

By Toni Babcock

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not..." It's some the best advice a young person could get in the whole Bible. King Solomon wrote those words toward the end of his reign in the book of Ecclesiastes. He was David's son, and his wisdom was famous throughout the world. But Solomon wrote those words with pain in his heart, because some serious mistakes in his life had caused him to cast away his wisdom for a time, and stumble in his faith.

In Solomon's culture it was socially acceptable for kings and other men of means to have many wives, or as many as they could reasonably afford. (Now that has got to spell trouble!)

The Bible tells us Solomon had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. (Concubines were really like wives with no status.) Many of his wives were idol worshipers. And Solomon began to allow himself to be swayed into their idol worship. "For it came to pass," the Bible says, "when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David, his father."

From that point on, Solomon's reign started to crumble and come to an end, but he learned an important lesson. Getting old doesn't always mean we get better at things, sometimes we get "badder" at things. Like forgetting who we are. Like trying to make other people happy instead of God. I'm glad Solomon eventually came to his senses, and was able to share his good advice.

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## Wisdom of Solomon

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