

June 19 Answers

- 1) Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, turned away from God in his old age. How could this happen? “For when Solomon was old his **wives** turned away his heart after other **gods**” (1 Kgs 11:4; cf. Deut 17:17; Neh 13:23–27). This teaches us that the person we **marry** will affect our eternal **destiny**. Such a decision should be made with much **prayer** and the **counsel** of godly friends (2 Cor 6:14). Solomon’s apostasy prompts us to ask: What will happen when the wisest man who ever lived decides to see if meaning and fulfillment can be found in a life “under the sun”? What will happen when a man who is thoroughly versed in the Scriptures and has spent many years fearing God decides to try a Godless approach to life and living? If anyone was ideally suited for such an experiment, it was Solomon. His brilliant mind, fantastic wealth and international power gave him a unique ability to sample everything life could offer. Solomon filled his mind with wisdom, indulged in every kind of pleasure, built great buildings and gardens and parks, amassed fantastic wealth, and reveled in the finest music, art and literature of his day. He took for himself everything that his eyes desired, and when he reached the end of his life, he left us this conclusion: “**Vanity of vanities!** All is **vanity!**” The word in Hebrew is **hebel**, and its nuances are “futile,” “meaningless,” “empty,” “transient,” and “useless.” Solomon discovered that nothing apart from **God** can give lasting happiness and fulfillment. This teaches us that if we try to find meaning in our **accomplishments** rather than in God, we will never be **satisfied**. Everything we achieve or possess will only leave us **craving** something more.