

Why did Solomon do what he did? Let's analyze what actually happened, and let's look at the negative side first.

Why did he do what he did?

(1) It was not because he didn't have God's Word.

(2) It was not because God's commands (especially those in Deuteronomy 17) were unclear or obscure.

(3) It was not because God's commands were matters of liberty or private judgment, dependent on each individual's conscience.

(4) It was not because God's commands pertained to trivial matters, or had trivial implications.

Why did he do what he did? What were his reasons?

(1) Perhaps he wanted a well-equipped, effectual military force; and in his day horses and chariots were the backbone of such a force.

(2) Perhaps he wanted to build a great kingdom and dynasty, and the multiplication of wives (especially foreign wives) would provide many royal children and many good relationships with surrounding nations.

(3) Perhaps he wanted to be able to exert great economic power, both within Israel and among surrounding nations, and perhaps he wanted his kingdom to be wealthier and more glorious than any other kingdom. Perhaps he thought that the accumulation of gold and silver would accomplish these purposes.