain the heart of part of the military force, some Priests and the Chief Counsel of David, Ahitophel were involved in Absalom's coup. David and his obedient people moved out to exile as Absalom took over the throne of his father and slept with his father's wives that were left behind in the palace at Jerusalem as a sign of being in charge.

Absalom was thought to become the next king after the demise of Ammon. The choice of the last Child of the family, Solomon, is similitude to the choice of Yahweh of picking David the youngest son of Jesse.

Hushai, David's faithful friend, Abiathar and Zadok and their sons were Ahimaaz and

Jonathan respectively, were left behind in Jerusalem to always relay the update of the Absalom's operation to David and to contradict the suggestions of Ahithophel. Then, the word of Ahithophel was like God giving pieces of advice to people. Joab killed Absalom at the battlefield leaving Adonijah as the eldest son. Adonijah too contested for the throne with the backup of Joab. The failure of Adonijah led to the downfall of Joab's leadership. As at the enthronement of Solomon, Adonijah was the eldest of David's sons. As at now, Ammon and Absalom have died, but Solomon was preferred. Eventually Solomon killed Adonijah when he requested for Abishag who practiced Shunamitism¹¹ with David.

Essence of Wisdom in Solomon's governance

On the deathbed, David received a news that his Son Adonijah invited to a banquet all the sons of the King, Joab the Chief of Army Staff and the Priests led by Abiathar. Prophet Nathan and Solomon were exempted from the meeting. Prophet Nathan in his influence since the naming of Solomon had predicted him the successor of David. On this event, he motivated the report of the on-going event. David declared his successor as Solomon and instantly assigned Zadok the Priest, Nathan the Prophets and Benaiah a Soldier to execute the enthronement of Solomon as King over Israel.

Solomon's government took Israel to the summit of riches. Honour, wealth and

¹⁰ David and Bridget Williams, *From the Institution of the Monarchy to the fall of the Northern Kingdom* (Britain: Collins Clear-Type of Press, 1981) 10

¹¹ Shunamitism was practiced by David and Abishag from shunem. Shunamitism is the process by which a young virgin woman sleeps with an aged Man in other for the young woman to generate heat of revitalisation for the aged Man without any sexual intercourse.



respect. Notable among the governance of Solomon was his Judgement. Solomon controlled the land- bridge between Egypt and Asia. He also exploit the north to south caravan routes. Solomon was able to lead Hiram of Tyre and controlled the financial gains between Israel and Tyre. Some of the buildings scheme were undoubtedly works of national importance.¹²

It is unique to note that Solomon established the tribes in status of States. He made each of the twelve tribes to pay him tributes monthly. Tributes were paid in forms of cattle, grains, Oil, silver and golds. The primary purpose for this was to be able to maintain the feeding of thousands of people who eat daily on the table of the King. Fortunately, there are twelve states under the nation of Israel to respond to twelve tributes been paid across the twelve months of the year. So, there was enough to eat in expense of the twelve tribes of Israel. The reign of Solomon witnessed economic boom for the Kingdom. The International trade of Israel flourished. Solomon joined the Phoenicians to build a merchant ship plying the Red Sea route to Egypt and Cyprus, etc.¹³

The headache of this monthly assessment to feed the battalion in the Palace, coupled with the task of erecting buildings and temple made Israel to request for reduction of this burden by the delegation sent to Rehoboam after his enthronement as King over united Israel. Rehoboam consulted the senate of his father who advised that the issue should be trend with wisdom. Rehoboam's friends

believe that such nonsense should not be taken. Rehoboam answered; ... *My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourge you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions* (1 Kings 12: 14).

There was rivalry between the tribes of Ephraim, where Jeroboam came from and Judah, the source of Solomon. Rabbi Markowitz says, The secessionists, under the leadership of Jeroboam, revolted against Solomon (who was from the tribe of Judah), but were put to flight. Jeroboam fled to Egypt to await a more opportune time.¹⁴ The Ephraimites with other Northerners cannot wait for a chance to have independence from the Judah.

All the pieces of advice given by Solomon to his sons had no significance to the young boy, Rehoboam. The Kingdom of Israel was divided at the inception of Rehoboam's government. The Northern Israel has his headquarter in Samaria and the Judah in the southern part with the headquarters in Jerusalem.

Books of Solomon

King Jedidiah Solomon was a Poet writer. He wrote several books such as Proverbs, Songs of Songs, Ecclesiastes or the Preachers and some Psalms. It was not that Solomon sat down and wrote by himself. In his days, there were Scribes or Secretaries and the Professions of the Scribes then was very lucrative. The Scribes followed Solomon all about and jot down his wise words. Sometimes, Solomon at meeting with

¹² Rev. Professor John Mauchline, *God's People Israel* (Ibadan: Day Star Press, 1978) 75

¹³ Dapo Asaju, *Christian Foundation*, (Abeokuta: Crowther Theological Publishers, 2015) 5

¹⁴ Rabbi Sidney L. Markowitz, *What you should know about Jewish Religion, History, Ethics and Culture*, (New York: Citadel Press, 1955) 17, 18



his senates exchanged some thoughtful words to the elders, which were documented. These documented words were extracted for series of publications in credit of Solomon.

The word Proverb was translated as Oracles (Num. 23:7, 18), taut (Isa. 14:4), or Parable (Ezek. 17:2). These were twisted words. Not often straight forward thought. The words called for re-think over several issues. A paragraph may speak of over five issues of different cases. Solomon's writings are full of inspirations and ancient Jews take them to be words of wisdoms spoken by Solomon and documented by his secretaries. Nothing was recorded in the Bible about Solomon's secretaries' remuneration, but it was realised that the secretaries were very dedicated to the documentations of the Kings words.

Solomon spoke against giving ones heart to women as what reduces one to a man of little food (Prov. 5: 3-22). Unfortunately, he gave himself to love of strange women, which was the commencement of the destruction of his reign.

Ecclesiastes 2: 11 is the summary of all the writings of Solomon. *"Then, I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun"*. The submission to Vanity as the result of all the Earth is happening is the conclusion of all the messages of Solomon. It was a proof that all accusation are but vanity. The conclusion of vanity is the nucleus of Solomon's message to both the Wise and the Fool.

This research work believes that, Solomon died like a fool. All that he taught with fear of God and warnings against women trapped

him down. Asides the foolish act of love of women, Solomon did some intelligent project with some international consultation.

Solomon made the most of his alliance with Hiram (c. 969-936 BC) of Tyre (1 King 1-12). The Phoenicians, just entering their colonial heyday, supplied the architectural skill and many of the materials, especially the fine Lebanese woods, for Solomon's Temple and palaces: they design and manned his ships; they provided a market for the Palestinian crops of wheat and olive oil, On at least one occasion Hiram came to Solomon's aid with a substantial loan (1 Kings 9:11).¹⁵

Solomon's Wisdom

The best section where the Israelites enjoyed the benefit of a king with divine wisdom is when Solomon Judge cases. The greatest credit for Solomon's judgement over Israel was on the case of two women who slept in the same room with their babies. One of them slept of her Child who died and trickily replaced her dead child with the living one of her neighbour. The situation turned to contention as both of them were struggling for the living child (1 Kings 3: 16-28).

The case was taken to the Court of King Solomon. It was a delicate case to decide as Solomon put the judgement on the trend of the feelings of the two women. Solomon declared his judgement by commanding one of his military men to cut the living Child to two and share the same with the two of them.

¹⁵ J.D., Douglas & et al, *The New Bible Dictionary*, (England: Intervarsity, 1962) 1203



The first woman rejoiced at the declaration while the second one exclaimed with plea for the King not to kill the Child. On this emotion, Solomon ruled the judgement in favour of the woman who pleaded for the child to remain alive. The simple wisdom here is that no woman will rejoice at the killing of her child.

Israel and the nations around heard this judgement and salute God's divine wisdom in Solomon's life. Nations around visited Solomon with gifts to appreciate the divine wisdom of God in him. Rabbi Markowitz recounts the enormous King Solomon's numerous accomplishments under ten points:¹⁶

- i. Solomon kept his country Israel out of war for solid forty years. This is an implication of his name *Shlomon*, which means peace.
- ii. Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem to strengthen the spiritual ties among the Jews around 1007 B.C.E.
- iii. Solomon built a large merchants marine and carried on trade with many countries to the extension to South America...
- iv. Solomon organised an unused strong army and discouraged his territory to be attacked by his neighbours
- v. Solomon built many edifices in the cities, roads, and a reservoir system that is still in operation in Israel
- vi. It was Solomon that introduced artificial irrigation to Israel
- vii. Solomon developed smelting furnace around the Gulf of Akaba

viii. Solomon erected cisterns of water to Jerusalem. Before this, Jerusalem was indefensible for lack of water

ix. Solomon is a Poet author. He authored many writings. Part of which was canonised in the Old Testament Scriptures

x. Solomon became the wisest in the generation of mankind, but his over-taxation led to the protest of Israelites.

Much of these were accomplishment that attract kudos to Solomon's performance. The otherwise was the outcome of his foolish display.

Solomon rebuilt the Palace for thirteen years (1 Kings 11:1-2)

The extreme of the over-taxation and excessive and flamboyant life were the misappropriation of the wisdom of God of Solomon. The strange wives turned his mind against the LORD who gave him wisdom. Under the leadership of Solomon deterioration and strife were everywhere.¹⁷ The name of Israel was famous among the nations at Solomon's Kingship. The foolishness of Solomon will be viewed under the following:

Solomon lived an extravagant life: What an extravagant life for Solomon to have rebuilt another Palace aside the big one built by David his Father. The new Palace built by Solomon as ancient as the day was, had swimming pool. It means he did not start the erection of the Temple immediately after his enthronement. David had made all the essential materials available for the erection of the Temple but God insisted that he

¹⁶ Rabbi Sidney L. Markowitz, *Jewish Religion, History, Ethics and Culture* (New York: The Citadel Press, 1955) 39-40

¹⁷ <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.com> Retrieved on 16th April 2020



should suspend it for Solomon his son. The reason for this is that the hands of David was filled with bloods of his victims in the battlefields. God does not want the soiled hands with blood to contribute to the erection of the Temple.

David has already planed the craftwork, the building drafts and the building construction materials. Yet, when Solomon swing to action, he started almost from the scratch. One wonders where he kept the materials that David provided. He employed people from other country to supervise the work. The act of this was not only on the building of the Temple. He did the same at the re-erection of the Palace, by inviting the experts from other countries. This will attract extra expenses that would have been kept if his own compatriots were used for the same purpose. Solomon lavished extra care and funds on the invited guest, which his own taskmasters never enjoyed.

Tracing back the history, Moses made design of the Temple Materials and robes of the Levites, even the construction of the temporary Synagogues, through the efforts of the endowed Israelites with Divine Wisdom. The first Palace that David built was drafted, planned and erected by the Israelites; this was without the intervention of any outsider. The draft work in the wilderness was drafted by Israelites and implemented by the Israelites civil engineers (Exod. 25-30; 36: 8-39; 40; 43). These people were in the business of building technology in Egypt and would have been capable enough to build any great edifices. Then, why did Solomon refused the use of insiders endowed by God? Then, why has Solomon decided to waste money in erecting

his new Palace and Temple with the involvement of international experts? Are there no more wise people any longer in Israel? With this act of extravagant Solomon, he is a wasteful son.

Solomon enforcement through taskmasters: Solomon was known for the construction of the Temple of Jerusalem. The magnificent building of the Temple was built with concrete mixed with golds. The search of Gold made the invaders to destroy the concrete walls and pillars of the Temple. Here King Solomon's Porch was built. King Solomon at the erection of the Temple enforce the taskmasters to go about and collect contributions of moneys in forms of silver and golds for the building of the Temple.

Under the taskmasters, each able man in Israel was also enforce to give free three months in the year when he will work in Israel without any payment. This was unlike his father David who did not owe anybody who assisted him in the erection of the first Palace in the united Israel. Solomon also used the professional contractors from outside the Phoenician Building Engineer and Edom. The Burden was too much on the Israelites. Pronounced among the taskmasters of King Solomon was Jeroboam. Jeroboam was on duty when he met Prophet Ahijah over the prediction of the division of Israel. The division of the small land into two kingdoms weakened them against enemies.¹⁸

Solomon loved strange Women: At the course of lecturing related courses to the Old

¹⁸ Josheph Gaer, *How the great Religion began*, (New York: The New American Library, 1956) 153



Testament, students have asked the researcher, the possibilities of how Solomon could specially satisfy his Wives and Concubines sexually. In facts, can it be possible for a man to sexually satisfy one thousand women across each year? Solomon did this without the caution of neither Prophet Nathan, his spiritual advocate none his Mother Bathsheba. The Canonised Bible listed two boys and two girls against the one thousand women.

It is unfortunate that Solomon who prayed and fire came down from heaven (1 Chron. 7:1), was the same that lost fellowship with God through love to strange women. Also, there is likelihood that some of his wives and concubines will be concubines for other Men. He did everything at his disposal in excess. When it comes to excessive life, Solomon lost control. This is strip foolishness in Solomon Wisdom. Solomon died at the age of 59 years old. At this age Solomon was physically old and aged. Imagine the sexual intercourse with one thousand women in one life is enough to send him to his early grave.

Solomon worship other gods: In order to secure peace, concord and alliance with other nations around, Solomon married many wives from the nations. These wives were of different religions, and when they came to Jerusalem, they brought with them their own Priests and Solomon built for them shrines where they could worship their own God.¹⁹ The wives and concubines of Solomon lived on the mountains around Israel. Solomon used to visit them on the mountains where they worship their gods.

¹⁹ Levi Dawson, *The History and Religion of Israel*, (London: Evan Brothers Limited, 1968) 18

Solomon built high places on the Mount for his foreign wives to worship the Moabite chemosh and the Ammorite god Molech . “These places of worship, the text says, were east of Jerusalem, to south of the Mount of Corruption”²⁰ (2Kgs 23:13). The Scholars believe that the worship of strange gods on this mountain corrupted it. It could likewise be referred to as “Mount of offence (variously called Mount of Corruption or evil Counsel)”²¹, it may as well be the place where these abominations occurred, but this identification is by no means certain.

In order for him to honour his wives and concubines, he dropped grains of sacrifice in the fires of strange gods. God was annoyed with Solomon. At this instance, the enemies of Israel rose and invaded the land. Silent moment turned to Israel as troubled time. Things turned negatively around for Israel and some indigenes died as consequence to this. The Canaanite religion can be treated as a homogenous phenomenon, which can then be seen, *in toto*, as completely different from Israelite religion.²²

Solomon buried his Father with Silver and Gold: Solomon buried his father, David, in a hewn cave. Solomon buried David with Golds, Silver and several gifts. Ogidiolu confirms that the kings of Israel were buried in hewn caves, as Solomon buried his father,

²⁰ G. Arthur, *The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible* (New York: Abingdon Press, 1962) p.452

²¹ G. Arthur, *The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible* p.452

²² M.E. Andrew, *Israelite and Canaanite Religion-Christianity and other Religions*, in Orita, Ibadan Journal of Religious Studies, II/I June 1968, 19



David, extravagantly.²³ How extravagant Solomon was? Josephus expressed this:

He (David) was buried by his son Solomon, in Jerusalem, with great magnificence and with all the other funeral pomp which Kings use to be buried with: moreover, he had great and immense wealth buried with him, the vastness of which may be easily conjectured at by what I shall now say; for a thousand and three hundred years afterwards, Hyrcanus the high priest, when he was besieged by Antiochus, that was called the pious the son of Demetrius, and was desirous of giving him money to get him to raise the siege, and draw off his army; and having no other method of compassing the money, opened one room of David's Sepulcher, and took out three thousand talents and gave part of that sum to Antiochus, and by this means caused the siege to be raised, as we have informed the reader elsewhere. Nay, after him, and that many years, Herod the King opened another room, and took away a great deal of money, and yet neither of them came at the coffins of the Kings themselves, for their bodies were buried under the earth (on Mount Zion) so artfully, that they did not appear even to those that entered into their moments; but so much shall

suffice us to have said concerning these matters²⁴

All that Solomon buried David with were just but a waste. This is similitude with the idea of some Africans burying the aged ones with money or properties. The properties were wasted to the enemies many years after the burial of David. Solomon fell victim to what he knew: ...vanity upon vanity, all is vanity

Misappropriation of Wisdom; the Foolishness in Solomon's Wisdom, thought for the Wise

There are ways by which David built the first Palace without oppressing the masses. Solomon would have done the same thing without the task or enforcement of Israelites to work without remuneration. Solomon rebuilt the Palace for thirteen years. This is misappropriation of God's given Wisdom. This same wrong approach was used to the Temple.

Solomon was too wasteful so are many rich people in Africa. Many of them are of the opinion to have the generations of the descendants unborn to meet their money hundreds of years after their demise. They therefore store the currency in a dung hole. The number of people who eat each meal of Solomon's table were too many. They were not the poor or needy but the honourable men of the days. So also the Politicians in many of the Africa Countries who favour

²³ Ayodeji Olanrewaju OGIDIOLU, PhD., *The Relevance of יהוה - הרים 'Mountains of Yahweh' In the Old Testament to Indigenous Churches: Christ Apostolic Church in Southwestern Nigeria As a Case Study* (Ibadan: Smart Publishing Company, 2017) 50

²⁴ A.M. William Whiston, *The works of (Flavius) Josephus, complete and unabridged. Book 3, Chapter 5.5* (London: HenDickson Publishers, 1987) 51.



only their rich counterparts with their riches and neglect the needies.

Using wealth to amass women like Solomon is foolishness. Rich Africa people in our generation amass money, properties, wealth, etc, for their unborn generation. Burying ones death with wealth that the living beings cannot benefit from like Solomon is foolishness. Saving what this generation does not enjoy to the unborn generation is foolishness. The living generations may be suffering, but they believe that the unborn generation will enjoy it. This is foolishness. The archaeological discoveries give their facts under probability. The site of Solomon's Palace is under probability with his wisdom and creativity. All is vanity. For people in authority, it is a foolish act to divert Masses Money to personal account such money cannot be spent well. Some money stolen from the confine of government in Nigeria were leant to have been saved in European countries. Many account have been freeze by the foreign country.²⁵ Switzerland returned the money looted by former Late President Sanni Abacha on Nigeria sometimes ago. About \$ 322.5 Million was returned to Nigeria government.²⁶ Anything that has to do with misappropriation of God's gift is Foolishness. All is vanity.

Conclusion

The Foolishness in Solomon's Wisdom was the misappropriation of God's given Wisdom for something else. The Foolishness is doing

things abnormally. Solomon's foolishness is in backing where his predecessors have faced. It is a foolish idea to do things in excess. Excessiveness will harm Nation and mislead the Wise into pitch. God has not done evil, by giving Solomon Wisdom. The Fault is not God's. The failure of Solomon's Wisdom is from the misappropriation of the God's given Wisdom. David is wiser than Solomon because he embedded his Wisdom in God. Despite the fact that he was a Man of Valour, he never rely on his strength, but will often asked God of how to battle. Solomon would have excelled likewise if he had formed the habit of asking God on how to dispense his Wisdom. Misappropriation of God's given Wisdom is the problem of Solomon. The worse part of this is that, the formidable Nation assumed the verge of destruction at the closure of the wise Solomon's reign. This is a real foolishness in Solomon's Wisdom.

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²⁵ Returning Nigerians' Stolen Millions, *The stakes are high in the planned distribution of US\$322 Million in stolen Nigerian Public Money*, 3 August, 2018, <http://www.transparency.org>

²⁶ <https://amp.theguardian.com> The Guardian, Retrieved on 23rd April 2020



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