

Just how far Solomon went in his disobedience to the Lord may be seen in the latter part of 1 Kings 11, verses 31, 35, and 40. When the Lord spoke through the prophet Ahijah and told Solomon that He would tear ten tribes from Solomon's son and give them to Jeroboam, Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam!

Think of it! The Lord said He would tear the tribes away, and Solomon actually tried to keep God's Word from being fulfilled by attempting to kill the anointed of the Lord!

This was something we might have expected from a Saul or an Ahab or a Jezebel or an Athaliah or a Manasseh, but not from Solomon!

AND YET IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED!

I believe there is an important lesson here. God gave Solomon great gifts, but Solomon apparently forgot that they were gifts from a gracious God, who could withdraw them if they were abused. And Solomon certainly abused them through disobedience! This should teach us that if God's gifts are abused and despised, He can withdraw them at any time. **THEY ARE NOT OUR ABSOLUTE POSSESSIONS! EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE GOD'S GIFTS TO US, THEY ARE STILL GIFTS! SINCE THEY ARE GIVEN BY GRACE, THEY CAN BE LOST THROUGH UNBELIEF AND SIN!**