

But what is wrong with wanting an effectual military force, a great dynasty, economic wealth, and glory?

This raises the question of why God commanded the kings of Israel not to multiply horses, wives, and gold and silver.

After all, if Solomon just happened to love beautiful horses, beautiful women, and gold and silver, how could he help it? And what's so wrong about that?

Well, there are at least three things wrong with it, other than the fact that God had commanded the kings of Israel not to multiply horses, wives, and wealth.

(1) The first thing wrong with it is that multiplying horses tends toward more reliance on a well-mounted military force, and less reliance on the Lord for protection and victory.

But someone may object: "But why make it an either/or situation? Why can't you have both an effective military machine and reliance on the Lord? After all, isn't there a wise saying which goes: 'Trust in God, and keep your powder dry!' And another that says: 'Praise the Lord, and pass the ammunition!'"

I believe the problem here is one of emphasis. Even with a great military force, our reliance must be on the Lord, who ultimately controls the outcome of the battle, and can win the victory with many or with few.

(2) The second thing wrong with it is that multiplying wives tends toward reliance on the flesh to build a great dynasty, even though it means toleration of