

One of the wisest men who ever lived thought he was standing firm. But he fell from wisdom to foolishness, and from God-devotedness to a form of practical idolatry! His name is Solomon, and he is a classic example of a person characterized by a desire to gratify his sinful appetites!

But it was not always so.

In 1 Kings 3:9 Solomon asked the Lord for an understanding heart to discern between good and evil in his judgment among the people of Israel.

In 1 Kings 3:12 God was pleased with this request and gave Solomon a wise and discerning heart like that of no other judge or ruler.

In 1 Kings 4:29 God gave Solomon wisdom, very great discernment and breadth of mind (or heart).

In 1 Kings, chapters 5-8 and chapter 10, verses 1-25 God allowed Solomon to build the temple, and blessed him with great peace and prosperity.

In 1 Kings 9:1-9 the Lord appeared to Solomon, encouraged him to walk in integrity of heart and uprightness, and warned him what would happen if he turned away from following the Lord.

The background of this warning is found in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. There the Lord had warned Israel through Moses that when they came into the Promised